



Global outcry over desecration of Qur'an in Sweden

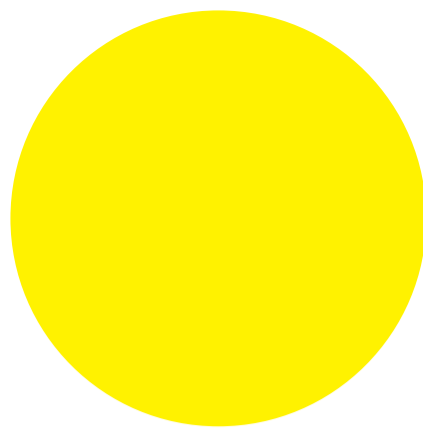
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Six decades in news business

EXCLUSIVE

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Iran Daily



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Vol. 7327 • Saturday, July 1, 2023 • Tir 10, 1402 • Dhu al-Hajjah 12, 1444 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

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Hundreds arrested in third night of France riots

International Desk

Violence swept across major French cities a third night in a row after police shot dead a 17-year-old who has only been named as 'Nahel M', a teenager of Algerian and Moroccan descent.

Media reports citing French officials say hundreds of people were arrested, Reuters reported.

Emmanuel Macron urged parents to keep teenagers at home to quell rioting spreading across the country and said social media is fuelling copycat violence.



STEPHANE ROUPPERT/REUTERS

After a second crisis meeting with senior ministers, the French president said that social networks are playing a "considerable role" in the spreading unrest triggered by the deadly police shooting of the 17-year-old boy.

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Iran-Saudi Arabia thaw might favour regional integration



By Silvia Boltuc
Managing director of SpecialEurasia

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In March 2023, China aided Iran and Saudi Arabia in re-establishing diplomatic relations and embassies. Although Riyadh and Tehran have a long way to go, the rapprochement was a major turning point for the region. With this agreement, Saudi Arabia is aiming for stability and security to achieve its Saudi Vision 2030 proj-

ects, while Iran is seeking economic recovery and regional integration.

Tehran has been awaiting decades to be able to trade with the West. Because of the impossibility of lifting sanctions, Iran has pushed regionalism, aiming to be a logistics and energy hub and build relationships with Eurasian countries. Tehran's government has focused on new port infrastructures, the establishment of Free Economic Zones and including Iran within the main regional multimodal corridors, as well as increasing cooperation with Eurasian organisations such as the SCO, the EAEU and the BRICS.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran welcomes normalizing ties with Egypt, Morocco



MEHR

TASNIM – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said his country is prepared for the normalization of ties with Egypt and Morocco. In a meeting with the ambassadors of Muslim countries in Iran, Amir-Abdollahian hailed the restoration of ties with Riyadh and emphasized that relations with the Islamic and regional nations is a top priority in Tehran's foreign policy agenda.

US envoy for Iran put on leave



PRESS TV – The United States' special envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, has been placed on leave as his security clearance is being allegedly reviewed over his handling of classified materials. "I have been informed that my security clearance is under review. I have not been provided any further information, but I expect the investigation to be resolved favorably and soon," Malley told Reuters. "In the meantime, I am on leave," he added.

EU to keep ballistic missile sanctions on Iran



REUTERS – European diplomats have told Iran they plan to retain European Union ballistic missile sanctions set to expire in October under the defunct 2015 Iran nuclear deal, four sources said, a step that could provoke Iranian retaliation. The sources cited "depriving Iran of the nuclear deal's benefits" as one of the reasons for keeping the sanctions.

Global outcry over desecration of Qur'an in Sweden

International Desk

The burning of the Holy Qur'an outside the main mosque in the Swedish capital city of Stockholm on one of the holiest days in Islam sparked outrage in many Muslim countries and widespread condemnations of Swedish authorities.

Two men, watched by a crowd of people and protected by the Swedish police forces, first waved two Swedish flags as the national anthem blasted over a speaker system and then, tore pages out of a Qur'an and burned them outside a mosque on Wednesday.

A Swedish court and police authorities have given permission to anti-Islam extremists to desecrate the holy book of Muslims.

In an application for the permit, one of the men, Salwan Momika, identified by Swedish media as an Iraqi immigrant living in Sweden, said he wanted to "express his opinion about the Qur'an" by tearing it up and burning it. The police had granted a permit for the demonstration after a Swedish court ruled that banning it would impinge on the right to freedom of speech.

The timing of the burning of Islam's holy book, during the important Mus-

A man, protected by rows of Swedish police forces, holds a copy of the Holy Qur'an before tearing its pages and burning them in Stockholm, Sweden, on June 28, 2023.

AFP

lim holiday of Eid al-Adha, further angered and pained Muslims in many countries, who were celebrating the holiday, which honors the end of the Hajj pilgrimage. On Friday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said that disrespecting the Holy Qur'an is actually disrespecting all divine religions, humanity, and divine values, adding that the Muslim world will not let it pass.

Dismissing the claim that such acts are in support of freedom of expression, Raeisi said that those people "oppose freedom and want to impose their despotism as freedom of expression on humanity".

Iran's Foreign Ministry has also summoned Sweden's chargé d'affaires in the capital Tehran in protest at the desecration of the Holy Qur'an in the European country amid the approval of Swedish authorities in the name of "freedom of speech".

"Branding such moves as acts of democracy and freedom will only fuel further terrorism and extremism,



and will boomerang on the West," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian wrote in a post published on his Twitter page on Thursday.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani also said that acts of insult against holy books serve as an instance of inclination towards aggression and

hatemongering, and counter authentic human rights values.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation also roundly condemned the desecration. It warned in a statement on Thursday about the dangers and consequences of such actions, emphasizing that the move is in contradiction to efforts

to promote coexistence and moderation.

Morocco went beyond a statement of condemnation and recalled its ambassador to Sweden for an indefinite period.

The United States condemned the burning but failed to show restraint and shoehorned that issuing the permit for the demon-

stration supported freedom of expression.

In another move that lays bare Washington's lack of prudence, a US Department of State spokesperson, Vedant Patel, expressed the government's opposition to the burning of the Qur'an while also urging outraged Turkey to approve Sweden's NATO bid.

Iran-Saudi Arabia ...

Currently, the easing of tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia marks the beginning of a new season of relations with several Persian Gulf countries. This will impact external players' interests, including China, Russia, the US, Lebanon, and Syria.

The Ukrainian crisis changed the global energy market. Russian oil, previously sold to the West, is now directed east. It has also revealed differences in interest between some OPEC+ actors, especially Saudi Arabia, and the US. If, on the one hand, the Chi-

nese mediation in the Iranian-Saudi reconciliation is not a success for Washington, on the other hand, the easing of tensions between Riyadh and Tehran could favour negotiations between Iran and the United States and lead to a temporary agreement between the two actors.

While competing interests in Syria and Lebanon and the normalisation of relations between Riyadh and Tel Aviv remain complicated dossiers, this historic rapprochement may help improve the maritime security in the Persian Gulf, where Iran has a predominant

position, and stabilising Yemen. The recent oil cooperation between the Kingdom and Iran announced by Mohsen Khojastehmehr, the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), not only marks a departure from past Saudi allegations of attacks on its oil infrastructure by Iran but will also contribute to the common interest of securing the Persian Gulf waters through which passes a consistent part of international oil exports.

Moreover, Iran entering the Eurasian markets, particularly the Central Asian one, could be aided by better

relations with Persian Gulf monarchies. The recent Kazan Forum showed the importance of the Islamic world in Moscow's strategy against sanctions, and Russia and some Arab states are key investors in Central Asia. The third fundamental player in the area is China, who has negotiated the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran, it is one of Riyadh's main oil buyers and has signed an agreement worth billion with Tehran. While Tehran, Moscow and Beijing already cooperate in several fields, stabilising the Persian Gulf might increase Central Asian republics' interests in Iran and its connection infrastructures. Indeed, at the

recent Astana International Forum, the Kazakh minister of economy highlighted the importance of Iran for regional and international connectivity due to its strategic geographic position. An increase in Persian Gulf integration might support corridors and supply chains running from Russia and China, through Central Asia and Iran till India and contrast the Turkish role as a regional transit hub.

Divergent religious goals and views in terms of external interferences in the Persian Gulf region might represent a challenge in Iran-Saudi Arabia relations. In this regard, Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in a message

to Iranian pilgrims on their way to Mecca, stressed that Muslims should be united in fighting the plots designed by the enemy which set Islamic denominations, nations, races, languages, and the diverse cultures of the Islamic world against each other, remarking Iranian stances towards Western involvement in the region, while since the early '30 Saudi Arabia has opened to the US presence in the area. Finally, the normalisation of relations between Riyadh and Tel Aviv could represent a further breaking point in the future. Nevertheless, diplomatic rapprochement has been helpful so far and is motivated by economic imperatives for both countries.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iranians urge Albania to end MKO camp

Dozens of Iranian protesters and relatives of members of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) have called upon Albanian authorities to shut down a camp that hosts anti-Iran elements and make preparation for the repatriation of their family members.

On Friday, demonstrators and members of the independent civil society organization, Nejat Society, converged outside the Turkish embassy in downtown Tehran, which represents Albania's interests in the Islamic

Republic, Press TV reported. The protesters expressed their gratitude for the latest raids by Albanian police forces on the Ashraf-3 camp in the northwest of the capital Tirana. Albanian police forces raided the camp anew on Thursday morning, more than a week after they stormed the same place over indications that a number of cyberattacks against foreign institutions were being orchestrated there.

The protesters released a communiqué during the gathering, asking Albanian



Iranian protesters and relatives of members of the MKO terrorist cult gather outside the Turkish Embassy in Tehran on June 30, 2023.

ERFAN KOUCHARI/
TASNIM

authorities to shut down the camp and put the notorious ringleaders of the MKO terrorist cult on trial. The relatives of MKO members also urged the Albanian government not to allow leaders of the cult to use their loved ones as human shields against security forces.

US rejoins UNESCO, reversing Trump withdrawal



AFP

The United States rejoined UNESCO on Friday, reversing its withdrawal during the Trump administration, the UN's cultural agency said.

Donald Trump announced in 2017 that he was pulling the United States out of UNESCO, alongside Israel, accusing the body of bias against the Jewish state, a decision that took effect in 2018.

An extraordinary session of the UN body's General Assembly voted overwhelmingly for the return of the United States, an AFP reporter present at the vote said, with around 132 members voting in favour, 10 against and 15 abstentions. Dissenting voices included Iran, Syria, China, North Korea and Russia, whose delegates appeared to seek to delay the vote through several statements on procedure and suggested amendments. The United States, a founding member of UNESCO, was a major contributor to its budget until 2011, when the body admitted Palestine as a member state.

That triggered an end to the contributions under US law, leading up to the formal withdrawal announcement six years later. Audrey Azoulay, a former French culture minister who has headed UNESCO since 2017, made it a priority of her term to bring the US back.

Until the suspension of its contributions in 2011 – decided during the Obama administration – the US paid about 22 percent of UNESCO's budget, or \$75 million.

But the US Congress, then fully controlled by the Democratic Party of current President Joe Biden, in December paved the way for the United States to restore funding, setting aside \$150m in the budget. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in March that the US absence from UNESCO was letting China write rules on artificial intelligence. The US had already withdrawn from UNESCO in 1984 – under the Reagan presidency – and rejoined the Organisation after an almost 20-year absence in October 2003. "The United States has already withdrawn twice. We're not sure how many more times we're expected to welcome them back," a North Korean diplomat told AFP, asking not to be identified by name.

Hundreds arrested in third night of France riots

He said he wants social media such as Snapchat and TikTok to remove sensitive content and that violence is being organised online.

Rioters put up barricades in Nanterre, the working-class town outside Paris where Nahel was shot dead on Tuesday. Their advance towards police lines under a hail of fireworks was stopped as police fired round after round of tear gas. In their anger, rioters set fire to cars and large swathes of fencing.

Police seen making their push into Nanterre ran past graffiti left by the rioters: saying "Nahel, we love you" – and below that, obscenities leveled at the authorities. Police say the teenager fled a traffic check, in an incident caught on smartphone camera and shared on social media.

The officer who fired the fatal shot at close range is being investigated for voluntary homicide, and remains detained.

The teenager's death has fed complaints of systemic racism and police violence, which the force denies.

Forty thousand officers were said to have deployed across France on Thursday, nearly four times the number the day before.

But there are few signs that government appeals to de-escalate the violence – including from French leader Emmanuel Macron – would quell the widespread anger.

The UK on Friday updated its official travel advice to warn citizens planning to visit France about unrest sparked by a police officer's killing of the teenager, AFP reported.



People look at a building of the Tessi group, burnt during night clashes between protesters and police, following the death of Nahel, a 17-year-old teenager killed by a French police officer in Nanterre during a traffic stop, at the Alma district in Roubaix, France, June 30, 2023.

PASCAL ROSSIGNOL/REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aid restrictions in Myanmar may be war crimes: UN

REUTERS – The Myanmar military rulers' restrictions on life-saving aid are growing and may amount to war crimes such as degrading treatment, starvation, and collective punishment, a UN human rights report said. The report by the UN rights chief says the military has established an "all-encompassing system of control" since a Feb. 2021 coup and said urgent steps are needed to meet people's fundamental needs and rights.

Finnish minister resigns

REUTERS – Finland's economy minister Vilhelm Junnila resigned on Friday just 10 days into his term in office, the nationalist Finns Party said, after being accused of making repeated Nazi references.

"For the continuation of the government and the reputation of Finland, I see that it is impossible for me to continue as a minister in a satisfactory way," Junnila said in a statement.



By **Abed Akbari**
CEO of Abrar Moaser Research Institute

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Studying the speech of General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong at the National Foreign Relations Conference to observe and concretize the foreign policy of the 13th National Party Congress on December 14, 2023 on the topic of creating and developing Vietnam's modern foreign relations is full of scientific and practical tips and directions for foreign policy. According to us academicians, this lecture was a comprehensive class for familiarizing the students of international relations studies with the requirements of designing and formulating ideas and strategies for foreign policy. But if I want to summarize this whole speech in one sentence, I have to say:

Vietnam wants everything together by proposing the idea of Vietnamese bamboo diplomacy as a metaphor of resistance while flexibility and adaptability in foreign policy. By everything I mean: national and international honor and respect, using national identity to promote global status, progress and sustainable development, influencing regional situations and becoming more internationally integrated in the field of global relations.

In this idea-oriented speech it is mentioned that in addition to the function of preventing war or ending it, diplomacy must always serve in domestic policies, nation building, and national development. A proposition which its existence and deep belief in it is considered as an intellectual tradition and identity in Vietnam. On

the other hand, it has been rightly pointed out that foreign relations today are not just a continuation of domestic policies, but are a strong stimuli for the growth of states and nations in line with their rights.

Thoughtful themes of the speech

In the following parts, I will describe and explain some of the most important points that came to my mind after reading the text of this speech.

Idealistic Realism

Rethinking in the field of foreign policy by relying on the combination of national components of power, including identity, politics, economy, in addition to entering a new form of official and unofficial nation-centered diplomacy to promote international cooperation shows an idealistic realism in the approach of foreign policy. This is not a contradiction, but the ability to combine the capabilities and potentials of a country and the ideals of that country with a respectable harmony. The general strategy proposed behind this idea is with the aim and ideal of nation-building and improving the defense power, and creating morale and determination and driving force for the entire political system.

Vietnamese community around the world

Another noteworthy point in the speech is the emphasis on using the capacity of the Vietnamese community outside of this country. The bond of friendship and cooperation between the people inside and outside Vietnam is considered a necessity for a stronger and more solid relationship with all the countries of the world. This issue is at the top of the priorities of the leading countries and we have always wit-

A review of Vietnam's 'Bamboo Diplomacy'



nessed its positive and efficient reflection and signs in the areas of investment, improving credit and prestige, returning financial resources, facilitating communication and paving the path of sustainable development. The fact that the foreign residents of a country and the diaspora population are seen as having the capacity to influence and connect more culturally, economically and politically with the world is a sign of planning the inevitable conditions of linking the world more than before, as well as the foresight of the leaders of a country.

Flexible and peaceful approach as a new image

For many years in the international literature of foreign policy and international relations, the image of Vietnam was always tied to a long and strenuous war, but at the same time admirable resistance against superpowers. Apart from the internationality of this image and the main sign for the identity of Vietnam, in the heart

of Nguyen Phu Trong's speech, there is also the stubborn struggle to defend the land, independence and maintain sovereignty while keeping the spirit of heroism, philanthropy, friendship and tolerance, and considering truth, justice and correctness are mentioned. But the thing to ponder about is that in the last decade, this image has gradually been added with the image of a significant political and economic actor at the regional and international level.

Foundations of Vietnamese Bamboo Diplomacy

President Ho Chi Minh laid the foundation of Vietnam's bamboo diplomacy in 1945 and directly led and directed the development of Vietnam's revolutionary diplomatic service. The basic elements of Ho Chi Minh's diplomatic thoughts from the philosophy and tradition of diplomacy are seamlessly combined with the characteristics of patriotism and national culture. He believed

that national independence should be accompanied by socialism, self-reliance and self-independence with international solidarity and the development of national strengths with the strengths of the times. The president who tried to defend the role of international law, applied the values of traditional Vietnamese culture and diplomatic behavior along with global and progressive philosophies of humanity to raise the flag of philanthropy, benevolence, truth and legality in international relations. He considered it necessary to have a constructive and close interaction with every country, especially great powers, neighbors, traditional allies and progressive and peace-loving people of the world. A tradition that, as a realist researcher, has its result by looking at the

successful events in the history of foreign relations of this country, i.e. negotiating in defense of the fledgling Democratic Republic of Vietnam at the beginning of its work after the August revolution of 1945, negotiating and signing the Geneva Agreement in 1954, the resistance against the French colonialists, the negotiation and signing of the Paris Accord in 1973 as a prerequisite for the complete liberation of the South, the reunification of the nation and the country. This tradition is still visible in the context of all foreign policy actions of Vietnam for me as a researcher of international relations in Iran.

National and sovereign consensus on the direction of foreign policy

Today's policy of Vietnam represents a principle that has always been successful in the foreign policy, that is, national consensus on the chosen path. That the maximum social and governance consensus has been

formed in a thoughtful way on the principles and direction of Vietnam's foreign policy. The consensus axes of Vietnam's foreign policy includes independence, self-reliance, peace, friendship, cooperation and development, and diversity and multilateralism in relations with international institutions and organizations that should be continuously promoted as an active and responsible member in formulating and designing foreign policy.

Based on the creative application of the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, the continuation of the tradition and national characteristics of foreign relations, diplomacy and culture, and the conscious selection of the strengths of global culture and the progressive philosophies of the time, Vietnam has built an outstanding and unique school in foreign relations and diplomacy. A tradition with strong roots, strong trunk and flexible branches that can preserve the national, regional and international risks of this country in the turbulent era of traditional and give commendable credibility in the world arena to the patient, stubborn, diligent, creative nation of Vietnam.

In this short essay, I tried to describe and analyze some points of the speech of Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. But most of it was not discussed. Undoubtedly, I will repeat more points from this lecture to my students in the next semester. I will say that without a doubt, by carefully studying the past, carefully observing Vietnam's present and reflecting on the country's prospects, they can clearly believe in this statement that the chosen path of Vietnam in the field of foreign and international relations is clear and respectable. A path that can be full of great lessons for other countries of the world.

Fars Province eyes promotion of tourism industry

Iranica Desk

Fars Province attracts a large number of foreign and domestic tourists annually. The religious, historical and cultural properties of the province along with medical and therapeutic potentials, as well as four-season weather play a key role in flourishing its tourism industry.

Shiraz holy shrine

Shah Cheragh Shrine is a major tourist destination and pilgrimage site in the provincial capital of Shiraz. The mausoleum is where one of the brothers of Imam Reza, the eighth Shia Imam, is laid to rest. It boasts architectural elements and motifs from various centuries. The mausoleum has undergone various restoration projects over time. It was registered on the National Heritage list in 1939.

Historical monuments

In addition, the province boasts ancient sites. Pasargadae is among these ancient sites located near Shiraz. It was the capital of the Achaemenid Empire under Cyrus the Great (559–530 BC), who had issued its construction as well as the location of his tomb. Presently, it is an archaeological site which has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Naqsh-e Rostam is another ancient site of the Achaemenid Empire, consisting of the tombs of Persian kings dating back to the first millennium BC. It stands as a lasting memory of a once powerful empire that ruled over a significant portion of the ancient world.

Persepolis was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (550–330 BC). It literally means “city of Persians”. Persepolis is situated 60 kilometers northeast of Shiraz. The earliest remains of Persepolis date back to 515 BC.



Shah Cheragh Shrine
apochi.com

provides great opportunities for promoting agricultural tourism and ecotourism, according to IRNA.

All these attractions along with its intangible cultural heritage, have paved the ground for turning the province into a unique tourism hub. During his trip to the province in October 2021, President Ebrahim Raeisi called for promoting the tourism industry in Fars Province.

Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami also announced that the government has allocated financial aid to develop the Pasargadae Complex.

Moslem Baqeri, a faculty member of the tourism department of Shiraz University, has touched upon distinguishing features of the tourism industry in Fars Province.

“Many tourists travel to Isfahan and the holy cities of Mashhad and Qom to visit historical places. Fars not only provides opportunities for tourists to visit historical, cultural, religious and natural sites, but also enables them to become familiar with food tourism and enjoy bird watching,” he said.

Baqeri added that the tourism industry in Fars has not fully developed due to insufficient investments in the tourism infrastructure.

He said deficiencies such as weakness in hosting, marketing and lack of direct flights from neighboring countries have adversely impacted the province’s tourism.

The caretaker of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of Fars Province also said officials are pursuing plans to boost tourism there.

Ruhollah Ravanshad said developing health tourism and organizing nomadic tours are among these plans.



Naqsh-e Rostam
irandoostan.com

Famous poets

The provincial capital of Shiraz is also home to the tombs of Hafez and Sa’di. Hafez was a 14th century poet whose works can be found in almost every Iranian home. His tomb is usually crowded with visitors. The tomb is raised up on a beautifully decorated dais, surrounded by fragrant rose



Tomb of Hafez
apochi.com

gardens, water channels and orange trees.

Sa’di, a 13th century poet, is one of the greatest figures in classical Persian literature. His best-known works are: Bustan (The Orchard) and Golestan (The Rose Garden).

Shiraz ranks among Iran’s medical and therapeutic hubs. It provides high



Tomb of Sa'di
apochi.com

quality medical services not only for Iranians, but also for a large number of patients from neighboring countries. According to Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, about 1,500 foreigners receive medical treatment in the city every month.

Fars Province, with its 37 cities and towns and four-season weather, also

Historical watermills of Dezful urgently in need of renovation

Iranica Desk

The city of Dezful in the southwestern province of Khuzestan hosts a number of historical watermills, some of which were built concurrent with the establishment of the city during the Sassanid period, 1,700 years ago.

Roman Grishman, a French archaeologist, listed the mills among the

oldest irrigation systems established worldwide.

Close to 60 watermills were built in various parts of the city, such as under the old and new bridges and in Alikaleh neighborhood.

The watermills, some of which were still in use until the Safavid and Qajar eras, helped improve the economy of the city throughout history.

Some of the watermills on the Dez riverside were destroyed due to the river flooding; thus, only 20 still remain. The watermills of Dezful were registered on Iran’s National Heritage List in 2001; however, with respect to their great significance, new studies are underway to prepare conditions for the inscription of the mills and other

water structures of the city on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Mohammad Azarkish, a cultural heritage expert, told ISNA that the historical watermills of Dezful have been left unattended in recent years, which is why the structures are in need of renovation.

He added that 25 watermills stand between the ancient and new bridges

of Dezful, pointing out that the structures which were registered on Iran’s National Heritage List should be taken care of very carefully and effectively.

Azarkish noted that the flooding of the river at the beginning of every spring causes damage to the watermills, so they are in need of continuous restoration.

Referring to measures

undertaken to preserve the watermills, he said that strengthening them should be placed on the Cultural Heritage Ministry’s agenda.

He said that with numerous historical attractions, Dezful can be recognized as an important tourist destination in the country, and the watermills can play a significant role in this respect.

Khuzestan Province is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Susa, Chogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, yet it is a region of raw beauty where visitors could spend weeks exploring.

The province is also a cradle for arts and handicrafts which artisans have inherited from preceding generations.



eneshat.com



eneshat.com



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AFC U17 Asian Cup: Iran coach Abdi remains positive despite last-four heartbreak



● AFC

AFC – Head coach Hossein Abdi was far from dismayed despite Iran's 3-0 defeat to Japan in the AFC U17 Asian Cup semifinals in Thailand on Thursday. Iran had to concede to Japan's superiority at the Thammasat Stadium with Abdi admitting some of his players were unable to focus after finding themselves 2-0 down going into the break but said the experience gained in the tournament would not only help them in this year's FIFA U17 World Cup in Indonesia but also in the progress of their careers. "We prepared as well as we could in three days (since the quarterfinal win against Yemen) but my players were taken aback by Japan's first goal. We then conceded a second and I could see that some of my players were a little down. "I tried to rally them at half-time, telling them we had to play for the entire 90 minutes. The fact that we were also miss-

ing two key players made it difficult for us to fight back against a very good Japanese team," said Abdi. The Iranian head coach felt the outcome could have been different had they been able to finish their chances, especially when Japan were 1-0 up. Kasra Taheri was presented with a gift in the 21st minute when goalkeeper Wataru Endo scuffed a clearance but the forward fired wide from close range. "We should have scored that and we thought we had also earned a penalty only for the referee to overturn his initial decision. "The weather also made it very difficult for us. It was strange game but we will learn. "We have the World Cup to look forward to and I am sure my federation will ensure we prepare well for it. We will be representing not just Iran but the whole of Asia and we must do our best."

Iran up to 22nd in FIFA Men's Ranking, second in Asia



Iranian players celebrate lifting the CAFA Nations Cup trophy after a victory over Uzbekistan in the final in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on June 20, 2023. ● AFC

Sports Desk

Iran moved up by two spots to stand in the 22nd place in the latest FIFA Men's Ranking, released by the international football governing body on Thursday. Amir Qalenoeyi's side collected 1556.59 points to remain second to Japan (1595.96 points) – 20th in the global ranking – among the Asian Football Confederation's member associations, with Australia (1530.45), Korea Republic (1529.3), and Saudi Arabia (1421.26) following Iran in the AFC ranking. The new ranking came after Iran routed Afghanistan (6-1) and Kyrgyzstan (5-1) before a Sardar Azmoun's strike sealed a 1-0 victory for the country over host Uzbekistan in the inaugural CAFA Nations Cup final in June. Qalenoeyi, who replaced Portuguese Carlos Queiroz in March following the World Cup group stage exit last year, is tasked with steering the Asian powerhouse in next January's AFC Asian Cup in Qatar, where the three-time champion will be chasing a first title in 48 years. Also in the FIFA Men's Ranking, the top three remained intact as reigning world champion Argentina is followed by France – beaten by the Argentines in the World Cup final shootout – and Brazil respectively. England moved up to fourth, thanks to back-to-back victories in the Euro 2024 qualifiers in June, with Belgium, Croatia, the Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, and newly-crowned UEFA Nations League champion Spain completing the top 10.

Goalkeeper Hosseini leaves Esteghlal

Sports Desk

Esteghlal goalkeeper and skipper Seyyed Hossein Hosseini announced his departure from the Persian Gulf Pro League giant. "Best of wishes for Esteghlal and [new head coach] Mr. Javad Nekounam. Thanks for all the great days. Goodbye," the 30-year-old keeper wrote

in an Instagram post on Thursday. Hosseini, who spent nine seasons over two spells with the Tehran-based Blues, received some harsh online criticism in the aftermath of a 2-1 defeat against archrival Persepolis in May, being blamed for the way he conceded Omid Aalishah's winner in the extra time.

Hosseini, who made a couple of appearances for Iran in last year's World Cup in Qatar, lifted the Iranian top-flight trophy with the Blues twice, with the second title coming after a remarkable unbeaten campaign in the 2021/22 season. He also won the Iranian Hazfi Cup title with the club in 2018.



● TASNIM

Hughes targets worlds after shattering British 100m record

THE GUARDIAN – A few days after shattering Linford Christie's 30-year-old British 100m record, sprinter Zhanel Hughes is busy recalibrating his sights towards new heights. Hughes's time of 9.83 seconds at the New York City Grand Prix last Saturday made him the fastest man on the planet this year, and a genuine contender for gold at the world championships in Budapest this summer. At the age of 27 he be-

lieves he is ready "to be part of the rumble". "They've seen what I am coming with, so they know that I'm not one to mess about with," he says of his rivals. "I'm ready to compete, I'm excited and I'm enjoying myself." It is almost a decade since Hughes was hailed as the "next Usain Bolt" after switching allegiances to Britain from the Caribbean island of Anguilla as a teenager. But while a serious knee injury and some false starts in major events have hindered his progress, the sense is that he is coming into his prime. Asked how he has kicked on, Hughes stresses that he has become a lot hungrier and only took two weeks off at the end of last season. He also credits the work of his coach, Glenn Mills, who used to train Bolt. "Obviously going to Budapest being a contender will be exciting," he says. "And once I'm going through the rounds, everything else is possible. You just need to be a part of the rumble – and if you can be patient and the most relaxed person in the field then anything is possible."

● GETTY IMAGES

Date: 1402/04/10 - No.: 55/02/8708

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
First Announcement

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×30000±5% MTS of Granular Mono Ammonium Phosphate GMAP (11-52) through one step international tender. All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Saturday** dated 1/7/2023 until **Wednesday** dated 5/7/2023 (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran). The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rial 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated 5/8/2023 (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Sunday** dated 6/8/2023 at 14:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- ❶ The bid bond value should be at 291021 or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on 12/6/2023 for each lot of 30000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.
- ❷ The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 30000 MTS ± 5% will be IRR 89,126,000,000 which must be only submitted by the bidders.
- ❸ After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://fiets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Public relations and international affairs of agricultural support services company

1306-1519600

NEWS IN BRIEF

Euro-area core inflation quickens again in setback for ECB

BLOOMBERG – Euro-area core inflation re-accelerated in June, a setback for the European Central Bank that may reinforce its determination to raise interest rates next month. The measure of underlying consumer-price gains, which excludes items like fuel and food, came in at 5.4% -- just below the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists -- as the cost of services picked up markedly.

Tesla set to report record quarterly vehicle deliveries

REUTERS – Tesla is set to report record vehicle deliveries, after the top electric vehicle maker increased discounts and other incentives to boost sales in the face of economic uncertainty and rising competition.

Tesla is expected as early as this weekend to report global deliveries of 445,000 vehicles in April to June, according to the average estimates of nine analysts by Refinitiv. That would be an increase of 5% from 422,875 the preceding quarter.

Pakistan clinches \$3b IMF bailout

REUTERS – Pakistan secured a badly-needed \$3 billion short-term financial package from the International Monetary Fund on Friday, giving the South Asian economy respite as it teeters on the brink of default.

In a long-awaited decision for Pakistan, the IMF said it had reached a staff-level deal with the 220 million nation, which will now be subject to approval by its board in July. The new nine-month standby arrangement came hours before a current IMF agreement expires, offering relief to Pakistan, which is battling an acute balance of payments crisis.

Raeisi launches dozen projects in Kerman trip

Economy Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Friday brought

online a dozen development projects including water supply, water treatment, and power genera-

tion during a trip to Iran's southeastern Kerman Province. As part of his provin-

cial tour, Raeisi visited Bam where he opened a long-awaited plan to transfer drinking water from a nearby dam to the historical desert city and its adjacent Baravat town.

The plan includes: A 57-kilometer-long pipeline, equipped with a pumping station capable of handling 970 liters per second; two water tanks with capacities of 10,000 and 5,000 cubic meters, respectively; a power line of 40 kilometers; and a water treatment plant that pumps 250 liters per second in the first phase and will reach a capacity of 1,500 liters once it goes fully operational.

Addressing the launch ceremony, Raeisi said the water project inaugurated in Bam was a segment of a larger initiative aimed at providing water to various parts of Kerman Province. He added that every month a new phase of the com-

prehensive plan will be set in motion.

Moving on to the city of Rafsanjan, the president had a firsthand observation of a mega project that is estimated to bring 30 million cubic meters of water annually from the Persian Gulf to local industries and people in the provincial cities of Kerman and Rafsanjan. The pipeline has progressed by over 45 percent.

On the outskirts of Kerman city, Raeisi officially brought on stream the gas-feed section of a combined cycle power plant with a maximum capacity of 450 megawatts. The new natural gas sector generates 312 megawatts.

The power plant was built by a steel mill to meet its annual energy demand of 200 megawatts. The extra 150 megawatts will be injected into the national grid.



● president.ir

Iran to join Shanghai alliance with China, Russia next week: Lavrov



➔ Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov gives a speech during the opening of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) National Peoples Diplomacy Centre in Moscow, Russia, on June 30, 2023. ● AFP

Iran will be formally approved as a member of the regional Shanghai Cooperation Organisation with China, Russia and Central Asian countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Friday. "At the meeting of heads of state on July 4, the full membership of Iran will be approved," Lavrov said at the opening of an SCO centre in Moscow, AFP reported.

Iran has intensified its diplomacy with friends and foes alike in recent

months, seeking to improve its economy and project strength.

SCO membership was already on the cards and Iran is also hoping to be quickly accepted into another grouping that excludes Western countries – the BRICS group with Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The SCO, which has its headquarters in China, is a diplomatic organisation with eight members, including India and Pakistan.

More Iranian, Russian cities to launch direct flights

More Iranian and Russian cities are to launch direct flights, says the head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization.

Referring to his recent visit to Russia, Mohammad Mohammadi Bakhsh said on Friday that an important agreement on training, repair, and maintenance has recently been signed by Tehran and Moscow, IRNA wrote.

Mohammadi Bakhsh also said that the airlines of Russia and Iran have agreed to launch direct flights from different cities.

Earlier on June 24, Mohammadi Bakhsh told IRNA that Iran and Saudi Arabia had started negotiations on further developing the flight network between the two neighboring countries.

He said that flights are being conducted from 21 cities in Iran to Saudi Arabia as part of the hajj pilgrimage season, adding that the two sides are negotiating to launch bilateral flights out of the hajj season as well.

He said he had invited his Saudi counterpart to visit Iran for negotiations on expansion of bilateral flights.



Iran aims to capture 10% of global decorative stones market by 2030: Executive

The president of Iran Stone Association stated that with the right infrastructure in place, Iran has the potential to secure a 10% share of the global trade in decorative stones by 2030.

Bahram Shakuri added, "Currently, the annual global trade of decorative stones stands at approximately \$30 billion, and industry projections estimate it to reach \$54 billion by 2030."

Shakuri highlighted that China currently holds a market share of \$5.3 billion for these products, emphasizing Iran's capability to achieve similar export levels. However, he stressed the need to meet international extraction standards, which stand at around 2%, IRNA wrote. It was noted that the current average extraction rate from Iran's decorative stone reserves is 0.5%. Shakuri empha-

sized that aligning with this global norm would enable Iran to reach \$5 billion in exports and create employment opportunities for approximately one million individuals within the sector.

To achieve this goal, Shakuri underscored the importance of establishing mega-processing projects, acquiring machinery and equipment, reactivating dormant mines, and ensuring the production of

standardized products. Furthermore, he emphasized the criticality of developing fundamental infrastructure such as ports, rail and road networks, and establishing political and economic connections with other countries.

He particularly emphasized the need to facilitate visa issuance for traders, merchants, and economic actors, especially with friendly and target coun-



tries. Shakuri also shared the positive experience of Iranian companies participating in the Xiamen Stone Fair held in China. He stated, "This exhibi-

tion, along with the exhibitions in Izmir, Turkey, and Verona, Italy, are among the prominent events in the industrial and mining sector that took place last month."

Six decades in news business

Mohammad Bolouri, father of Iranian event journalism, reflects on 60 years of professional endeavors.



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

The name Mohammad Bolouri holds a significant and esteemed place in Iranian press, particularly in the field of investigative journalism. With over 60 years of experience in the press and contributions to various newspapers and publications, he is widely rec-

ognized as the pioneer of Iranian event-based journalism. Through his uncovering of the important events of Iran, he brought forth the most high-profile and newsworthy criminal cases in post-Revolutionary media.

At the age of 87, Bolouri, who remained an active journalist until a few months ago, when he experienced the loss of his wife, possesses a unique perspective as one of the few individuals to

have witnessed the atmosphere of journalism before and after the Revolution, navigating its highest levels of tension and adventure in the events department. He carries with him numerous untold stories of this era, incidents and events that only he himself is fully aware of and capable of recounting.

Currently, Bolouri leads a tranquil retirement away from the commotion and pressures of

the news and journalism world, dedicating his time to his son's family and his young grandson, finding joy in writing stories. I had the privilege of visiting him at his home one early spring day, where we delved into his remarkable career, cherished memories, and insightful perspectives on investigative journalism spanning several decades. Below, you will find a comprehensive account of our conversation.



IRAN DAILY

Mr. Bolouri, kindly share with us some insights about your life and how your journey as a journalist began.

I was born on February 28, 1937, in Qaem Shahr, into a working-class family. My father worked in a textile factory in Mazandaran Province. Being the eldest son in a family with one brother and two sisters, I completed my primary and secondary education in Qaem Shahr. Due to the financial constraints faced by my family, I moved in with my sister's family to continue my studies. As my brother-in-law's job required relocation, we moved to different cities from time to time. In my fifth year of high school, we settled in Tehran, and I had the opportunity to enroll in the renowned Dar ol-Funun high school for my sixth grade.

During my time at Dar ol-Funun, I had the pleasure of being taught by Mr. Torbati, who was not only a high school professor but also a university lecturer. His area of expertise was Persian literature. He took a liking to my writing style, and most of our class hours were spent discussing and reviewing my essays. Towards the end of the school year, he approached me with an opportunity. We visited the office of *Keyhan* Newspaper, where he introduced me to the editor and highlighted my talent for writing. During that period, two influential newspapers in the country were seeking aspiring writers, and they had sought the assistance of university professors to recommend individuals with exceptional writing skills. Training facilities for journalists were nonexistent at the time, and although some related courses were offered in universities, the students lacked a solid foundation in journalism.

How did you come to work in the events department of the newspaper?

Back in the year 1957 when the idea to establish an events section in the newspaper arose, *Keyhan* was in search of someone to provide coverage on various occurrences such as murders, accidents, conflicts, and the like. Prior to that, such news items were sporadically scattered across different pages, lacking a designated section solely dedicated to events.

After seven or eight months of working there, I proposed to the editor that we initiate a dedicated events page. This was the time following prime ministership of Mohammad Mosaddeq, a period marked by the Shah's resurgence to power and a decline in parliamentary prosperity. As a result, public interest in politics dwindled. This void in political news prompted people to develop an inclination towards following news related to events. With my suggestion, the events page made its inaugural appearance in *Keyhan* Newspaper, marking the birth of the first dedicated events page in the Iranian press.

Subsequently, we observed an increase in newspaper sales as people showed a curiosity in staying updated on events. Following our example, even *Etela'at* Newspaper introduced its own events page, stimulating further public interest and engagement with events-related news.

Did you have a model or inspiration to guide your writing of events news?

No, there was no independent model for events news in the country, and we didn't have a foreign example to follow in this particular field. I was assigned two assistants to support me. Initially, I would visit the medical examiner's office alone to gather news about various incidents. Whether it was a case of someone being killed or a suicide, I would gather information from the medical examiner and add depth to the story. If it involved a suicide, I would visit the home of the deceased and inquire about the reasons behind it. If it was a story intertwined with love, I would seek out the person involved and uncover their side of the narrative, presenting the story in a storytelling format. I didn't simply report the incidents in a dry manner, stating basic facts. Instead, I delved into the story, capturing details from the perspectives of the family and individuals involved, fashioning it into an incident-story. This writing style was new and captivating to the readers.

Were you genuinely interested in writing events news, or was it merely a professional pursuit for you?

I have always had a genuine passion for storytelling,

and since my high school days, I have been writing short stories. Additionally, in terms of my personality, I have always been enthusiastic and active. Therefore, I actively sought out adventures and compelling subjects. Discovering a captivating story and presenting it in an engaging and fictionalized manner were two aspects that coexisted in the realm of writing news about events, and that is precisely what I was seeking.

Now, at this point, would you briefly outline your accomplishments in the realm of events news coverage and the pursuit of investigative reports?

For a period of seven or eight years, I held the responsibility of managing the events page at *Keyhan* Newspaper. Subsequently, I took charge of two or three other pages, which included the events and social sections. Eventually, I assumed the role of evening editor. During that time, the newspaper operated with two editors: one for the morning and one for the evening. The morning editor oversaw the top eight pages, which focused on daily news and current affairs, while I, as the evening editor, took charge of the subsequent eight pages, delving into reports, follow-ups, and investigative pieces concerning the day's events.

I had a team of seven or eight reporters whom I assigned to investigate and follow up on news and reports. Essentially, we aimed to provide readers with comprehensive insights into the day's events. This was a period roughly three to four years before the Revolution took place. As the newspaper established an editorial board, I assumed the role of general secretary, working alongside four other members. I held the editorship of the newspaper until 1982 when circumstances no longer supported my continued involvement, and I decided to request retirement.

During my final year as the editor of *Keyhan*, specifically in early 1982, the newspaper's daily circulation peaked at one million and one hundred thousand copies. The surge in sales was greatly influenced by the fervor surrounding the early days of the Revolution and the ongoing war.

However, the sales and circulation gradually declined afterward.

Subsequently, I ventured into the magazine industry for a period, taking on the editorship of five or six weekly publications and successfully increasing their circulation. I continued to cover events within those publications. In 1994, when *Iran* Newspaper was established, I received an invitation to spearhead the launch of the events page, and thus I inaugurated the events section of that publication, which was very effective for the circulation of the newspaper. Subsequently, with the establishment of *Etemad* Newspaper, I was invited by the editor of the newspaper to assume the responsibility of the events page and serve as his deputy.

Another report that gained significant attention was on the topic of heart transplants. As you may be aware, many individuals suffering from heart conditions require a transplant. Typically, organs are sourced from individuals declared brain dead. However, there is a scarcity of available hearts compared to the number of patients in need. Unfortunately, during this time, many patients awaiting a heart transplant succumbed to their conditions. The primary cause of this issue was rooted in cultural beliefs wherein the families of brain-dead individuals resisted the removal of the deceased's heart from their chest, following traditional burial practices. Moved by this observation, I began documenting such stories. For instance, I encountered a mother who selflessly donated her son's heart to a young girl. On certain occasions, I arranged meetings between them and encouraged the mother to place her ear against the girl's chest, allowing her to hear her son's heartbeat. I would then narrate these heartfelt encounters in a compelling manner to elicit emotions from readers. Over time, the topic of heart donation gained popularity among the public, resulting in the rescue of countless patients who would have otherwise faced certain death.

Currently, what are you engaged in?

My involvement with *Iran* Newspaper lasted until a few months ago, until the end of last year, coinciding

with the passing of my wife and my own illness.

Over the past few months, I have shifted my focus solely to writing stories. It's not a new endeavor for me, as I have previously published seven books featuring adventurous criminal tales, journalistic accounts, and historical narratives that I have penned throughout the years.

At present, I have two storybooks in progress, both of which I am concurrently working on. Each book has already accumulated about 200 to 300 pages. As of now, I do not have any plans to return to journalism. The current state of journalism no longer resonates with me, and the enthusiasm I once had for the field has subsided.

What kind of journalism do you prefer?

The type of journalism that captivated me for many years at *Keyhan* Newspaper is my preferred form – journalism that delves into events and reveals the truth. As journalists, our duty is to convey the interests and desires of the people, making them aware of the facts and the underlying issues prevalent in society.

Mr. Bolouri, based on your extensive experience in events and investigative reports, how do you define investigative journalism?

In my opinion, the definition of investigative journalism differs from the teachings of university professors who may have had little to no experience in a newspaper setting. Journalism is not something that can be solely taught academically. The practical aspects of journalism are learned in the editorial offices of newspapers. Investigative journalism, to me, means the pursuit of facts and addressing the demands and topics that

capture the interest of the people in society. We must ensure that our writing has the potential to alleviate people's pain.

What is the meaning of news? A news report aims to inform people about an event or occurrence that reaches their attention for the first time, shedding light on a specific issue that might not be clear to individuals or society. The follow-up on such matters should be captivating enough to warrant its publication in a newspaper. This holds especially true for issues that are discovered and brought to light for the first time, uncovering the depths and roots of events. To find such compelling topics and comprehend their various dimensions, one must possess an inquisitive mind. A reporter should possess an ability to keenly observe specific and intricate details, comprehending the interconnected aspects of the subject matter. Developing these skills requires exceptional capabilities, many of which are honed within the editorial office of a newspaper. In contrast to current practices, individuals aspiring to become journalists should first learn the craft within a newspaper and then further their knowledge through university education. Otherwise, the definitions provided solely in an academic setting may lead to confusion rather than clarity for the students.

The type of journalism that captivated me for many years at *Keyhan* Newspaper is my preferred form – journalism that delves into events and reveals the truth.

TO BE CONTINUED

Iran's handwoven carpet of Bijar globally registered at WIPO



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA - Iran's renowned handwoven carpet from Bijar, famously known as the "Iron Carpet of Iran," has achieved global recognition and protection as an enduring human heritage and an esteemed international brand. This significant milestone was officially documented at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Switzerland. Hamidreza Amani, the Chief Executive Officer of Kurdistan Industrial Towns Company added that over the past three years, considerable attention has been devoted to the international registration process of the two prominent handwoven carpet brands originating from Kurdistan Province. Amani expressed his optimism, stating, "Currently, the globally recognized Bijar iron carpets have paved the way, and without a doubt, Sanandaj rugs will soon follow suit in their international registration." He emphasized that this international registration will immensely contribute to augmenting the sales and export potential of these invaluable products on a global scale.

Iran to bolster Farsi courses at Syrian, Lebanese universities

Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA - Allameh Tabataba'i University of Iran entered into agreements with universities in Syria and Lebanon to enhance the quality of Persian language courses offered in these two Arab nations, as stated by the university's chancellor. Under these agreements, Iran committed to facilitating the opportunity for ten outstanding Persian language students from Syrian and Lebanese universities to study in Iran for one semester. In reciprocity, Iranian students pursuing Arabic language studies will have the chance to study at universities in both Syria and Lebanon for one semester as well. Abdollah Mo'tamedi, during his visit to the two Arab countries, emphasized the positive impact of the trip in strengthening the teaching of Persian language at universities in Syria and Lebanon. This visit included visits to prominent Syrian universities in Damascus, Aleppo, and Homs, along with several academic institutions in Lebanon.

License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
 Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
 ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
 Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 88500617 - irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 Website: www.irandaily.ir
 newspaper.irandaily.ir
 irandaily@icpi.ir
 Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
 Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran



Iran Daily has no responsibility whatsoever for advertisements and promotional material printed in the newspaper.

irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir

Vol. 7327 • Saturday, July 1, 2023 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

News in photo

Raeisi's trip to Kerman



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi inaugurates a national project on June 29, 2023, to transfer water from the Nesa Dam's reservoir to the cities of Bam and Baravat in Kerman Province, southern Iran.

Reactions to sacrilege of Qur'an



Muslims blast the Wednesday burning of Qur'an's pages outside Stockholm Central Mosque, which was authorized by the Swedish court and protected by the police.

Eid al-Adha ceremony at Kahrizak



A ceremony commemorating the auspicious occasion of Eid al-Adha and the symbolic circumambulation of Kaaba takes place on June 29, 2023, with the presence of philanthropists, benefactors, and artists at Kahrizak Charity Foundation.

Tehran-Mubarak Int'l Puppet Festival



The photos capture a street performance of the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival in the vibrant backdrop of Tehran's City Theater. The festival, under the guidance of Hadi Hejazifar, commenced on June 28 and will enrapture audiences until July 8.

REZA MO'ATTARIAN/theater.ir