

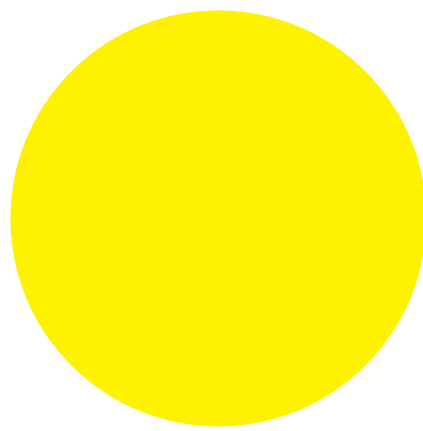
Iran Daily congratulates its readers on the occasion of Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice). Our next edition will appear on July 1.



Tehran, Astana target \$1b in agro-trade



6 >



Iran Daily



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Leader: Hajj can foil plots of arrogant powers against humanity



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the annual Hajj rituals can foil all the plots of the arrogant powers and the Zionists against humanity. In a Tuesday message to the 2023 Hajj pilgrimage, the Leader said the rituals can render ineffective all the plans of the arrogant powers and Zionism aimed at the moral downfall of humanity at the present time and the future, Press TV reported.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the arrogant powers and Zionists are targeting unity and spirituality with their acts of enmity and sabotage at this juncture in time, more than in the past. The Leader emphasized that the US and other arrogant centers are strongly opposed to unity among Muslims, understanding among Muslim nations and countries, and commitment to the religion of the younger generation in

these nations. The Kaaba, as the focal point and the main focus of attention of all Muslims, and also the Hajj ritual as a small example of the extensive diversity of the Islamic world, can serve to elevate human society and improve the health and security of all people. Hajj can bless all humanity with spiritual and moral elevation, and this is the vital need of humankind today. [Page 8 >](#)



khamenei.ir

Peace formula in the Caucuses



By Mohsen Pakaein
Caucasus affairs expert

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held a phone call on Monday and discussed a range of issues including regional developments. A few hours before that, foreign ministers of Iran and Azerbaijan had a phone conversation. These phone calls are in line with the neighborliness policy pursued by the Raeisi govern-

ment and show that the expansion of cooperation and ties with neighbors is among its strategic and long-term policies. The phone call between the top Iranian and Azerbaijani diplomats was aimed at reducing tensions and finding a solution to a dispute sparked by an attack on Azerbaijan's Embassy in Tehran in late January this year. The phone conversation also indicates that Iran and Azerbaijan have attached significance to diplomatic approaches to resolve their differences. [Page 2 >](#)

Emir of Qatar: Doha ready to increase investments in Iran



International Desk

Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said his country is to increase economic cooperation and investment in Iran. The Emir of Qatar made the remarks in a phone call with Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also congratulated Raeisi and Iranians on Eid al-Adha (The Feast of Sacrifice). Referring to recent talks between the two countries on the expansion of relations, the Qatari emir announced Doha's readiness to hold a joint economic commission for further cooperation in the near future. President Raeisi, for his

part, said the development of bilateral relations between the two countries can further enhance their cooperation on regional and international issues. During the Iranian president's visit to Doha in February 2022, Iran and Qatar inked 14 major economic cooperation agreements, including a deal on cancelling visa requirements for passengers travelling between the two countries. The deals will cover close cooperation between Iran and Qatar in various fields of the economy, including trade, shipping, aviation and electricity. Iranian and Qatari central banks have also agreed to work to boost their financial and banking ties.



Iran's cool regions for a summer trip

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Iranian, Uzbek sports ministers discuss sports cooperation

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Iran a remarkable success story in curbing COVID-19 amid sanctions

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Preliminary work begins for Iran-Saudi oil cooperation: NIOC

Economy Desk

Head of the National Iranian Oil Company Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr announced that preliminary work for bilateral cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the oil industry has already begun. Khojasteh-Mehr made the remarks on the sidelines of a conference in Tehran on Tuesday, according to IRNA. Referring to the joint oil fields between the two countries, the Iranian official noted that, currently,

there is no joint oil field between Iran and Saudi Arabia; the share of each side has not been determined. Khojastehmehr also said that the necessary measures have been made to increase production and maintain production capacity for all joint fields between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Regarding the Forouzan shared oil field, Khojasteh-Mehr said companies are actively working there. Khojasteh-Mehr also said

the development plan for the Farzad A gas field has been presented to the board of directors of the National Iranian Oil Company, and the construction of the its jacket will also begin in the near future. He added that Iran is ready to begin drilling in the shared Arash oil field, adding that enough financial resources have been allocated for the project. Khojasteh-Mehr called the drilling industry as a main part of the production of oil and gas.



IRNA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seven
Iranians
released
from Qatar
prisons

PRESS TV – Iran's ambassador to Doha announced the release of seven Iranians from prisons in Qatar and their return to the country.

Among those released were six people who had been arrested for illegally but not deliberately entering Qatari waters. They had been sentenced to one-year imprisonment, but the ruling was suspended.

Recently, Iran's Foreign Minister paid a visit to Doha, where he discussed with Qatari officials a range of issues, among them the situation of Iranian citizens held behind bars in Qatar.

Russian
fleet docks
at Iran's
Anzali port

● **TASNIM**

MEHR – A Russian naval missile destroyer, dubbed 'Makhachkala,' docked at Iran's northern port city of Bandar Anzali on Tuesday morning as part of programs intended to boost military cooperation between the two countries. Holding a meeting with the commander of Iran's Northern Fleet, visiting the free trade zone of Anzali, holding sports competitions, and conducting PASSES exercises are among the plans of this visit.

Iran's police
chief in
Russia to sign
security deal

● **TASNIM**

International Desk

Iran's police chief Ahmadreza Radan arrived in Moscow on Tuesday to hold talks with Russian police officials and sign an agreement on security and police cooperation between Tehran and Moscow. During the trip, a memorandum of cooperation will be signed between the police forces of the two countries in their joint fight against terrorism, human trafficking, and drugs as well as in scientific and research fields.

Judiciary must ensure
people's peace of mind: **Leader**

National Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses Iranian Judiciary officials in a meeting in Tehran on June 27, 2023.

● **khamenei.ir**

The Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called on the country's judiciary to act with discipline and principle when it comes to protecting the

peace of mind of Iranians. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian judiciary officials on Tuesday on the occasion of the anniversary of the June 28 terrorist attack, as well as Judiciary Week in Iran.

"The fact that some individuals get on people's nerves using cyberspace or otherwise frighten them and disturb their psychological security is against the requirements for restoring public rights," he added.

As such, the Leader urged the judiciary to enter the cases "with planning, discipline, and regularity". "There is also a small minority who exploit the situation and tarnish the image of the judiciary in the eyes of the people," he

said. The Leader advised the officials to make every effort to further increase its popularity among the Iranian nation.

All members of the judiciary must make sure that corruption does not infiltrate the judiciary, he added, calling on the Iranian judiciary officials to combat corruption and prevent it from spreading into different areas.

"The Judiciary is one of the main pillars of the regime", the Leader said, stressing that it is clear that "if the judiciary is disrupted, the whole Islamic system will be disturbed." Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei also stressed the need for securing legitimate freedom in society.

Iran's judiciary chief Mohseni-Ejei, who was present at the meeting, for his part, presented a report regarding the activities of the judiciary.

On June 28, 1981, a powerful bomb blasted the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party (IRP) in Tehran while the members were in a meeting. Iran's Judiciary Week marks the martyrdom of then-Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti and his 72 colleagues in the terrorist bomb blast.

Peace formula ...



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (L) and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian shake hands in Tehran on November 1, 2022.

● **IRNA**

It is a good sign that Baku has adopted the path of diplomacy in this regard. Lately, Iran's sports minister also attended a meeting in Baku and met with his Azerbaijani counterpart. Iran's minister of roads and urban development also met with his Azerbaijani counterpart in Saint Petersburg. Such developments have raised hopes that the Azerbaijani Embassy will reopen in Tehran. The significance of the Iranian president's phone

Page 1 >

call with Armenia's premier lies in the fact that Azerbaijan and Armenia are holding talks to resolve their differences and make peace. Fortunately, both sides have stressed that they respect each other's territorial integrity. Iran regards this approach as constructive and supports it. Iran also believes that the disputes between Yerevan and Baku can be settled in the framework of preserving their territorial integrity and keeping their border-

lines unchanged. On the basis of this formula, Nagorno-Karabakh will re-join Azerbaijan and Baku will guarantee the rights of its Armenian residents. Likewise, Azerbaijan will open the Lachin corridor to facilitate the movement of Armenians in Karabakh to Armenia. Moreover, the route from Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan, through Syunik Province, will be reopened. Hence, not only is their territorial integrity preserved but communication routes remain active.

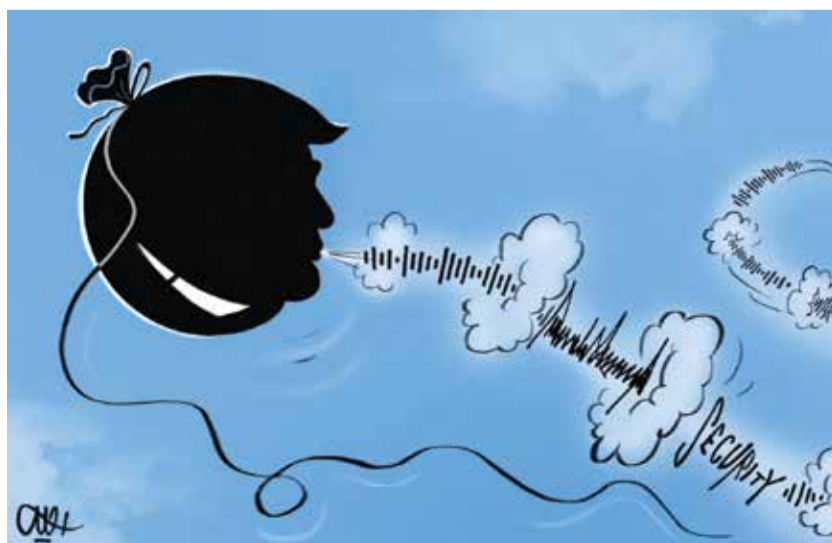


It seems a major part of talks between Iran and Armenia as well as Azerbaijan revolves around peace talks which are

supported by Russia. Baku and Tehran should not allow trans-regional countries to interfere in the affairs of the region.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Army Navy's 90th flotilla returns home

The Iranian Navy's 90th flotilla of warships arrived home on Tuesday after sailing in international waters for 84 days to ensure the security of Iranian and foreign merchant ships.

A number of naval officials including the Army Navy Commander for Coordinating Affairs Admiral Babak Balouch were participating in a ceremony on Tuesday in Bandar Abbas to welcome the return of the Navy's 90th flotilla of warships, according to Mehr news agency.

"In order to ensure maritime security and maintain and protect commercial fleets, the Army Navy conducts constant maritime operations," Admiral Balouch stated in his address to the ceremony.

"The 90th Fleet has taken measures to ensure the security of all communication lines by sailing in the Gulf of Aden and the



● **FARS**

Red Sea while escorting and supporting Iranian and foreign commercial vessels that are present in those regions," he added.

The naval official further said that foreign sanctions cannot prevent Iran from sailing its merchant ships in international waters.

Putin praises Russian troops for putting down mutiny

President Vladimir Putin praised members of Russia's military and security forces in a ceremony on Tuesday as he sought to reassert his authority following an aborted mutiny by mercenaries led by Wagner Group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin. A jet linked to Prigozhin arrived in Belarus from Russia, believed to be carrying the mercenary boss into exile, three days after he abruptly called off his mutiny with his fighters bearing down on the capital, Reuters reported. Authorities dropped a criminal case against Wagner, state news agency RIA reported, apparently fulfilling one condition of a deal agreed late on Saturday that defused the crisis, Reuters reported. Putin told some 2,500 security personnel mustered on a square in the Kremlin complex that the people and the armed forces had

stood together in opposition to the rebel mercenaries. He was joined by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, whose dismissal had been one of the mutineers' main demands. Putin also requested a minute of silence to honour Russian military pilots killed in the revolt. The fighters had shot down several aircraft during their run towards Moscow, although they faced no resistance on the ground. Prigozhin, a former Putin ally and ex-convict whose mercenaries have fought the bloodiest battles of the Ukraine war and taken heavy casualties, had said he would go to neighbouring Belarus at the invitation of its president, close Putin ally Alexander Lukashenko. Putin said in a televised address on Monday night that the mutiny leaders had betrayed their moth-

erland, although he did not mention Prigozhin by name. Wagner fighters would be permitted to establish themselves in Belarus, join the Russian military or go home, he said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a news briefing on Tuesday the deal ending the mutiny was being implemented, and he had no information on where Prigozhin was. He also said he did not know how many Wagner fighters would sign contracts with the Defence Ministry. He dismissed the idea that Putin's grip on power had been shaken by the mutiny, calling such thoughts "hysteria". Prigozhin, 62, said he launched the mutiny to save his group after being ordered to place it under command of the Defence Ministry. His fighters had halted



● SPUTNIK/SERGEI GUNEEV/POOL via REUTERS

their campaign on Saturday to avert bloodshed after nearly reaching Moscow, and regretted being forced to shoot down aircraft on the way, he said.

"We went as a demonstration of protest, not to overthrow the government of the country," Prigozhin said in an audio message on Monday.

Hamas slams Israeli plan to build new settlements

US 'deeply troubled' by approval of settler permits



An aerial view shows the illegal Israeli settlement Kedar in the occupied West Bank on June 25, 2023. ● ILAN ROSENBERG/REUTERS

International Desk

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has strongly condemned the Israeli regime's decision to construct thousands of new settler units in the occupied West Bank as "open aggression" on Palestinians despite international outcry.

The United States on Monday objected to the decision by Israel's nationalist-religious cabinet to approve the construction of around 5,700 additional housing units for Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank. The United States was "deeply troubled" by the move, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters, adding that U.S. officials had made clear publicly and privately to Israel their opposition to moves that advance settlements, Reuters reported. Most countries deem the settlements, built on land captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, as illegal. Their presence is one of the fundamental issues in the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict. "We believe that settlements are an impediment to a negotiated two-state solution," said Miller.

'Open aggression'

Also, Hamas, in a statement released on Monday, criticized the plan as "a new crime that amounts to open-ended aggression against the Palestinian nation," Press TV reported. "The Israeli decision adds up to the list of crimes that the occupying Tel Aviv regime is perpetrating across the West Bank," it added. "Such crimes push Palestinians to stand united in the face of Israeli crimes." Hamas further called on the Arab and Muslim nations, as well as freedom-loving people worldwide, to mobilize efforts to

support the steadfastness of Palestinians until they fulfill their aspirations to return and establish an independent sovereign state. The statement came hours after Israeli authorities approved the construction of 5,623 new illegal settler units in the West Bank, in continuation of its illegal settlement expansion and land grab activities in the occupied territories. According to a report by the official Palestinian Wafa news agency, the approval of the construction of new illegal settler units includes depositing plans for the construction of 4,291 new colonial settler units, which constitutes an advanced stage of planning and construction by the occupation authorities. The approval also includes

1,332 building plans which are submitted and will be approved after a session for hearing objections, before final approval and preparation of tenders, it added. Israeli media outlets said 1,000 new settler units, more than what Israel's far-right administration approved last week, will be built in Eli settlement, south of the northern occupied West Bank city of Nablus. The approval came after an agreement between Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, minister for military affairs Yoav Gallant, and finance minister Bezalel Smotrich, the reports added. More than 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Al-Quds.

Trump heard discussing secret documents on tape

Former US president Donald Trump can be heard discussing secret documents he had apparently held on to after leaving the White House and acknowledging they had not been declassified, in an audio recording aired by US media. The two-minute clip, played by CNN late Monday and later obtained by ABC and CBS, comes from an interview Trump gave at his Bedminster, New Jersey golf club in July 2021 for people working on a memoir by his former chief of staff Mark Mead-

ows, AFP reported. Parts of the recording's transcript were cited as evidence in special counsel Jack Smith's 49-page indictment of Trump on charges he had mishandled classified documents after leaving office. The audio file includes a moment when Trump seems to indicate he is holding a secret Pentagon document with plans to attack Iran. "These are the papers," Trump says in the recording, a quote that was not included in the indictment. He also refers to some-

thing as "highly confidential" and "this is secret information" as he seems to be showing something to the others in the room. "This was done by the military and given to me," Trump continues, before noting that one would need to "declassify it" for it to be used in the book. "You see, as president I could have declassified it. Now I can't, you know," he says. "Now we have a problem," one of other people responds. "Isn't that interesting? It's so cool," Trump says,

just before the recording ends with him calling for someone to bring in some Cokes. Trump earlier this month denied 37 counts of willfully mishandling US government secrets and conspiring to prevent their return, becoming the first US president to face federal criminal charges. After the recording was released, Trump lashed out on his Truth Social website, calling Smith "deranged" and baselessly accusing the prosecutor of conspiring with the Justice Department and



● AMR ALFIKY/REUTERS

FBI to "illegally" leak and mischaracterize the tape. He claimed the audio was "actually an exoneration, rather than what they would have you believe." The government accuses 77-year-old Trump - who is vying to win back the

White House next year - of willfully hoarding dozens of classified documents he took unlawfully to his beachfront mansion in Florida, refusing to return them and conspiring to obstruct investigators seeking their recovery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN peacekeeping mission in Mali to end on June 30



REUTERS - The United Nations plans to end its decade-long peacekeeping mission in Mali on June 30 and will withdraw all personnel within six months, according to a draft Security Council resolution proposed by France and seen by Reuters. The withdrawal of the 13,000-strong mission, known as MINUSMA, would come after years of tensions between the UN and Mali's military junta came to a head this month when Mali Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop asked the force to leave "without delay".

EU, UNESCO to help developing countries shape AI rules

AFP - The European Union will help fund a UNESCO scheme supporting developing countries as they create laws regulating artificial intelligence, the UN cultural body said Tuesday. Four million euros (\$4.4 million) from Brussels will go towards organising events and advising governments.

Over 1m may flee Sudan conflict: UN



REUTERS - The UN refugee agency warned on Tuesday that an earlier projection that conflict in Sudan would prompt 1 million people to flee across its borders is likely to be surpassed. So far, the conflict between warring military factions that began in mid-April has caused nearly 600,000 people to escape into neighbouring countries including Egypt, Chad, South Sudan and Central African Republic. "Unfortunately, looking at the trends, looking at the situation in Darfur, we're likely to go beyond 1 million," Raouf Mazou, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, said in response to a question about its estimate in April for the coming six months.

Iran's cool regions for a summer trip

Summer provides an excellent opportunity for exploration and travel. There is nothing better than an exciting and memorable trip to spend the hot summer days.

Activities such as nature walks, mountaineering, swimming, and water sports are among the most popular summer activities. However, when it comes to enjoying a summer trip, it is crucial to choose a suitable destination. With the intense heat in many cities, it is better to choose cool and pleasant areas for your summer travels. Here, we will introduce the best destinations for a summer trip in Iran, surfiran.com reported.

Alasht

Located in Mazandaran Province, on the foot of the Alborz Mountains, Alasht ensures that you won't feel the summer heat. Surrounded by tall mountains, this city is highly favored for summer travel as one of the cool cities in Iran. If you are tired of the heat, the cool weather of this city can certainly change your mood. The temperature in

Alasht ranges from 7.5°C to 10°C, while in many cities in Iran, temperatures in the summer are often above 30°C. There are numerous beautiful waterfalls in this region, with Gazou and Narm waterfalls being recognized as the most stunning. The height of these waterfalls and their surroundings of lush green forests make them highly

popular and worth visiting. Additionally, the only observatory in northern Iran is located in this city. It is recommended that you visit this observatory for stargazing. The Dokhtar Pak Temple is also considered a tourist attraction. Before the advent of Islam, it was the Anahita Temple, and is accessible only to women.



Alasht
● wikipedia.org



Hamedan
● itto.org

Hamedan

that can be explored by boat through its twists and turns. Among the other notable attractions of Hamedan are the Ganjnameh Inscriptions, Ganjnameh Waterfall, the beautiful aquarium of Ganjnameh Cave, and its cable car. Baba Taher Tomb, Hegmataneh Hill, Hammam Fortress, and the Avicenna Tomb and Museum are other notable sites in Hamedan.

Hamedan, the capital of Hamedan Province in western Iran, is one of the oldest cities and a center of ancient civilizations. It attracts many

tourists annually. Known as one of the cool cities in Iran, it is often a top choice for summer trips. There are numerous attractions in the

city, with the most famous one being Ali Sadr Cave. This cave is the largest and longest water cave in the world, and the only one in Iran

Lorestan Province



Pol-e Dokhtar
● itto.org

One of the best choices for summer trips in Iran is Lorestan Province. Cool hills, magnificent mountains, and natural waterfalls can give

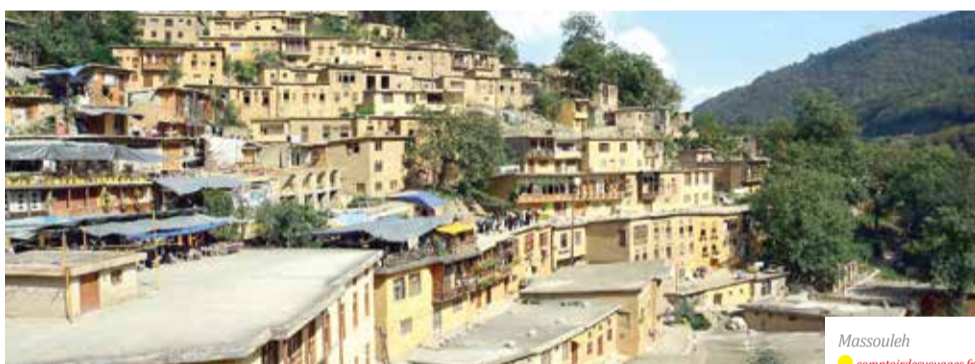
you the experience of a wonderful journey, as if it were spring instead of summer. Given that Lorestan has 12 percent of the whole country's wa-

ter, it can be one of the main reasons that this city is amazingly cool. If you choose Lorestan Province for traveling, you can find accommo-

dations in Borujerd, Pol-e Dokhtar, Dorud, Nurabad, Delfan or Khorram Abad.

Not only does Lorestan have a unique nature, but it is also a city with 4,000 years of antiquity. The discovery of many ceramics and carvings from the pre-Median period testifies to its antiquity.

So keep in mind to visit the historical sites in Lorestan Province. Visiting the historical monuments of ancient times would make your trip perfect.



Massouleh
● comptoirdesvoyages.fr

Massouleh

Massouleh is undoubtedly one of the most charming cool cities in Iran and a popular destination in the summer. This city is suitable for travel

in all seasons, but its pleasant coolness in the summer is an extraordinary experience. Located in the mountains of Gilan Province, Massouleh is often covered in fog and has a cool and refreshing climate. The unique architecture of its

houses, along with its placement on the slopes of the Alborz Mountains and its proximity to the dense forests of the north, creates a delightful experience that makes a summer trip to Massouleh unforgettable.



Ardebil
● sepanja.com

Ardebil

Ardebil is one of the cities that you must visit at least once in your lifetime. It is one of the coldest regions in Iran. The extraordinary nature of

this city, along with its other tourist attractions, ensures a memorable trip for you. Shorabil Lake is one of the most beautiful natural attractions in the city, and there are various recreational activities available in and around

the lake, such as boating and picnicking. Other attractions include the Mausoleum of Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Sabalan Mountain where you can enjoy hiking and trekking.

Rasht, the capital of Gilan Province, is known for its mild and pleasant climate throughout the year. It is a great city to escape the summer heat. Rasht is famous for its delicious local cuisine and vibrant cultural scene, making it a fascinating destination for food enthusiasts and art lovers. When in Rasht, don't miss visiting the Gilan Rural Heritage Museum, which offers insights into the traditional architecture and lifestyle of the region. You can also explore the historical Tabarsi House, Sheikh Zahed Gilani Tomb, and the picturesque Anzali Lagoon nearby.

Rasht



Rasht
● soghatsaragilan.ir

Kurdestan Province is located at the foot of Zagros Mountains. The mountainous area includes numerous attractions in the summer. From Sanandaj to Marivan, Uramanat to Paveh, all have cool climates and a rare nature. The best season to travel to Kurdestan Province is spring, but that doesn't mean you won't enjoy the cool weather in the summer. Kurdestan Province has a rich cultural history as well. If you choose this land for your summer trips,

Kurdestan Province



Sanandaj
● IRNA

remember to visit its historical places. Don't miss chatting and hanging out with people of Kurdestan, as they are friendly and hospitable.

These cool regions in Iran offer a refreshing escape from the summer heat and provide a unique and enjoyable travel experience. Whether

you are seeking natural beauty, historical sites, or cultural exploration, these destinations have something to offer for everyone.

Iranian, Uzbek sports ministers discuss sports cooperation

Sports Desk

Iranian Sports Minister Hamid Sajjadi and his Uzbek counterpart Adkham Ikramov agreed to hold joint sports camps.

The agreement was made on the sidelines of the 7th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VII) in Baku, Azerbaijan, reported Mehr News Agency. Referring to the commonalities of the two countries of Iran and Uzbekistan in different sectors, the Iranian minister appreciated Uzbekistan's hosting of the Iranian national football team in the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup.

Expressing happiness over the recent visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Iran, Sajjadi said, "We can deepen these interactions in common areas."

According to the Iranian min-

ister, Iran and Uzbekistan can expand their relations to water sports, boxing, shooting, wushu, weightlifting and football.

Pointing to the Islamic Republic of Iran's plan to develop women's sports, Sajjadi added, "Over the past years, many programs have been carried out to expand women's sports in Iran, so that Iranian women can show their abilities to the world while observing religious and Islamic values."

Ikramov, for his part, expressed hope to cooperate and interact with Iran at higher levels such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in common fields.

"Iran and Uzbekistan can expand sports relations and interactions in the form of a joint memorandum of understanding, and we fully welcome this issue," he pointed out.

According to the Uzbek minis-



MEHR

ter, Tashkent can establish more connections with Iran in the field of handball, volleyball and basketball.

He also expressed readiness to share facilities and experiences with Iran in judo, boxing and taekwondo.

Iran beats Chinese Taipei in Asian Kabaddi C'ship



IRNA

Iran defeated Chinese Taipei in the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023 underway in Busan, South Korea on Tuesday.

Iran's national Kabaddi squad beat Chinese Taipei 52-28 in its first match of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2023, IRNA wrote.

Iran will compete with Hong Kong on Wednesday. The tournament began on 24th June and will wrap up on 1st July 2023.

World's largest Olympic flag hoisted in Iran

The largest International Olympic Committee (IOC) flag has been hoisted at Iran's Nation-

al Olympic Committee (NOC) headquarters. The 200 square meters five rings flag has been

installed on the world's largest flagpole in Tehran, the capital of Iran, ISNA reported.

Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa and Manaf Hashemi, President and Secretary General of Iran's NOC, attended the ceremony.

Olympics shooting champion Javad Foroughi, weightlifting champion Hossein Tavakoli as well as woman Olympics sprinter Farzaneh Fasihi, weightlifter Elham Hosseini, shooter Hanieh Rostamian and fencer Ali Pakdaman also took part in the flag-raising ceremony.

Olympic Day was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894 at the Sorbonne in Paris.



ISNA

West Ham reject Manchester City's £90m bid for captain



Last season Rice became the first West Ham captain since Bobby Moore to lead the club to European success.

YONG KIM/
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

West Ham rejected a bid of £90m from Treble winners Manchester City for captain Declan Rice.

City's offer was thought to have included an £80m initial payment but is short of the £100m the Hammers want, according to Reuters.

Arsenal are expected to make a third bid for the 24-year-old England midfielder.

The Gunners' second proposal of an initial £75m in four payments, plus £15m in add-ons, was turned down by West Ham last week.

Rice's contract with the Hammers expires in 2024, although it has the option for a one-year extension until the summer of 2025. Following the club's Europa Conference League victory over Fiorentina earlier this month, chairman David Sullivan said he was "99%" sure Rice would leave West Ham this summer.

Although they have lined up Chelsea's Mateo Kovacic in a £25m deal, the loss of Ilkay Gundogan to Barcelona means City manager Pep Guardiola is keen to bolster his midfield options, with Rice viewed as the ideal candidate.

Discrimination 'widespread' in English, Welsh cricket

Racism, sexism, classism and elitism are "widespread" in English and Welsh cricket, according to a long-awaited independent report. The Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC) has delivered its findings from a two-year investigation, BBC wrote on Tuesday.

The ICEC has made 44 recommendations, including that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) makes an unreserved public apology for its failings.

ECB chair Richard Thompson said: "We will use this moment to reset cricket."

The ICEC was announced by the ECB in March 2021 in the wake of global movements such as Black Lives Matter and Me Too.

It opened an online call for evidence in November of that year, receiving 4,156 responses. In March 2022, a call for written evidence resulted in more than 150 responses.

Among those to give evidence include England men's Test captain Ben Stokes, women's captain Heather Knight, former men's captain Joe Root, World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan, and Azeem Rafiq - the former Yorkshire player and racism whistleblower.

In a damning 317-page report called Holding Up A Mirror To Cricket, the ICEC concluded that: "Structural and institutional racism" continues to exist within the

game.

Women are treated as "subordinate" to men at all levels of the sport.

There is a prevalence of "elitism and class-based discrimination" in cricket.

Black cricket has been failed and the ECB must develop a plan to revive it.

Many who experience discrimination do not report it because of a distrust in the authorities.

Umpires regularly ignore abuse and dismiss complaints in both the professional and recreational games.

"There remains a stark reality that cricket is not a 'game for everyone' and it is absolutely essential that the work required to achieve that ambition must begin immediately," wrote ICEC chair Cindy Butts.

"Be in no doubt, what is needed now is leadership. I very much hope that the recommendations we make in this report will be adopted and driven forward by the ECB and all others in leadership positions."

The report praised the ECB for being "brave" enough to open itself to independent scrutiny.

Thompson, who became ECB chair last September, offered an "unreserved" apology.

"Cricket should be a game for everyone, and we know that this has not always been the case," he said. "Powerful conclusions within the

report also highlight that for too long women and black people were neglected. We are truly sorry for this.

"This report makes clear that historic structures and systems have failed to prevent discrimination, and highlights the pain and exclusion this has caused.

"I am determined that this wake-up call for cricket in England and Wales should not be wasted. We will use this moment to demonstrate that it is a game for all and

we have a duty to put this right for current and future generations."

The recommendations also include the equalisation of match fees between the England women's and men's teams with immediate effect, that the ECB reports on the state of equity in cricket every three years and the removal of annual fixtures between Eton and Harrow schools and Oxford and Cambridge universities from Lord's.



GETTY IMAGES

NEWS IN BRIEF

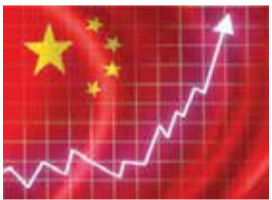
EU agrees tougher rules on banks



AFP – The EU struck a deal on Tuesday to implement internationally-agreed banking reforms intended to avert a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis.

The European Commission first proposed the banking law in October 2021 but there has been a greater focus on banks following the collapse of lenders in the United States triggered market turbulence earlier this year.

China's economy set to grow faster



CNBC – Chinese Premier Li Qiang said Tuesday his country was still on track to reach its annual growth target of around 5%.

He said growth in the second quarter was expected to be faster than it was in the first.

China's economy grew by 4.5% in the first quarter, better than expected.

"From what we see this year, China's economy shows a clear momentum of rebound and improvement," Li said.

Malaysia wins \$14.9b case in Dutch court



BLOOMBERG – Malaysia doesn't have to pay around \$15 billion linked to a long-running territorial dispute in the Borneo state of Sabah after a Dutch court refused to enforce the arbitration award.

The Hague court of appeals on Tuesday said it didn't recognize that there could be an arbitration award to be made as it dismissed the suit. The ruling is related to a dispute between a number of Filipino nationals and Malaysia over an agreement entered into in 1878 between the Sultan of Sulu, who the nationals claim to be heirs of, as well as two entrepreneurs from England and Austria.

Tehran, Astana target \$1b in agro-trade

Iran and Kazakhstan have targeted \$1 billion of trade in the agriculture and food industry sectors, announced Deputy Agriculture Minister Alireza Peymanpak, who headed a trade delegation to the Central Asian state.

During a visit to Kazakhstan, the Iranian delegation attended two specialized business meetings for the introduction of new business and joint investment opportunities in Almaty and Astana, IRNA reported.

During the meetings, the two sides discussed the requirements for facilitating joint agriculture cooperation between the two countries.

Peymanpak also held talks with Kazakh officials including the country's deputy prime minister, the minister of trade, the minister of agriculture, and the governor of Almaty, in which he introduced new opportunities for cooperation in various fields like exporting fruits and vegetables, dairy, and aquatic products, as well as providing Iran's needs for wheat and meat direct-



ly from Kazakhstan. Solving challenges faced by the two countries in the field of veterinary medicine, logistics, financial and banking relations as well as the guarantees

related to commercial contracts centered on agricultural products and animal husbandry were also among the focal points of negotiations between Peymanpak and the Kazakh authorities. The value of Iran's non-

oil exports to Kazakhstan increased by 67 percent in the first month of the current Iranian year (March 21-April 20), compared to the first month of the past year, the spokesman of Trade Development

Committee of the Iranian Chamber of Industry, Mine, and Trade has announced. Rouhollah Latifi said that Kazakhstan imported non-oil commodities worth \$12.5 million from Iran in the first month of this year.



Iran, Vietnam emphasize deepening industrial-trade cooperation

Iran's deputy minister of industry stressed the expansion of industrial cooperation between Iran and Vietnam, relying on the private sector, adding that strengthening cooperation between private and industrial sectors is the fastest way of interaction between the two countries.

Ali Rasoulian, who is also the chief executive of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), made the remarks in Guangzhou, China, on Tuesday in a meeting with Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Do Thang Hai, reported Tasnim news agency.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 18th China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair (CISMEF).

Expounding on the high capacities and capabilities of his organization, Rasoulian emphasized the exchange of technical know-how between Iran and Vietnam.

Although sanctions have created restrictions for Iran in international arenas, Iranian firms continue their trade and economic activities strongly, he underlined.

Stressing the need for the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two countries to deepen relations between industrial and trade units, he added that the text of the proposed MoU will be compiled between ISIPO and Vietnam. He pointed to the high capacities and capabilities of Iran's southern province of Fars, saying that Fars is one of the leading provinces of the country in the field of food industries.

The Vietnamese deputy minister of industry, for his part, emphasized expanding and developing cooperation in the fields of industry and technology and noted that the two countries eye strengthening bilateral cooperation in different fields.

Global energy report confirms rise in Iran crude output

Figures from the Statistical Review of World Energy, an annual report published by the Energy Institute (EI), confirmed that there was a major rise in Iranian crude oil output in 2022 despite the continued pressure of US sanctions on the Iranian petroleum sector.

The report showed that Iran's oil output, including production of crude oil, condensate and NGL, rose by 4.6% last year compared to 2021 to reach an average of 3.822 million barrels per day (bpd), Press TV reported.

Figures in the report showed that Iran's combined production of crude oil and condensate, which is a very light form of oil, rose by 129,000 bpd or 4.1% in 2022 from figures

reported in the year before. Iran's output of natural gas liquids (NGL) also rose by an average of 40,000 bpd or 8.5% from 2021 to reach 509,000 bpd last year, said the report.

It said that fuel production in Iranian refineries rose by 2.2% year on year in 2022 to 2.397 million bpd while oil refining capacity in the country rose 2.3% to 2.67 million bpd over the same period.

Natural gas production in Iran reached 259.4 billion cubic meters last year, up 1.1% from 2021, showed EI figures.

As of 2023, the EI has taken over publication of the Statistical Review of World Energy, a report that was published previously for more than 70 years by oil



and gas supermajor bp. The EI report confirms statements by Iranian government authorities in recent months suggesting that the country has man-

aged to increase its production and exports of crude oil despite US sanctions that ban any international sales of the Iranian oil shipments.

First Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for OP 8454/CORROSION & SCALE INHIBITOR // 10000 kg

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of OP 8454 for Utility 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 July 10, 2023.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: July 21, 2023.

Email: me.rahimi@tpco.ir **Phone No.: +98-41-34282592**

Tender	No	Quantity
OP 8454	PVS-0231020	kg 10000

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

First turn published: June 28, 2023 Second turn published: July 03, 2023

Social Desk

Iran has demonstrated significant progress in managing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, with multiple days recording zero deaths and the country experiencing favorable conditions. This achievement comes despite facing numerous sanctions from certain powers claiming to uphold human rights, which have hindered the import of vital medications and healthcare facilities necessary for treating the disease.

According to the World Health Organization and international organizations, Iran ranks among the top countries in COVID-19 prevention and treatment. This success is attributed to the nation's trust in its internal capabilities and the tireless efforts of healthcare and vaccination staff, according to IRNA.

When the current administration took office on August 25, 2021, Iran recorded 709 daily COVID-19 deaths, and public vaccination faced uncertainty and delays. The country's Leader called for an immediate response to the virus, and the government began importing vaccines and implementing large-scale vaccination efforts with the support of the public, popular groups, and armed forces. By May 4, 2022, daily COVID-19 deaths had dropped to single digits, with only seven reported fatalities.

On June 2, of the same year, the first day without COVID-19 deaths was recorded in Iran, coinciding with nationwide vaccination efforts. Iran's Leader praised the nation, officials, and managers for achieving self-sufficiency in vaccine production despite sanctions.

President Raisi acknowledged the milestone in a message, praising the "understanding, and hard work" of the people and the efforts of healthcare workers in the all-round management of COVID-19.

Pedram Pak-Ayin, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, attributed the success to the import of five times more vaccines than the previous administration and the production of six effective, high-quality domestic vaccines. These efforts have led to the restoration of social vitality, business prosperity, and control of COVID-19 in the country. Pak-Ayin noted that the current administration faced over 5,000 COVID-19 infections and more than 700 deaths upon taking office. Despite sanctions and pressure from Western countries, the government worked tirelessly to provide the necessary vaccines and expand national vaccination efforts. Consultations with other countries' presidents and health ministers were initiated by the president

Iran a remarkable success story in curbing COVID-19 amid sanctions



IRNA

and health minister to facilitate widespread vaccine entry into Iran. In addition to importing various vaccines, domestic vaccine production increased, and the number of vaccination centers

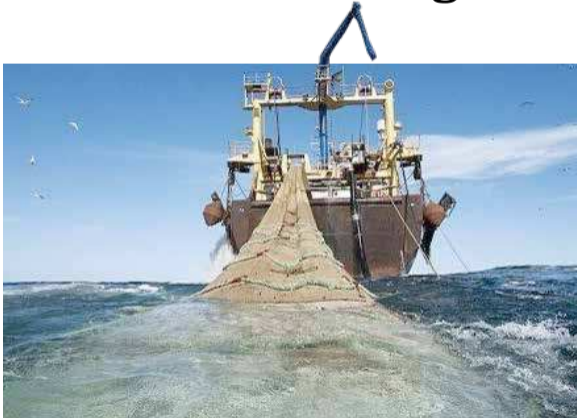
expanded to expedite the process and minimize wait times. Pak-Ayin stated that vaccination efforts would reach 160 million doses in the shortest

time possible, contributing to the reduction of COVID-19 deaths in the country. As of now, the number of COVID-19 infections has dropped below 20, and

the death rate has reached two, with many days recording no fatalities. This progress signifies a promising future for managing and containing COVID-19 in Iran.

In pursuit of aquatic preservation

Environmental faction seeks permanent ban on industrial trawling



IRNA

Social Desk

The leader of Iran Parliament's environmental faction announced the end of the plundering of the nation's aquatic life and expressed determination to permanently ban industrial trawling in the country. In response to a petition from hundreds of southern fishermen demanding an end to industrial trawl fishing, Sommyeh Rafiei, a member of the Islamic Council's environmental faction, emphasized the faction's commitment to supporting local fishermen. Rafiei highlighted the positive impact of the two-year suspension of trawl fishing, which was implemented with the president's approval, on preserving aquatic resources in the south and sustaining local livelihoods.

She stressed that economic activities must align with the country's environmental capacity to prevent degradation.

Before the trawl fishing ban, local fishing communities expressed dissatisfaction with the depletion of aquatic resources caused by industrial trawling vessels. Rafiei revealed that these vessels received fuel subsidies from the government while claiming to create jobs and meet the country's needs. As fish stocks dwindled, local fishermen incurred higher costs and used more fuel to venture further out to sea, often returning empty-handed. The parliamentary environmental faction successfully imposed a two-year ban on industrial trawling activities starting November 21, 2020, despite significant pressure from the industrial trawling entities. Rafiei stated that the Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute was tasked with monitoring aquatic stocks in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman during this period and submitting a report for further decision-making. However, no comprehensive report has been provided to date. Rafiei warned that the trawl profiteers are seeking to revive trawl fishing and

emphasized the need for environmentally friendly fishing methods to replace destructive trawl fishing. Despite allocating the required amount of money for membership fees in international conventions to obtain fishing licenses in the Indian Ocean, none of the mentioned ships have begun operations in those waters.

In their petition, local fishermen expressed gratitude for the two-year ban on fishing trawlers in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, which has led to the relative revival of aquatic resources and improved the food basket of indigenous people. The petitioners urged the members of the parliamentary environmental faction, academic staff, and officials to take decisive action regarding the permanent ban of trawlers. The local fishermen's letter emphasized that industrial fishing vessels, under the pretext of having a fishing license, operated without proper monitoring and supervision by the Iranian Fisheries Organization. These vessels encroached upon the waters of the southern coast, destroying habitats and looting valuable aquatic resources and species, despite warnings from local fishermen.

Official: 370,000 Iranian students registered for summer camps

Social Desk

The Deputy Director of Education and Culture at Iran's Ministry of Education, Asghar Baqerzadeh, revealed that 370,000 students have registered for summer camps thus far.

Baqerzadeh emphasized that this year's summer slogan is "non-stop training," with the aim of providing educational opportunities through all institutions, families, and schools, Mehr News reported. Since late May, approximately 25,000 camps have been established in 20 percent of the nation's schools, along with 1,000 cultural and educational centers within ministry facilities and 1,000 bases in Center for the Intellectual Development of Child and Adolescents across various cities and regions. Registration for these camps will continue until June 28.

Students have until July 6 to register in these camps, which can be accessed through the education services portal at <https://my.medu.ir>. The portal allows families, students, and other interested parties to learn about the summer camps, view the fields, locations, and event times, and participate in the programs.

Baqerzadeh noted that all camps registered in the system must declare the amount they claim as tuition or tuition assistance, ensuring proper oversight. While some programs and activities are free, skill and professional training courses may require special tools, equipment, and expert trainers, resulting in tuition fees. However, the official clarified that tuition fees are not entirely optional and that there is a ceiling for such fees.

The Deputy Director advised parents and families to utilize summer education centers close to their homes which employ well-known, suitable trainers and teachers approved by the Ministry of Education. Additionally, he urged families to verify that there are no unconventional fees by checking the numbers recorded in the database.



MEHR

Leader:
Hajj can foil plots of arrogant powers against humanity



Hajj can annul and render ineffectual all the plans of the arrogant powers and Zionism for the moral downfall of humanity – today and in the future.

Page 1 >

That which is a necessary condition for the occurrence of this universal impact is that as a first measure Muslims themselves should properly hear the life-giving message of Hajj and do their utmost to implement it.

The two main foundations of this message are “unity” and “spirituality.” Unity and spirituality are what guarantee the material and spiritual advancement of the Islamic world and its enlightening the entire world.

The US and other centers of arrogance are strongly opposed to the unity of Muslims, to the understanding between nations, countries, and Islamic governments, and to the religiosity and commitment to religion of the younger generation in these nations. They are intensely opposed to these and they will fight these with any means they can. It is the duty of all of us, the duty of all nations, and the duty of our governments to stand against this evil scheme of the US and Zionist regime.

Millions of Muslim worshippers from across the world have started the annual Hajj pilgrimage in the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, with the rituals taking place over a period of several days and culminating in Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice).

Saudi authorities have described this year’s event as the “biggest” Hajj pilgrimage in years, as more than two million people from over 160 countries are said to have attended the annual religious gathering.

This year, the maximum age limit has been scrapped, meaning thousands of elderly people will be among those braving Saudi Arabia’s scorching heat that is projected to reach 44° Celsius.

The Hajj pilgrimage is one of the pillars of Islam; Muslims who enjoy financial self-sufficiency are religiously obliged to perform in the Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

This year, the first groups of Hajj pilgrims left Iran for Saudi Arabia on May 24.

A total of 87,550 Iranian pilgrims from 21 airports across the country have reportedly taken part in this year’s Hajj.

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A pilgrimage begins

Millions of Muslims flock to Saudi Arabia to take part in annual Hajj rituals.

