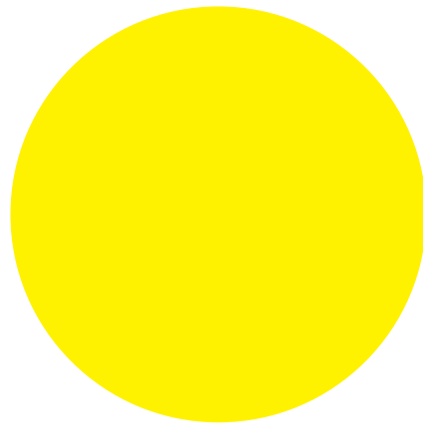




Raisi urges closer ties as he receives new envoys' credentials



Time Museum, a heaven for history and architecture lovers



Iran Daily



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir

Vol. 7335 • Monday, July 10, 2023 • Tir 19, 1402 • Dhu al-Hajjah 21, 1444 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

Alefa, showcasing Iran's progress in education: *Minister*



Bahman Sadeghi/pana.ir



Uzbek voters cast ballots in presidential election

EXCLUSIVE

3 >



Iranian girls seal place in world junior handball meet

5 >



A brief history and typology of cheating in Konkour

7 >

Iran denounces US decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the US decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine shows Washington's determination to prolong and complicate the war. Kanaani made the comments after the US confirmed on Friday it was sending the weapons to Ukraine, with President Joe Biden calling it a "very difficult decision". "The US decision to send cluster bombs to Ukraine shows Washington's determination to per-

petuate and further complicate the war in Ukraine," Kanaani tweeted on Sunday. "The move is another example of the United States' destabilizing actions," he said, adding that sending such weapons will "indiscriminately contribute to more bloodshed and destruction". Reports emerging earlier this week said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was pushing the United States to provide Kiev with cluster munitions to use against Russian forces.

Page 2 >

Iran world's top date exporter with \$500m annually



Sadeq Dehqan
Staff Writer

Iran is the world's leading exporter of dates, with the value of its exports amounting to approximately \$500 million, the secretary of the National Date Association of Iran said Sunday. In an interview with Iran Daily, Meqdad Takallouzadeh elaborated on the destinations of Iran's major date exports, which include India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Qatar, the UAE, Southeast Asian countries,



Central Asian nations, and Western countries such as France and Italy. Turkey is also a major importer of Iranian dates, which it exports after repackaging. Takallouzadeh noted the global production of dates reaches around 8.4 million tons annually.

Page 6 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi parties demand gov't settle Iran dues



AFP – The Coordination Framework, a coalition of Shia parties in Iraq's parliament, called on the government to pressure the United States to unlock pending payments to Tehran for crucial gas imports. Iraq, ravaged by decades of conflict and international sanctions, relies on gas imported from its eastern neighbor for a third of its energy needs.

But US sanctions on Iranian oil and gas impose restrictions on how Baghdad can pay for the imports. Iraq cannot directly hand over cash to Iran, but payments must be held in a bank account and be used by Tehran to fund imports of food and medicines.

Israeli war machine suffered another defeat in Jenin: *Svox*

PRESS TV – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has hailed the steely resistance of Palestinians in the face of the Israeli military's two-day military onslaught on the Jenin refugee camp, saying the occupying regime suffered a humiliating defeat in the battle.

In a tweet on Sunday, Nasser Kanaani wrote that the trail of destruction left behind in the Jenin camp marks a shameful moral failure for the supporters of the regime.

"The war machine of the criminal Israeli regime suffered a new historic defeat in the recent brutal onslaught on Jenin. Nonetheless, a much bigger defeat awaits the supporters of the regime," he said. Kanaani further underlined that the scale of destruction in the Jenin camp marks a flagrant violation of international law and constitutes a war crime. He also called on Palestinians to expose such level of aggression to the world so that the so-called advocates of human rights would become more disgraced.

Minister calls on Pakistan to tighten border security



National Desk

The Iranian Minister of Interior described the Saturday incident at the Zahedan police station as a terrorist act and urged "the neighboring government" – Pakistan – to bolster border security measures and exercise effective control over the borders.

On Saturday, the Pakistan-based Jeish-ul-Adl group claimed responsibility for the attack on the police station, triggering deadly clashes with the officers, during which two policemen and four gunmen were killed.

Without referring to Pakistan, Ahmad Vahidi said, "We expect the neighboring government to safeguard and manage our borders". He underlined that terrorist groups engaging in such activities should understand that they will not escape the scrutiny of the Iranian intelligence and law enforcement agencies, IRNA reported. Vahidi further emphasized that individuals crossing the borders illicitly would face appropriate measures by the authorities.

Raeisi urges closer ties as he receives new envoys' credentials

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi on Sunday called for efforts to bolster relationships with the Philippines, Libya, Bangladesh, and India as he received credentials of new ambassadors of these countries in Tehran.

Raeisi separately held talks with Roberto G. Manalo, Juma Hassan Fazil, Manjural Karim Khan Chowdhury, and Rudra Gaurav Shresth, the new envoys of the Philippines, Libya, Bangladesh, and India respectively, his website president.ir reported.

He said serious efforts needed to be made to galvanize mutual capacities to cement bilateral relations in all areas, especially trade and economy.

The ambassadors also highlighted their resolve in pursuing assigned missions in encouraging greater cooperation.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (L) receives credentials of India's new ambassador, Rudra Gaurav Shresth, in Tehran on July 9, 2023. president.ir

SCO, a new gate has opened for Iran



EXCLUSIVE

Since last Tuesday, there has been considerable discussion and analyses surrounding Iran's official and permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was marked by the hoisting of the Islamic Republic of Iran's flag and the playing of its national anthem in front of the SCO's General Secretariat building.

During the online meeting of SCO heads on Tuesday, Iran was formally admitted as the ninth permanent member of the organization. The SCO, which includes influential countries such as China, Russia, and India among its permanent members, is seen as a significant regional platform for Iran. By joining the SCO,

Iran aims to solidify its regional standing and use the political and economic capabilities of member states to mitigate the pressure it faces from the West and the US sanctions.

Iran's inclusion in this organization effectively exposes the futile attempts to isolate it, demonstrating that such efforts were mere illusions. According to Bloomberg, Iran's membership in the SCO marks another step toward ending its global isolation, as it establishes warmer relations with China and Russia. The Israeli newspaper Jerusalem Post has labeled Iran's entry into the SCO as a threat to the West. While the newspaper attempted to highlight Iran's security

and military cooperation with China, Russia, and India within the SCO, aligning with its consistent "Iranophobia" stance, it acknowledges that Iran's membership in the organization also brings about economic and diplomatic benefits for Tehran. Therefore, the SCO's expansion to include Iran poses concerns and challenges for the West. Mohammad-Reza Forqani, a former diplomat and expert on Central Asian affairs, shared his views on Iran's permanent membership in the SCO in an interview with Iran Daily.

Forqani regarded the concerns expressed by Western countries, Israel, and the media as an indication of the West's futile attempts to politically and economically isolate Iran. "The West and Israel are concerned because Iran's collaboration with SCO member countries offers Tehran avenues to weaken sanctions and mitigate their detrimental impact," he stated. According to the former Iranian ambassador to Turkmenistan, the SCO member states are currently engaged in consultations to devise and establish a

new currency as a common currency within the organization. This new currency would replace the US dollar in commercial transactions. This development holds significance not only for Iran but also for other countries under Western sanctions, as it would contribute to the erosion of the dollar's dominance.

The Jerusalem Post also highlighted this aspect as a concern in its report. Referring to Iran's proposal to introduce a common currency for member states of the SCO, the Israeli newspaper stated that, if realized, this plan would facilitate trade between Iran and other SCO countries, reducing the reliance on the US dollar and undermining the United States' control over the global financial system.

Forqani underlined the economic significance of being part of this regional body. He emphasized that the member countries of the SCO offer Iran access to a vast market, which becomes crucial considering the difficulty Iran faces in obtaining certain goods due to sanctions.

He specifically pointed out

technologically advanced nations like China and Russia, stating that they can fulfill Iran's needs and contribute to the strategy of neutralizing sanctions.

Moreover, the former envoy underscored the potential of the SCO market as a favorable destination for Iranian goods. Central Asian countries, Russia and China are already customers of certain Iranian products, and exporting goods to these countries serves as a valuable source of currency for Tehran. By engaging in economic and commercial cooperation with SCO member states, Iran can reduce its reliance on trade with the West, thus diversifying its trade partnerships. Forqani, who previously served as Iran's chargé d'affaires in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, stressed that the presence of powerful countries such as China, Russia, and India within the SCO enhances the importance and role of both the organization itself and Iran's membership. This significance extends to various aspects, including security, politics, and economics, ultimately proving beneficial for Tehran.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran denounces US ...

Russia vehemently condemned the US decision to provide Ukraine with advanced cluster bombs and insisted that "the current level of American provocations is really off scale, bringing humanity closer to a new world war." Several allies of the US have expressed unease at Washington's decision.

The UK, Canada, New Zealand and Spain all said they were opposed to the use of the weapons. Cluster bombs have been banned by more than 100 countries because of the danger they pose to civil-



GETTY IMAGES

ians. They typically release smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately over a wide area.

The munitions have also caused controversy over their failure - or dud - rate. Unexploded bomblets can linger on the ground for

years and then indiscriminately detonate.

The decision was quickly criticized by human rights groups, with Amnesty International saying cluster munitions pose "a grave threat to civilian lives, even long after the conflict has ended".

UN chief: Sudan on brink of 'full-scale civil war'

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sudan was on the brink of a "full-scale civil war" as fierce clashes between rival generals continued unabated Sunday in the capital, Khartoum.

He warned on Saturday evening that the war between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary force is likely to destabilize the entire region, according to Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the secretary-general. Sudan descended into chaos after months of tension between military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and his rival Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in mid-April.

Health Minister Haitham Mohammed Ibrahim said in televised comments last month that the clashes have killed over 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others. The death tally, however, is highly likely to be much higher.

More than 2.9 million people have fled their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossed into neighboring countries, according to UN figures.

The fighting came 18 months after the two generals led a military coup in October 2021 that toppled a Western-backed civilian transitional government. The conflict dashed Sudanese hopes of a peaceful transition to democracy after a popular uprising forced the military removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

The war has turned the capital Khartoum and other urban areas across the country into battlefields. Residents in Khartoum said fierce fighting was underway early Sunday south of the capital. The warring factions were using heavy weapons in the battles in the Kalaka neighborhood and the military's aircraft were seen hovering over the area, said resident Abdalla al-Fatih. In his statement, Guterres



also condemned an airstrike Saturday that health authorities said killed at least 22 people in Omdurman, a city just across the Nile from the capital, Khartoum. The assault was one of the deadliest in the conflict. The RSF blamed the mili-

tary for the attack in Omdurman. The military, in turn, denied the accusation saying in a statement Sunday that its air force didn't carry out any airstrikes in the city that day. The secretary-general also decried the large-scale violence and casualties in the

western region of Darfur, which has experienced some of the worst fighting in the ongoing conflict, Haq said in a statement. "There is an utter disregard for humanitarian and human rights law that is dangerous and disturbing," Guterres said.



A man walks through rubble by a bullet-riddled fence with barbed-wire, in the aftermath of clashes and bombardment in the Omdurman suburb on the western outskirts of Khartoum, the twin-city of Sudan's capital, on July 4, 2023.

● AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

IAEA chief criticized over Fukushima water release



AP - South Korean opposition lawmakers sharply criticized the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog on Sunday for its approval of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.

They met with Rafael Grossi, the International Atomic Energy Agency's director general, in a tense meeting in Seoul that took place while protesters screamed outside the door. The IAEA last week approved the Japanese discharge plans, saying the process would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental and health impacts. South Korea's government has also endorsed the safety of the Japanese plans.

Uzbek voters cast ballots in presidential election



Two voters cast their votes in a ballot box at a polling station in Rishton city in Fergana Region of Uzbekistan on July 9, 2023.

● IRANDAILY



By Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writer

Uzbek voters cast their ballots on Sunday at 10,784 polling stations across the central Asian country, where citizens of the state were able to vote in early presidential election during June 28-July 5.

According to the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a sum of 19.66 million voters registered in presidential elections in the country. At the 55th polling station, established at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Iran, fellow citizens staying in the country used their constitutional right to take part in the early voting process.

The decision on early voting was announced by the current President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on May 8 following the results of a referendum on a new version of the Constitution (in accordance with Articles 110 and 128 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as Article 66 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan). This was the first election after the amendments to the Constitution come into force as the president is elected for seven years on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

In total, four candidates were nominated for the post of head of state: from the People's Democratic Party - Ulugbek Ilyasovich Inoyatov; from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Business People - the Liberal Dem-

ocratic Party (UZLiDeP) - Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev;

from the Social Democratic Party "Adolat" - Robahon Anvarovna Makhmudova; and from the Ecological Party - Abdushukur Khudoikulovich Khamzaev.

In turn, the Milliy Tiklanish party decided not to nominate its own candidate for participation in the presidential elections, supporting the candidacy of Mirziyoyev.

The program of the candidate for president of Uzbekistan from the People's Democratic Party Ulugbek Inoyatov said that his main goal was to form a democratic social state in the country that meets the criteria of social justice, social equality and democracy. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a presidential candidate from UzLiDeP, presented the

New Uzbekistan Strategy, which provides for reducing poverty by at least two times by 2027, developing the digital economy, deepening reforms in the judicial and legal sphere, increasing life expectancy, and improving public administration.

The candidate for the presidency of Uzbekistan from the social democratic party "Adolat" Robahon Makhmudova in her program offered a social democratic model for building a "fair civil society", providing for a democratic legal, social state and prosperity for all.

The presidential candidate from the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan Abdushukur Khamzaev in his election program focused on overcoming the risks caused by climate change and the tragedy of the Aral Sea.

At least 15 dead in India monsoon floods

AFP - At least 15 people were killed in floods and landslides triggered by monsoon rains that battered northern India, with New Delhi receiving the most rainfall in decades, reports and officials said Sunday.

Roads in several parts of the capital were submerged in knee-deep water as it was inundated with 153 millimetres of rain, the highest precipitation in a single day in July in 40 years.

BBC suspends presenter over sexual misconduct allegations

REUTERS - Britain's BBC suspended a male member of staff on Sunday following an allegation that one of its star presenters paid a teenager thousands of pounds to pose for sexually explicit photos, beginning when they were 17 years old.

The broadcaster said it first became aware of a complaint in May, but new allegations of a different nature were made to it on Thursday, and it had informed "external authorities". BBC News said it understood that referred to the police.

Remains of hundreds of babies to be exhumed from mass grave in Ireland

Ten years after a dark discovery was made in the west of Ireland, Euronews takes a look at the grim legacy of the maternity homes that were still in operation until the end of the 20th century.

Many parents might tell you that having a child is one of life's most fulfilling experiences. But for the thousands of single women who found themselves pregnant in 20th-century Ireland, the experience was deeply stigmatized and often shortlived. Between 1922 and 1998,

an estimated 90,000 unmarried, pregnant women were incarcerated in institutions called Mother and Baby Homes. Upon birth, the babies were handed over to the care of governing religious orders.

In 2012, Catherine Corless, a local historian from Tuam, County Galway, reported that she found death certificates for 796 babies and toddlers born in St Mary's Mother and Baby Home between 1926-1961. However, the burial records were missing.

Her research gained international media attention and sparked fears that these children were buried in a defunct sewerage system on the grounds of the Bon Secours Home. Soon after, the Irish government launched an inquiry and an independent Commission (MBHC) into the Mother and Baby Homes.

Almost a decade later, Ireland's Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman, has finally appointed a former Red Cross envoy

to oversee the exhumation of remains buried on the site.

Ireland gained its independence from Britain in 1922 and the Catholic Church gained partial or in most cases, complete control of these institutions.

According to James Smith, a Professor of English and Irish studies at Boston College, in Massachusetts, the Catholic Church and the Irish Free State were the self-appointed guardians of the nation's moral climate.



This June 4, 2014 file photo shows the site of a mass grave for children who died in Mother and Baby home, in Tuam, Ireland.

● NIALL CARSON/AP

Time Museum, a heaven for history and architecture lovers



By Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer
EXCLUSIVE

Time Museum, the first of its kind in Iran, is one of the outstanding attractions of the capital city of Tehran, located in an old monument with amazing architecture and unique interior design.

The beautiful and relaxing atmosphere of the museum, located in a middle of a garden, causes visitors to enjoy the time they spend there. You are recommended to visit the museum, especially if you are interested in history and architecture.

Time Museum features a collection of clocks and watches from Iran and several foreign countries including France, Switzerland, UK and Germany.

The old pocket and wrist watches of famous Iranian and foreign figures, along with a number of old, luxury, decorative, mechanical wall and desktop clocks are being showcased in the museum.

This museum's garden courtyard hosts a sundial, an hourglass, a water clock, and a combustible clock, each of which belongs to a specific historical period.

A dragon boat, an ancient combustible clock, made in China, is among

the items showcased in the courtyard.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Hamid Azad, a senior expert working in the museum, said, "The edifice of Time Museum, extending in an area of 5,700 sq. m, dates back to 80 years ago. However, its garden, built during the Qajar era, belonged to Moayer-ol-Mamalek, Nasereedin Shah's son-in-law.

He noted that thanks to the efforts made by the Mostazafan Foundation's Cultural Institution of Museums, the Time Museum was inaugurated in 1999.

The expert continued that numerous old European clocks and watches, dating back from the 17th to the 20th centuries CE, are exhibited on the ground floor of the museum. There is an artistically decorated collection of mechanical, pendulum, spring-driven, tabletop, wall, freestanding and cuckoo clocks. In fact, in this section you can witness an amazing combination of sculptures, *mina-kari* (enameling), *moaraq-kari* (wood-engraving) along with the watchmaking industry.

Azad continued that a gold-plated French tabletop clock, made of bronze, dating back to the 19th century, is among the most outstanding artifacts of this section. The statue of Aristotle, the great ancient Greek philosopher, is seen on this spring-driven clock.

There is a room on the ground floor of the museum, whose design is known as *shahneshin* (a large room decorated with colorful glasses, delicate mirror works, and beautiful tiling), inspired by the Aali Qapu Castle of Isfahan. That is why it is called the Isfahani Room. About 99 percent of the yellow color of its walls are made of copper, and one percent of gold. Plasterwork by Issakhan Bahadori, a student of the well-known Iranian painter Kamal-ol-Molk (1847-1940 CE), is seen on the wall.

Azad continued that, on the second floor, there is a clock made by Hushang Forutan, from the unused spare parts of old clocks. Forutan made a number of such unique artworks, some of which were displayed in the US in 2013 and 2014. In a circular showcase, placed in

this section, you can see a number of tools used for repairing old watches and clocks. Wrist, pocket and custom-made watches as well as a clock-in machine, made by the Simplex Company of the US, are among other objects exhibited on the second floor.

A number of the clocks displayed in this part of the museum belonged to Qajar kings, including Nasereeddin Shah, Mozafareddin Shah and Ahmad Shah.

Some old astronomical tools such as astrolabe, a replica of Bisotoun inscription, and a number of tribal and religious calendars are on display there.

You can also see wristwatches donated to the museum by a number of well-known figures and celebrities, including Martyr Morteza Avini, late actors Jamshid Mashayekhi, Mohammad Ali Keshavarz and Davoud Rashidi, as well as the famous Iranian physicist, Mahmoud Hessabi.

Address of the Time Museum:
Tehran, Zaferanieh, at the Crossroads of Parzin Baghdadi St., No. 12.

Xerxes' shipping canal in Akte peninsula

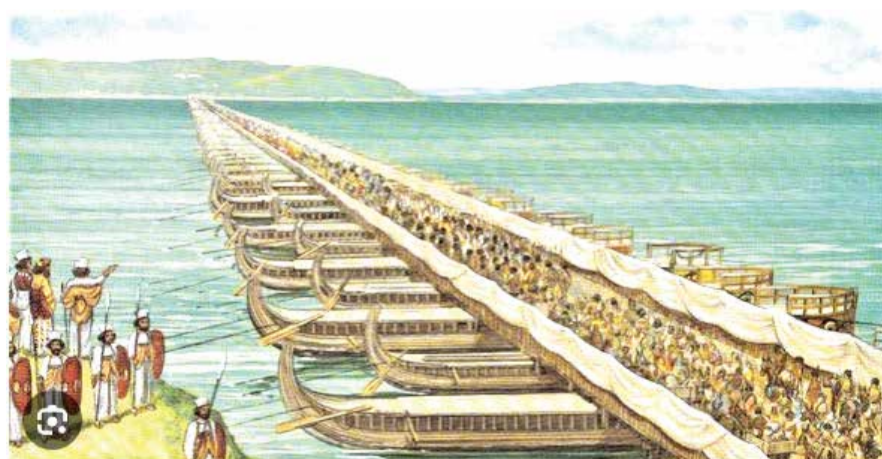
After Darius the Great, his son Xerxes became the king. In the early years of his ruling, he had to suppress those rebels who stood against his father just before his death.

Then he made himself ready to fight against Greeks. Xerxes arranged a huge army and crossed Hellespont Strait. Many warships escorted the King. Xerxes military attack to Greece was quite technical and well prepared. There were two important technical points which should be mentioned. One of them was the excavation of Xerxes' canal in order to pass the warships which was done as follow. First of all, it is necessary to give a brief explanation about Chaldikiki Peninsulas.

Chaldikiki Peninsulas formed from three large

peninsulas which were projected out into Aegean Sea and connected with the mainland of Greece. The most eastern ones were Akte Peninsula and Athos Peninsula were located at the lowest part of it.

After crossing the Hellespont Strait, Xerxes had to pass from marginal part of Athos Peninsula. As the Aegean's storms were very strong, Xerxes' warships became entangled in passing through. So the technical consultants suggested to excavate a canal at the lowest part of Athos Peninsula, so that the ships could pass through, instead of going through dangerous Aegean Sea. Herodotus, Greek author of the first great narrative history produced in the ancient world, declared "... Iranian drew a straight line on the ground near



Sane and each end was given to a tribe to excavate.

Some bodies were standing at the bottom and digging the ground. Some other people, handed the dug soil to some other groups.

Those people who were standing at the top of the ladders picked the soil and

transferred it to the workers who were standing on the ground and spreading around the canal.

Except Phoenician tribes, other groups had to work twice in excavating because the edge of the canal they were digging would collapse all the time.

The reason was, that they chose the width at the top

as wide as the bottom. Phoenician showed their skill here as well. They chose the width of canal twice at the top in respect to the bottom, as they dug down reducing the width, they reached the bed of the canal, it had the same width as the other parts of canal had." Jakob Philipp Fallmer-

ayer, a German Tyrolean traveller, journalist, mentioned in his incomplete works about East, referring to some other historians' mote and put some doubts about Herodotus' statements about Xerxes' canal, because there was not any sign of the canal at that time.

They thought it was not possible to execute such a huge work with those primitive tools at that time. However, it is not right to neglect the Xerxes' canal and eliminate it from pages of history.

Besides the Herodotus' report, there was another historian named Thukydides who described the Ploponz Battles. He brought out the following report in his history book, volume 4, "... during that winter, Magerer conquered their own ling walls which were defeat-

ed by Athenian before. After occupying Amphibolis by Brasidas, he moved toward Akte in company with his allies. Akte was the land beyond the Iranian's canal located near tall mount Athos, which was projected out into the sea. Sane was one of the cities belonged to Andries, near the canal.

It should be notified that Thukydides born in 460 BCE, 20 years after Xerxes military expedition. He died in 400 BCE. So during his life the memory of Iran and Greece battles were still alive and people remembered them.

Thus, those ideas mentioned about lack of technical ability can't be right, because there are many documents about the Iranian ability in irrigation and water structures services in the past.

Iranian girls seal place in world junior handball meet



Sports Desk

Iran secured a place in next year's IHF Women's Junior Handball World Championship thanks to a fifth-spot finish in the

Asian U20 Championship in Hong Kong. Iranian girls defeated Kazakhstan 27-24 on Saturday to celebrate a second successive qualification for the world event - host-

ed by North Macedonia next summer. Fatemeh Merikhi bagged a game-high eight goals for Iran, followed by Ma'edeh Oshaqi and Nastaran Koudzari-Farahani, who

scored seven and five respectively. Kuandykova Zhanerke and Berenda Yelena topped the scoring for Kazakhstan with six goals apiece. However, the star of the

show was definitely Iranian goalkeeper Elnaz Yarmohammadi, whose heroics inspired her team to a 15-12 lead in the first half. "We played against a formidable Kazakhstan team



Iranian goalkeeper Elnaz Yarmohammadi (12) celebrates with her teammates after winning the Match MVP award in a victory over Kazakhstan in the Asian Women's Junior (U20) Handball Championship in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong, on July 8, 2023.

● IRIHF

with some experienced players. Thank God we came out victorious and I'm so pleased with my performance today. The qualification for the World Championship was truly a result of teamwork and solidarity among all members of the squad," Yarmohammadi said after picking up her third Match MVP award in the competition.

Iran kicked off its campaign in Hong Kong with a 29-23 defeat against China but bounced back to edge Uzbekistan 37-36.

Iran was then beaten 28-18 by the Chinese Taipei before a 39-31 victory over India saw Fatemeh Mohammadkhani's side finish third in Group B.

Iranian girls outclassed the host 45-16 for a place in the fifth-place match. South Korea, China, the Chinese Taipei, and Japan had already booked a berth for the World Championship by reaching the semifinals in Hong Kong.

Reds reunion: Persepolis signs Iranian Kan'anizadegan



Sports Desk

Iranian international center-back Mohamad-Hossein Kan'anizadegan rejoined Iranian league and cup champion Persepolis as a free agent. This will be a third spell in the Tehran Reds' shirt for the 29-year-old defender, who lifted two top-flight trophies with the club before signing for Qatar Stars League side Al Ahli in 2021.

The Iranian scored seven goals in 41 outings for Al Ahli, which finished eighth in the Qatari league's 12-team table last season. "I'm so thrilled to be back home. I had offers from the Saudi league and the UAE but Persepolis was always my top priority," said the Iranian after signing a two-year contract.

Kan'ani is the third summer signing for head coach Yahya Golmohammadi after striker Shahab Zahedi and ex-Sepahan midfielder Masoud Rigi.

Kan'ani, who has 37 international caps under his belt and was part of the team in the last two World Cups as well as the 2019 Asian Cup, will compete with Iran teammate Morteza Pouraliganji and Georgian Giorgi Gvelesiani - two integral parts to the Reds' domestic double winning campaign - for a place in the starting XI.

"It does not really matter who will be the first-choice center-back. Be it one minute on the pitch or a full 90 minutes, Persepolis success is all that matters. We have an unfinished job at the AFC Champions League and that's why I came back here," added Kan'ani, a finalist with the Reds in the Asian elite clubs competition in 2020, suffering a 2-1 defeat against South Korean side Ulsan Hyundai.

ing Jarry led 3-0 and 4-2, although Alcaraz fought back to seal a memorable win against the 27-year-old. Third seed Medvedev is most comfortable on hard courts but said after the second round that, while not totally at home on the grass, he is "knocking on the door".

Medvedev will face Jiri Lehecka in the last 16 after the Czech Republic player eliminated American 16th seed Tommy Paul, winning a five-set encounter that lasted four hours, four minutes.

Wimbledon: Alcaraz wins thriller to battle through to last 16

BBC - World number one Carlos Alcaraz held off a spirited challenge from 25th seed Nicolas Jarry to move into the last 16 - and match his best Wimbledon run.

The 20-year-old Spaniard won a four-set thriller 6-3 6-7 (6-8) 6-3 7-5 on Centre Court in an absorbing third-round tie that took almost four hours.

Alcaraz will play 2021 runner-up Matteo Berrettini of Italy after he beat German 19th seed Alexander Zverev. Elsewhere, third seed Daniil Medvedev defeated Hungary's Marton Fucsovics 4-6 6-3 6-4-4.

Fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, playing for the fifth successive day after beating Andy Murray on Friday in a match that began on Thursday, beat Serbia's Laslo Djere.

Tsitsipas won 6-4 7-6 (7-5) 6-4 and will meet unseeded American Chris Eubanks, who won three tie-breaks to overcome Australia's Chris O'Connell.

Berrettini beat Zverev 6-3 7-6 (7-2) 7-6 (7-5), despite a rain delay on Court One as they had to wait for the roof to be closed during the second set after it had been opened before the match started.

Humid indoor conditions

Alcaraz broke Jarry's serve in the seventh game to take the opening set, but lost the second on a tie-break.

The match began under the roof and tournament rules meant it had to stay closed despite the hot and sweaty conditions, with a number of



spectators repeatedly using handheld fans in an attempt to keep cool. Alcaraz instantly got back

on track in the third set, producing some excellent passing shots and delicate drop shots as he broke in the

fourth game to go two sets to one ahead. But the fourth did not go entirely to plan as the big-serv-



Carlos Alcaraz plays a shot through his legs during his Wimbledon third-round victory over Nicolas Jarry in London, Britain, on July 8, 2023.

● TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS

NBA's winningest coach Popovich signs five-year extension with Spurs

AP - Gregg Popovich evidently doesn't plan to leave the San Antonio Spurs anytime soon.

The NBA's winningest coach has signed a five-year contract to remain coach and president of the team, the Spurs announced Saturday. There has often been speculation about the 74-year-old Popovich's future, though after the team

landed the chance to draft Victor Wembanyama last month it was presumed that the five-time champion would continue coaching.

And now, it's official. The Spurs announced the move in a two-sentence release, not detailing any of the terms, without any quotes from Popovich or team personnel. Popovich took over as

coach of the Spurs in December 1996. He's won 1,366 games - 31 more than Don Nelson, who was the career wins leader before Popovich caught him. He's also third in playoff wins with 170, behind only Phil Jackson (229) and Pat Riley (171). And Popovich is one of only five coaches with at least five championships; Jackson won 11, Red Auerbach won nine

and Popovich is in a group with Riley and John Kundla as winners of five. He'll enter the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame next month. "His ability to connect and spend time and bounce between the really detailed development of basketball players and the bigger picture of developing people is just so impressive," Spurs man-

aging partner Peter J. Holt said in May.

"I think no matter what Pop does, he's going to find a way to do that because that's in his heart. And I'm excited to see whatever the next phase is in that journey."

Popovich, along with all the wins and the five titles, also won an Olympic gold medal at the Tokyo Games that were played in 2021.



● THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's Q1
exports to
Algeria
up 109%

● GETTY IMAGES

TASNIM – Iran exported more than \$1.134 million worth of non-oil products to Algeria in the first three months of the current Iranian year (March 21–June 22), showing a 109 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

Vice President of the Iran and Africa Business Club Rouhollah Latifi made the remarks on Saturday, adding that 327,000 tons of non-oil products, valued at \$122.751 million, were exported from Iran to 36 African countries during the period.

Iran-US trade
grows 5%
in five months

MEHR – The value of trade exchanges between the US and Iran in the first five months of 2023 has reached \$22.4 million, indicating a 5% YOY growth. According to the latest report released on Sunday by the United States Department of Commerce, US exports to Iran during the period reached \$21.9 million, which shows a 34% YOY increase.

Iran ranked 175th among US target export markets in the said period, the report noted.

Afghan firms
to construct
three piers at
Anzali port

● anzaliport.pmo.ir

TASNIM – A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between an Iranian and an Afghan company for \$50 million worth of investment by the Afghan firm at the Caspian port of Anzali, aimed at building three piers. Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki, the secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council, announced that 79 investment projects, valued at \$340 million, in seven of Iran's free zones, are waiting for their licenses to be issued.

BRICS currency will benefit Iran,
weaken US dollar: *Senior diplomat*

A senior Iranian diplomat has hailed a plan by the BRICS member states to introduce a common currency in their international trade, emphasizing that the move will prove beneficial to Iran and challenge the dominance of the US dollar and the euro.

"A tremendous change is taking place in the international economy," said the Head of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's South Asia Office Rasoul Mousavi in a post on his social media account on Sunday, according to Press TV.

"The BRICS's introduction of a gold-backed currency, which is supported by 41 countries with large and influential economies, will weaken the dollar and the euro and will benefit countries such as Iran," Mousavi stated, adding that Iranians in possession of gold will experience a growing worth of their wealth.

The BRICS alliance — with Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as primary members — recently announced plans to float a gold-backed currency to settle international trade payments to challenge the global reserve status of the US dollar.

The bloc of the five nations is projected to decide on



Foreign ministers of BRICS nations pose for a family photo with representatives from Iran, Africa, and the global South during a summit in Cape Town, South Africa, on June 2, 2023.
● REUTERS

introducing the new BRICS currency during its next summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August.

The Russian government confirmed a day earlier that Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa would introduce a new trading currency backed by gold.

The state-run RT also re-

ported that the initiative is giving new momentum to the ongoing de-dollarization trend unfolding in the global economy.

BRICS member states account for more than 40 percent of the global population and around a quarter of the global GDP.

The news comes as the

global trend of substituting the US dollar with local currencies in the trade of goods and transactions has been on the rise, with countries hoping to reduce their dependence on Washington and prevent it from further exploiting its power and weaponizing its global dollar dominance.

Even though many economists say no other currency can dominate over the US any time soon, prominent economists including US economist Nouriel Roubini, who predicted the financial crisis of 2008, do not rule out the eventual demise of the dollar as a reserve currency within a decade.

Iran's oil production rises by 80k bpd in May



● IRNA

The International Energy Agency (IEA) on Sunday announced that Iran's oil production volume in the fifth month of 2023 reached 2.87 million barrels per day (bpd).

In its latest monthly report of the global oil market, the agency put the total oil produced by member states of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting

Countries (OPEC) in May 2023 at 28.5 million bpd, showing a 380,000 barrel slump compared to a month earlier, Tasnim news agency reported.

Over 28.88 million barrels of oil per day were produced by 13 OPEC member states in April 2023, it added.

According to the report, Iran has experienced

the maximum amount of rise in oil production among other OPEC member states in May, while other member states have either had a production slump, or their production has not changed.

Iran's daily crude oil production volume reached 2.87 million barrels of oil per day in May 2023, registering an

80,000-barrel hike compared to a month earlier. Saudi Arabia was introduced as the largest oil-producing country in OPEC, with the production of 9.98 million bpd, followed by Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), respectively. Saudi Arabia's oil production volume decreased by 500,000 barrels of oil per day in May 2023.

Iran world's top ...

Egypt claims the largest share in global date production (not exports), accounting for approximately 20%, followed by Iran and Saudi Arabia in the second and third positions, respectively.

The primary consumers of dates worldwide are predominantly Muslims. While Islamic nations are recognized as the major producers of dates globally, they also consume significant quantities of this sweet fruit. There has been an increasing trend in date production within Iran in recent years.

"The country's date production in orchards has risen from 750K tons to 1,500K tons over the past decade. Typically more than 75% of date production is consumed domestically, while the remaining portion is exported to other countries," Takallouzadeh explained.

The six southern provinces of Iran, namely Khuzestan, Bushehr, Hormuzgan, Kerman, Sistan and Baluchestan, and Fars, boast the highest

levels of date production.

Capacity to increase exports

The global area dedicated to date cultivation has seen limited development due to constraints such as water resources and suitable land availability. Date farmers have been striving to enhance productivity and yields from these areas for several years.

According to Takallouzadeh, the average date harvest per hectare of groves worldwide stands at around 5.5 tons, which aligns with the yield obtained from Iranian groves. However, the quantity of dates harvested varies depending on the date variety, ranging from 3 to 15 tons.

He emphasized that by implementing methods to improve productivity and increase yield per unit area in Iranian groves, the country's date production could double without expanding the cultivated area. This, in turn, could facilitate a significant boost in export value to around \$900 million.

To achieve this, transitioning from

traditional cultivation to modern and mechanized methods is crucial. By adopting advanced techniques, both higher-quality and greater quantities of crops can be harvested, enabling cost reduction and creating more export opportunities.

Considering the scarcity of water resources in Iran, particularly in the southern regions where most groves are located, the expansion of groves may seem impractical. This is exacerbated by the fact that over half of the groves rely on traditional flood irrigation methods, with Iranian farmers utilizing less modern irrigation techniques in horticulture. The implementation of modern irrigation methods necessitates the establishment of infrastructure, requiring the government to lay the necessary foundations and import modern equipment.

In order to boost exports, improving performance in product grading, storage, and packaging is essential. Production and export units should meet valid conditions and obtain certifications such as ISO, standard quality certifications, and other health codes.

Announcement
Gohar Zamin Iron Ore
Company (Public Joint Stock)



Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company intends to identify all commercial companies that are able to purchase iron ore pellets with the average FE 65% as FAS (INCOTERMS 2020) as deliver it to the customer's warehouse in Bandar Abbas to sell this product in foreign markets such as China, Turkey, India, Oman, etc. Therefore, all the capable companies which have exported more than 500 thousand metric tons of mineral products in the last two years are invited to submit the original letter of representative from the foreign producer company (End user), in addition to all necessary financial and commercial documents of their Iranian and foreign companies, through the official email of the mother company to the electronic address to read as commercial-dcp@goharzamin.com until 22 July 2023. Also, that company should make the necessary arrangements to hold a meeting with the presence of the senior managers of the mother company (end user) and visiting the relevant plants.

It is obvious that the presentation of these documents does not create any rights for the participants in this announcement, and Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company is completely authorized in her investigation and responding to the participants.

**For more information, you are asked to call 021-57623
Ext. 1673 and Cellphone number 09124604691.**

A brief history and typology of cheating in Konkour

Social Desk

Cheating on exams is a phenomenon arguably as old as the concept of testing itself. As a practice, it has evolved over time, adapting to the changing educational landscape and technological advancements.

The history of cheating on exams can be traced back to ancient China during the imperial examinations, designed to select the best administrative officials for the state's bureaucracy. Cheating was rampant, with candidates using ingenious methods such as writing notes on their clothing or using special inks.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, as formal education became more widespread, so did the instances of cheating. The advent of standardized testing in the United States in the early 20th century saw a rise in cheating cases, prompting the creation of more stringent invigilation procedures.

The advent of technology in the late 20th and early 21st centuries has given rise to new forms of cheating. The internet, smartphones, and smartwatches have provided students with new, sophisticated ways to cheat, forcing educators and institutions to constantly update their anti-cheating measures.

When it comes to Iran's national university entrance exam (locally known as Konkour), many people only think of buying and selling questions or bringing communication devices to the exam session. However, very few people have considered the idea that makeup could play a part, used to impersonate someone in order to take the exam on their behalf. There was a time when the universities of Iran existed without any entrance exams. From the establishment of the first university in the country until the late 1960s, admission to universities was not based on entrance exams. Each university had its own set of rules and criteria, conducting tests and academic interviews to select and accept students. However, in the following years, the desire to become a doctor and attend

medical school became widespread, which led to the birth of the country's biggest scientific competition, namely the national entrance exam.

Nowadays, these entrance exams have become a significant part in the lives of most families, and the competition surrounding them is intense. With that in mind, the ever-present act of cheating during such exams has burdened the majority of honest students and their families.

History of Iran's Konkour

Due to the rising number of applicants in the medical field, a national entrance exam was conducted for the first time at the medical school of Tehran University. The law and engineering schools also followed suit and adopted the examination system. Individuals who were unable to secure admission to medical school sought opportunities in other fields.

During that period, the individual entrance exams at different universities posed significant challenges for applicants. They had to undertake long journeys to reach major cities like Tehran, Shiraz, or Mashhad in order to participate in those exams.

In an effort to address this issue and implement a higher quality examination system that could accurately evaluate the academic abilities of candidates, the first nationwide university exam was held in 1963. A board of members comprised of professors and university officials conducted the entrance exam.

The establishment of new universities in the 1960s, coupled with the formation of the Ministry of Science and the creation of an entity called the Examination Center in 1968, renewed discussions surrounding the national entrance exam. Consequently, on the morning of Wednesday, August 6, 1969, the first Konkour was held with the participation of 47,703 individuals competing for admission to 12 universities offering 30 majors. Iran's nationwide university entrance exam has been conducted on a regular basis ever since.

How did the early cheaters cheat?

In those times, some individuals attempted to assist one another during exams through gestures, pointing, writing on paper, or employing tools such as erasers whenever they had the slightest opportunity.

Over the years, the methods of cheating in Konkour have undergone significant changes. Some individuals would go to great lengths to access exam questions, spending substantial amounts of money to purchase them before the session. Others would manipulate their registration timings to ensure they could be grouped together and aid each other, or they would selectively focus on specific areas of the exam.

Controversial Konkour

As is so far understood, entrance exams and cheating have forever walked hand in hand. As long as these exams continue to be conducted in this manner, cheating persists. What matters is that a certain percentage of people resort to all possible and impossible means in order to cheat and gain advancement on their competitors.

Throughout the years, various entrance exams have presented unique challenges. For instance, in 2019, it was decided to allocate a quota in entrance exams for Salas-e Babajani in Kermanshah Province, which had been devastated by an earthquake. This decision prompted some individuals to strategize and attempt to somehow place themselves there in order to benefit from the quota. As a result of the infamous entrance exam, Salas-e Babajani became synonymous with trouble. Twenty-one students were caught red-handed carrying prohibited devices such as ear-phones, wristbands, smartwatches, and cameras. These individuals were subsequently identified and handed over to the responsible authorities.

However, it should be noted that the education director of Salas-e Babajani mentioned that these offenders were not native to the city but rather from neighboring cities who had chosen Salas-e Babajani as their region. These

individuals shifted their regions to Salas-e Babajani with the hope of benefiting from the relatively less stringent measures applied to the entrance examination areas in this earthquake-affected region.

The following year, in 2020, while the exam was being held, questions suddenly began circulating in cyberspace, causing alarm among families whose children were taking it.

Fatemeh Zarin-Amizi, the then spokesperson for the country's National Organization for Educational Testing, confirmed the issue and stated to ISNA that one of the volunteers from the arts group managed to bring a mobile phone into the exam session and shared some of the exam questions on social networks.

This offending candidate was taking the exam at Taleqani Hospital under specific conditions of being affected with coronavirus, taking advantage of the situation.

Of course, the saga did not end there. The very next day, within an hour of the commencement of the entrance examination for the candidates of humanities and mathematical sciences, images of the pages of the exam booklets were circulating in cyberspace, causing upheaval.

Before the 2021 entrance exam, several Telegram channels claimed to be selling exam questions. Some individuals trusted these channels and spent significant amounts of money in hopes of gaining an unfair advantage. While authorities denied any fraudulent activity during the event, there were allegations that suspicious incidents were not properly investigated. In the 2022 entrance exam, fraud once again raised suspicions. During the exam for experimental sciences, it was claimed that all the general and specific questions were posted on a Telegram channel at 9:49 a.m., just minutes after the distribution of the specific booklet number two. Additionally, this file included special booklet number three, which had not yet been distributed at that time.

How far cheaters go?

In recent weeks, Telegram channels with names re-



lated to keywords such as "Konkour 2023" and "Konkour cheating" have been operational. It's not known to what extent the contents of these channels have spread on other virtual platforms, allowing some individuals to attempt achieving success in the national exam without any effort, while a few even make a living from it. The incidents of fraud have been increasing over the past years, to the point where a media expert quoted by Fars

News Agency stated, "Approximately a thousand individuals were found to have cheated in last year's entrance exam, but due to the time-consuming nature of verifying the fraud cases, they are now students." Among the new methods, some are downright astonishing and almost seem like jokes. For example, a screenshot is being shared on virtual platforms featuring an advertisement that's looking for a preferably female medi-

cal student, who is willing to take the exam on their behalf for 500 or 1,000 dollars.

While the majority of Iranian students come from honest, working-class families, some individuals, mainly from upper classes, are willing to do anything to gain admission to the country's top universities. What's even more astonishing is that some people are willing to compromise their integrity for money and help them with that.

Iranian director Talebi awarded in Poland



ISNA – Yaser Talebi, an Iranian filmmaker, received the Silver Dragon award for Best Documentary Film Director at the 63rd Krakow Film Festival in Poland.

Talebi's most recent documentary, titled 'Destiny,' delves into the themes of love, the future, and eternity, depicting the lives of a girl named Sahar and her father. The documentary had previously garnered recognition by winning the Best Director Award at the 9th Doker International Documentary Film Festival in Russia.

'Destiny' has been broadcasted on NHK in Japan, LCP in France, and Al Jazeera in Qatar. Elaheh Nobakht served as the producer of the project, collaborating with Talebi, while Hengameh Bolouri worked as the co-producer.

The Krakow Film Festival is complemented by exhibitions, concerts, open-air screenings, and opportunities to meet with artists. Each year, the festival attracts around 900 Polish and international guests, including directors, producers, festival programmers, and a diverse Krakow audience.

'Empty Nets' shines at Karlovy Vary Int'l Film Festival



ISNA – 'Empty Nets,' a co-production between Germany and Iran directed by Behrooz Karamizadeh, emerged victorious at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, earning the Special Jury Prize. The film takes place along Iran's picturesque northern Caspian Sea coast, where we follow the journey of Amir, portrayed by Hamid Reza Abbasi. Determined to marry his beloved Narges, played by Sadaf Asgari, Amir seeks employment at a local fishery, hoping to amass enough funds for a suitable dowry to win the approval of Narges' affluent parents. However, the story takes an intriguing turn as Amir is tempted by illicit opportunities, leading him into the perilous yet profitable world of sturgeon poaching and the black market caviar trade.

The 57th edition of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival took place in the Czech Republic from June 30 to July 8, attracting international talent and captivating audiences with its diverse cinematic offerings.

● 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 Motehari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran



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

Alefta, showcasing Iran's progress in education: Minister



● BAHMAN SADEGHI/pana.ir

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Minister of Education Reza Morad-Sahraei stated that 'Alefta' (Alphabet of Education Transformation) event marks the powerful showcase of Iran's progress in the field of edu-

cation and the transformation of the country's educational system. During the opening ceremony of the inaugural exhibition of 'Alefta', Morad-Sahraei emphasized that Iran stands proudly atop the peak of dignity today.

He described the event as a significant demonstration of Iran's strength in education and the transformative changes within the country's educational system. Morad-Sahraei highlighted the shift from a controlling education system to a facil-

itating one, stating that the world has moved away from education systems based on punishment and reward and now focuses on participatory systems.

The minister underscored that an exhibition of this magnitude is a testament to the power of a strong educational system.

He expressed that teachers are the soul of this transformation, as they contribute to the construction of a new Islamic civilization, which is steadily progressing towards its goals.

'Alefta', an international event showcasing educational innovations by teachers, has commenced on July 9 at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla and will continue until July 12.

According to ISNA, the international event aims to model and celebrate the heroic figures of educational identity in the country; share transformative school experiences; and inspire hope in the educational system.

One section of the event focuses on regular public schools and the submis-

sions from these schools in the primary and secondary levels in the field of "innovative school ideas and experiences" related to education. Ultimately, three deserving schools will be selected in this section.

Another section is dedicated to educational experiences, where ideas from teachers or school administrators are submitted to the event, and awards will be presented to 11 winners.

The event also includes a special international section, which has accepted works from nine countries out of approximately 100 entries from 17 countries. An international award will be presented during the closing ceremony.

Over 38,000 submissions have been received for the event, and starting from the month of Mehr (September/October), teachers will have access to the submitted ideas in order to enhance their teaching methods and incorporate the best ideas.

The event will run through July 12.

Ancient glassworks found in Japan, South Korea originate from Iran: Museum official



According to a museum official in Iran, archaeological research indicates that the glasses discovered in Japan, South Korea, and the ancient Han Empire can be traced back to Iran and specifically its northern province of Gilan. Meysam Navaeian, the director of museums in Gilan, highlighted the significance of glass as a cultural

and archaeological asset of the Iranian province, Iran Front Page wrote.

He referenced a book called 'Persian Glass' written by Japanese archaeologist Shinji Fukai, who conducted archaeological excavations in Iran and Iraq more than seven decades ago. Fukai encountered historical examples of glass artworks that re-

sembled those found in Japan and South Korea, leading him to conclude that the origin of these glass works lies in northern Iran.

Navaeian further noted that he believed glass production in Gilan dates back 2,300 years to the era of the Parthian Empire.

The Deylaman region in northern Iran was known

for its large glass workshops, which exported their products to East Asia via the Khorshid Road. Additionally, similar glassworks have been discovered in Germany. These findings shed light on the historical connections and trade routes involving glass craftsmanship between Iran, East Asia, and other regions.

Yazd celebrates sixth anniversary of its UNESCO registration

Yazd commemorated the sixth anniversary of its UNESCO World Heritage listing with a vibrant ceremony attended by hundreds of individuals, including local officials, cultural heritage experts, artists, travel enthusiasts, and artisans. The historical heart of Yazd encompasses a captivating array of mud houses, bustling bazaars, traditional bathhouses, ancient water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. Notably, the city exemplifies peaceful coexistence among three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism. Experts in heritage preservation regard Yazd as a living testament to the ingenious utilization of limited desert

resources for survival. The city's water supply relies on an ancient underground irrigation system known as qanats, which bring water from snow-fed streams flowing down the neighboring mountains. Each district of Yazd is constructed around a qanat and features communal centers. Earth-based architecture, with its vaults, domes, and thick walls, creates a pleasant microclimate, enhanced by underground courtyards, wind catchers, and traditional ab-anbars (mud-brick cisterns). Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. In addition, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Homes

are built with underground courtyards that serve underground areas. Wind catchers, inner courtyards, and thick earth walls ensure a pleasant microclimate.

While Yazd's earliest water supply traces back to the Sassanid era (224-651 AD), the city's qanats have been continuously repaired and utilized throughout history. Many surviving ab-anbars today can be attributed to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

A top destination, the Yazd Water Museum is a must-see for anyone wanting to learn more about the brave men who built such underground aqueducts in the past. Housed in a restored manor house with a visible qanat running underneath, the museum



offers visitors a fascinating insight into the hidden world of the qanats through a series of photographs, exhibitions, and architectural drawings. It represents almost 2000 years of unique irrigation structure that was in operation but also describes the drilling of mother wells and associated underground water networks that extended to the ancient city. In July 2017, Yazd's historic

core was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, drawing visitors' attention to its enchanting adobe houses adorned with innovative windcatchers, atmospheric narrow streets, and a rich collection of Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its remarkable cityscape. Yazd consistently captivates visitors as a remarkable place to explore and an unmissable destination.