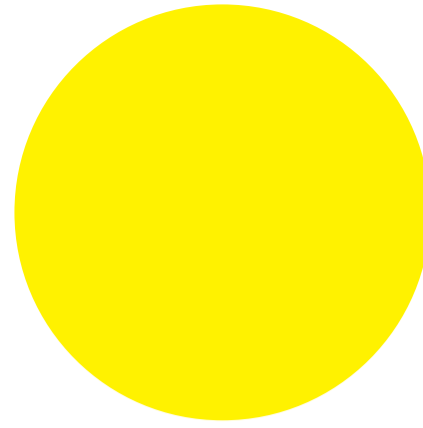




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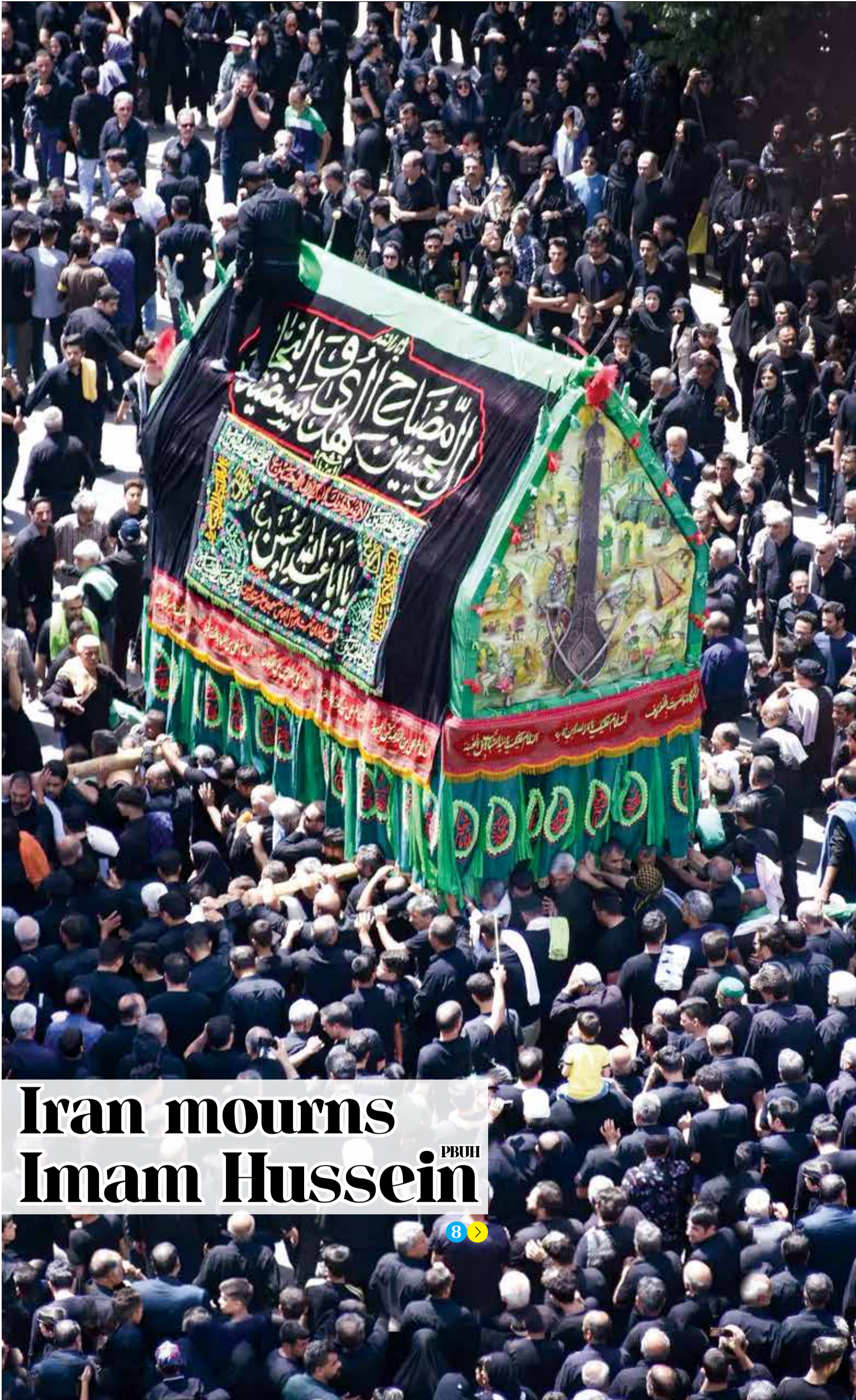


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Iran mourns Imam Hussein PBUH

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Mourners carry a structure, known as Nakhl, during a ceremony to mark the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain (PBUH) in Khomeyn, central Iran, on July 28, 2023. • MEHR

Iranian dried figs: From natural perfection to fame abroad



7 **By Sadeq Dehqan**
Staff writer

Iranian dried figs, known as green figs, constitute a distinctive variety of figs globally, with the major production hub located in Estahban city, situated in Fars Province, southern Iran. Remarkably, some fig trees and orchards in Estahban have stood for three hundred years or more. The volume of domestic dried fig production fluctuates annually due to varying weather conditions, rainfall, and pest occurrences. Typically, Iran's dried fig production ranges from 15,000 to 25,000 tons.

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Ending Israeli occupation key to resolution of Palestinian issue

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations said the resolution of the decades-long Palestinian issue hinges on the cessation of the Israeli regime's occupation of Palestinian lands, and recognition of the fundamental right of Palestinians to decide their own fate. "The Islamic Republic of Iran remains steadfast in its belief that the conflict in Palestine can only be resolved through ending the occupation and recognizing the inalienable rights of self-determination of the Palestinian people," Amir Saeid Iravani said Thursday while addressing a UN Security Council session entitled, "The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question," in New York, Press TV reported. "This requires the full restoration and protection of these rights, leading to the establishment of Palestinian sovereignty over the entire Palestine."



India, Iran set to ink long-term deal on Chabahar port

India and Iran are expected to sign a long-term deal for the development of Iran's Chabahar port by September, before the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 meets in New Delhi in October, two people familiar with the matter said. After years of negotiations, New Delhi and Tehran are expected to sign a multi-year deal, allowing India to develop the Shahid Beheshti Terminal in Chabahar port. In 2016, India Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL) and Arya Banader of Iran signed a contract to develop the port, according to Mint news website. Spokespersons for India's ministries of external affairs, ports, shipping, and waterways, and the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi did not respond to a query.

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Niger coup leader names himself head of transitional gov't

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Sirik Port, a hidden gem in Hormuzgan Province

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Afghanistan's lack of cooperation could lead to human catastrophe

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Raeisi emphasizes invaluable role of Iranian expats



Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi has emphasized the invaluable role of Iranians, particularly intellectuals, residing outside the country, referring to them as the "human capital" of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During a special session of the Supreme Council of Iranians Abroad, he urged the media, especially the national outlets, to showcase Iran's advanced capacities, scientific achievements, technological advancements, and its prominent position in the world of science and technology, especially for those Iranians abroad who have limited knowledge about the country's capabilities, president.ir reported.

Iran issues flood warning in southern cities



ILNA – Iran's Meteorological Organization has issued a flood warning in some southern and southeastern cities. The organization has predicted a mass of clouds, heavy showers and strong winds in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormuzgan, Kerman and Fars, from Friday to Monday.

Baku thanks Tehran for its constructive stance

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has expressed his country's gratitude to Tehran for its constructive stance toward the Nagorno-Karabakh region. During a Thursday phone call with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the top diplomat also discussed the latest status of negotiations between Baku and Yerevan over the disputed region and the Lachin corridor, a vital mountain road that links Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh region through Azerbaijan's territory.

Erdogan urges Turkey-Iran joint effort against Islamophobia

International Desk

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for the expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Ankara in countering terrorism and Islamophobia. The Turkish president made the remarks in a meeting with the new Iranian Ambassador to Ankara Mohammad Hassan Habibollah-zadeh, according to IRNA.

Erdogan said that there are many fields in which both countries can cooperate. He noted that Tehran and Ankara can raise the volume of annual trade to \$30 billion, calling for more efforts by officials to remove barriers in the way expanding trade.

Back in 2018, Iran and Turkey agreed to step up economic cooperation with the aim of reaching the \$30-billion target set for their annual trade.

Iran and Turkey experienced a major rise in their bilateral trade over the Iranian year to March 20, as shipments rose in value terms despite a fall in volume, according to an analysis of trade figures from the Iranian customs office (IRICA).



Iran's new Ambassador to Ankara Mohammad Hassan Habibollah-zadeh (l) presents his credentials to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a meeting on July 27, 2023. tccb.gov.tr

The analysis published by IRIB News on Sunday showed that trade between Iran and Turkey had reached a total of \$12.7 billion in the last Iranian calendar year, up 19% from the year to March 2022. The report said that Iran-Turkey trade had increased by 115% in terms

of the Iranian currency over the period. That comes as shipments traded between Iran and Turkey fell by nearly 7% in volume terms in the year to late March, a sign that businesses in the two countries had opted for trade of commodities with more added value, said the report.

During the meeting on Thursday, the Turkish president also invited the Iranian president to visit Turkey and expressed his happiness with the imminent visit of the Turkish foreign minister to Tehran. The Iranian ambassador, for his part, said Tehran

and Ankara would continue to exchange views on leading bilateral, regional and international political developments. He also hailed the common stance of Iran, Turkey and a number of Muslim countries vis-à-vis the recent desecration of the Holy Qur'an in Sweden and Denmark.

India, Iran set ...

However, an official of India's Ports Ministry said the contours of the long-term deal will be finalized next month, and an agreement will likely be signed in September. Currently, India and Iran sign one-year contract extensions for developing and running the terminal at Chabahar port. However, India has been urging Tehran to commit to a longer-term pact, providing certainty for investment and development plans for the port designed by India. A long-term contract for 10 years may also provide for automatic renewal. Negotiations on the long-term contract were earlier held up due to disagree-

ments over the arbitration clause in the deal. Iran was earlier uncomfortable with clauses on international arbitration, given constitutional restrictions on taking disputes to foreign courts. Differences of opinion over other clauses, such as a guarantee of minimum traffic sought by Iran, will also be resolved, paving the way for fast-tracking infrastructure development at the port to ensure bringing shipping traffic to this strategic location. In 2016, India committed \$85 million for the development of the port, along with a \$150 million line of credit. As of 2023, India has supplied six gantry cranes to the tune of \$25 million for the development of the port. However,

Iran has voiced dissatisfaction with India's efforts in the past. The country's former ambassador to India, Ali Chegeni, termed the development work on Chabahar "very slow". Chabahar, located in southeastern Iran, was envisioned as a gateway for India to access Central Asian markets. The project's roots date back to 2003, when both nations agreed to its development during then-president Mohammad Khatami's visit to India. However, the initiative faced obstacles due to Western sanctions on Iran. In 2013, India pledged \$100 million to develop the port, but matters progressed after the 2015 nuclear deal was struck between Iran and world powers over its nuclear program.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iranian dried figs ...

Estahban figs are primarily not eaten fresh, contrary to what many people believe. The common misconception is that these figs are harvested from the tree and then dried in factories through a series of processing steps. However, the reality is quite different.

In truth, the figs undergo a natural drying process while still on the tree, and they are only collected once fully dried. Abbas Rezazadeh, the chair of Iran Fig Association, highlights Iran's prominent position as one of the largest producers and exporters of dried figs globally. Speaking to Iran Daily, he said Estahban, specifically, holds the esteemed title of being the capital of Iran's dried fig production, boasting the largest dried fig orchard worldwide.

According to Rezazadeh, a substantial portion of the annual dried fig production, typically ranging from 10,000 to 18,000 tons, is exported. The primary destination for these exports is China, accounting for up to 90 percent of the total, with the remaining portion being sent to the Persian Gulf Arab countries, the European Union nations, Japan, South Korea, Russia and Central Asian nations.



In 2021, approximately 15,000 tons of dried figs were exported from Iran, generating around \$55 million. Rezazadeh discusses the ongoing development of fig orchards in Iran, noting that over the last four years, a significant portion of the country's agricultural lands has been allocated to cultivate fig trees. Considering the approximate five-year period required for these trees to bear fruit, the production of dried figs in Iran is projected to increase by one and a half to two times within the next eight years.

This expansion is not confined to Estahban alone; other cities in Fars Province, including Neyriz, Darab, Jahrom, and Kazeroon, have also witnessed the development of fig orchards. Moreover, the cultivation of Estahban fig cuttings has extended to other provinces such as Ker-

manshah, Hamedan, and East Azarbaijan. Although precise statistics on the total cultivated area of fig orchards across Iran are unavailable, it is evident that a substantial portion is concentrated in Estahban city and Fars Province. The current estimated area of fig orchards in the province stands at around 22,000 hectares, with new orchards covering an additional 5,000 hectares. Apart from Fars Province, western Kermanshah Province also grows a distinct type of fig similar to those found in Turkey. These figs are coarse and have moist texture. They are typically drawn out into thread-like strands before being sold as flour-coated nuts. Additionally, in northern Galugah County, another variety of fig trees and orchards predominantly serves the fresh fruit market.

Niger coup leader names himself head of transitional gov't



Abdourahmane Tchiani, head of Niger's presidential guard, has named himself head of a transitional government in the West African country, two days after his unit overthrew

democratically-elected President Mohamed Bazoum. He made the announcement on Friday on state-run television, saying he was the "president of the

National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland," Al Jazeera wrote. The 62-year-old general also said the intervention had been necessary to avoid "the gradual and

inevitable demise" of the country. He said while Bazoum had sought to convince people that "all is going well... the harsh reality (is) a pile of dead, displaced, humiliation, and

General Tchiani, Niger's new strongman, speaks on national television in Niamey, Niger, on July 28, 2023.

● AFP

frustration".

"The security approach today has not brought security to the country despite heavy sacrifices," Tchiani said. There was no mention of a timeline for return to civilian leadership.

Tchiani, who was drafted to lead the elite unit in 2015, is from Niger's western region of Tillaberi, a main recruitment area for the army. He remains a close ally of former President Mahamadou Issoufou – the politician who led the country until 2021.

The general reportedly led the resistance to a thwarted coup attempt in March 2021, when a military unit tried to seize the presidential palace days before Bazoum, who had just been elected, was due to be sworn in.

On Wednesday, Tchiani's unit detained Bazoum in the presidential palace in the capital, Niamey,

provoking a flurry of condemnation from leaders within Africa and beyond. It remains unclear where Bazoum is or if he is still being detained.

Colonel Amadou Abdramane, spokesperson of the group which took power, said on state TV on Friday that the constitution had been suspended and all institutions of state dissolved.

Abdrmane said Niger's borders are closed, and a nationwide curfew has been declared. The soldiers warned against any foreign intervention, adding that they will respect Bazoum's well-being.

Hours later, a defiant Bazoum said the country's "hard-won gains" in establishing democracy would be protected.

"All Nigeriens who love democracy and freedom would want this," he said early on Thursday on the social platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

The coup is the fifth successful one in the landlocked country since it gained independence from France

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian, Chinese delegates attend N Korea parade



● AFP

AP – North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was joined Thursday by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chinese ruling party official Li Hongzhong as he displayed his most powerful nuclear-capable missiles in a military parade.

North Korea's invitation of Russian and Chinese delegates was a rare diplomatic opening since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. North Korean state media also highlighted a message sent by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who thanked Kim for "firmly supporting" his war efforts in Ukraine.

Typo leaks US military emails to Russian ally

AFP – Britain's Defence Ministry said Friday it had launched a probe after officials unwittingly sent emails reportedly containing classified information to Russian ally Mali due to mistyping an address ending with the West African country's .ml domain, rather than the US military's similar .mil address. The majority of messages contained trivial information, such as holiday staffing schedules for officials, but others had detailed descriptions of British research into hypersonic missiles, The Times newspaper noted.

Israeli air chief warns of security threat



● REUTERS

REUTERS – The Israel Air Force Chief Major-General Tomer Bar said on Friday that the regime's enemies might exploit a political crisis triggered by an overhaul of the judiciary, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied would undermine its democracy. As the crisis escalated following Monday's vote, Israel's Ynet news said Netanyahu received at least four letters from Military Intelligence warning of serious security ramifications arising from the judicial overhaul.

Putin woos African leaders with promises

Russian President Vladimir Putin courted leaders from Africa at a summit on Friday, hailing the continent's growing role in global affairs and offering to expand political and business ties.

Addressing the two-day Russia-Africa summit, Putin said Moscow will closely analyze a peace proposal for Ukraine that African leaders have sought to pursue, AP reported.

"This is an acute issue, and we aren't evading its consideration," Putin said, emphasizing that Russia is treating the African initiative with respect and "looking at it attentively". He encouraged the African leaders to talk to Ukraine, which has refused to engage in talks until Russian

troops pull back.

"I believe it's necessary to also talk to the other side, although we are grateful to our African friends for their attention to the issue," Putin said.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said African leaders were looking forward to engaging further with Putin later Friday on their peace proposal.

Ramaphosa, who leads sub-Saharan Africa's most developed country, also spoke out against the exploitation of the continent, saying that "we must stop those countries that count their wealth and their assets in terms of the minerals that reside in African soil."

Putin in his speech reaffirmed his pledge that Russia will maintain steady supplies of grain and other agricultural products to the continent after its withdrawal from a deal allowing grain shipments from Ukraine. Moscow's withdrawal from the Black Sea agreement has fueled concerns of a global food crisis.

"Russia will always be a responsible international supplier of agricultural products and will continue to support the countries and region in need by offering free grain and other supplies," the Russian leader said.

He declared at the summit's opening Thursday that Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Eritrea, and Central African

Republic each will receive 25,000 to 50,000 tons of Russian grain in the next three to four months.

In comparison, the UN World Food Program shipped 725,000 tons of grain to several countries including Somalia under the Black Sea deal.

The Russia-Africa summit marks a renewed Kremlin effort to bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage. Africa's 54 nations make up the largest voting bloc at the United Nations and have been more divided than any other region on General Assembly resolutions criticizing Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Putin said Russia plans to expand trade and eco-



●

Russian President Vladimir Putin (r) and Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi shake hands during a family photo opportunity during the Russia-Africa Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Friday, July 28, 2023.

● ALEXEI DANICHEV/SPUTNIK

nom ties with Africa and continue efforts to relieve their debt burden by writing off another \$90 million of their debts.

Putin noted that Moscow also stands ready to bolster defense ties with African countries by helping train their military and expanding supplies of military equipment, some of them on a no-cost basis.

Trump accused of having security video deleted

Donald Trump ordered employees at his Florida resort to delete security videos as he was under investigation for retaining classified documents, US prosecutors said on Thursday as they broadened the case against the former president and charged a second member of his staff with helping to hide documents.

US Special Counsel Jack Smith filed three new criminal counts against Trump, bringing the total to 40, and charged a maintenance worker at Trump's Mar-a-Lago re-

sort, Carlos De Oliveira, with conspiracy to obstruct justice, according to Reuters.

De Oliveira, 56, told another worker at the resort where Trump lives that "the boss" wanted security videos of the property in Florida deleted after the Justice Department subpoenaed them.

Prosecutors also charged De Oliveira with lying to the FBI during a voluntary interview, falsely claiming he had no involvement in moving boxes of classified documents at Mar-a-Lago. "Never saw nothing," De



●

Donald Trump (2nd-R) and his legal aides appear on classified document charges at a courthouse in Miami, Florida, on June 13, 2023, in a courtroom sketch.

● REUTERS

Oliveira told the agents, according to the indictment. De Oliveira's lawyer did

not immediately respond to a request for comment. The charges were made public hours after Trump

said his attorneys met with the Justice Department officials investigating his attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden, in a sign that another set of criminal charges could come soon.

"This is nothing more than a continued desperate and

flailing attempt by the Biden Crime Family and their Department of Justice to harass President Trump and those around him," Trump's campaign said in a statement.

Trump pleaded not guilty in Miami last month to federal charges of unlawfully retaining classified government documents after leaving office in 2021 and obstructing justice. Prosecutors accused him of risking some of the most sensitive US national security secrets.

Trump is the first former US president to face criminal charges and has already been indicted twice this year.

Sirik Port, situated in Hormuzgan Province along the southern coast of Iran, is a hidden gem renowned for its extensive and impressive mangrove forests. These unique tidal forests play a critical role in the region's ecological balance, providing a myriad of benefits, from habitat preservation to coastal protection and support for local industries.

Flora and Fauna: a diverse ecosystem

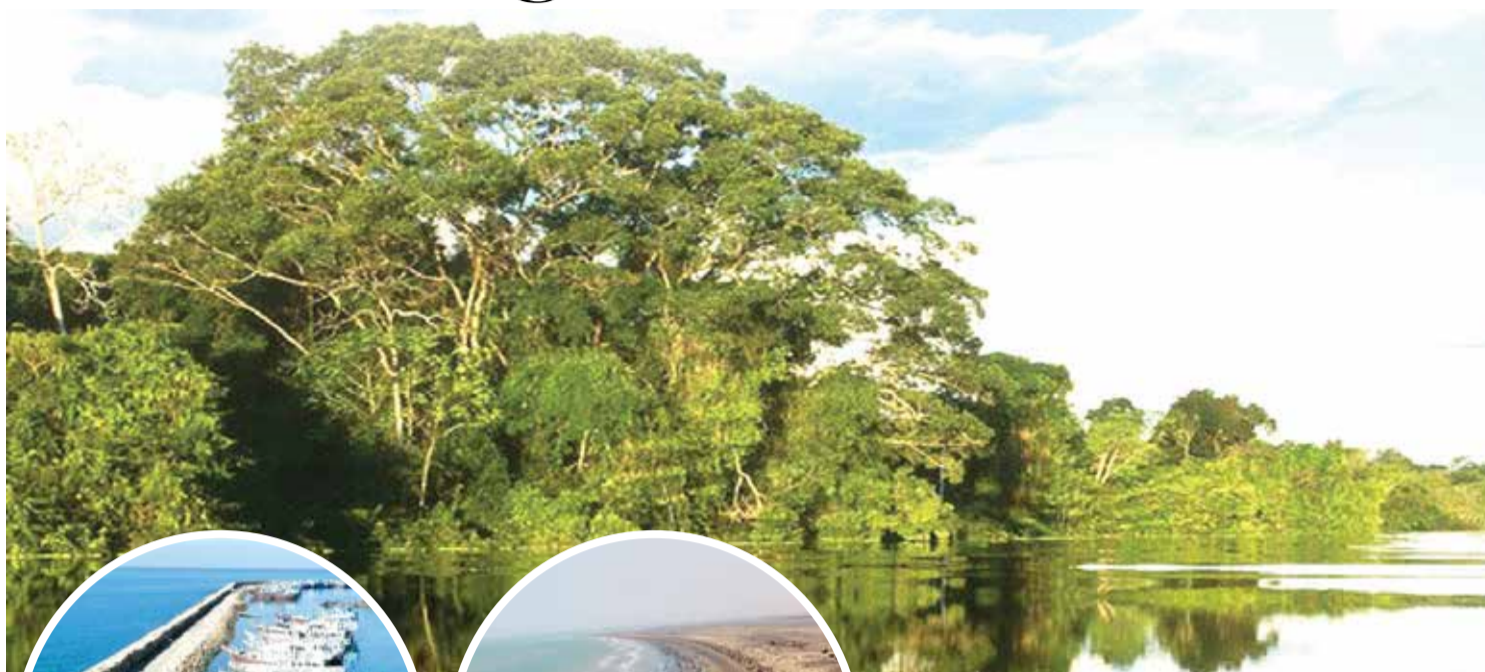
The mangroves of Sirik Port serve as a vital habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna. The mangrove trees are uniquely adapted to thrive in the challenging conditions of the intertidal zone, possessing specialized root systems that can tolerate both saltwater and oxygen-poor soil. These adaptations allow the mangroves to create a vibrant and diverse ecosystem that supports countless plant and animal species, kental-travel.com wrote.

In addition to the mangrove trees, the island is home to various other plant species, such as sea-grasses and salt-tolerant shrubs that contribute to the overall biodiversity of the area. The mangrove forests of Sirik Port also provide refuge for numerous endangered species, including the vulnerable green sea turtle and the critically endangered hawksbill turtle.

Ecological balance: a crucial role

The mangroves of Sirik Port play an essential part in the region's ecological

Sirik Port, a hidden gem in Hormuzgan Province



tejaratjonoub.ir

IRNA

balance. They offer several vital services, including:

Coastal protection: The dense, intertwined roots of the mangrove trees form a natural barrier against storm surges, erosion, and flooding. This helps protect the shoreline and the communities that rely on the coastal ecosystem.

Carbon sequestration: Mangroves are highly effi-

cient at capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, making them invaluable in the fight against climate change.

Water filtration: The mangroves' intricate root systems trap sediment and pollutants, helping to maintain water quality in the surrounding estuaries and coastal waters.

Nursery grounds: The

sheltered environment of the mangrove forests serves as a nursery for many fish and crustaceans, supporting local fisheries and the broader marine food web.

Immerse yourself in lush greenery

The dense mangroves of Sirik Port create a mesmerizing maze of intertwined

roots and branches, providing an otherworldly setting for your explorations. As you venture into the heart of the forest, you will be surrounded by a rich tapestry of green hues, from the vibrant leaves above to the intricate root systems below. The mangroves' unique adaptation to tidal fluctuations creates a dynamic landscape that is constantly changing, offering a new perspective with each visit.

Discover fascinating wildlife

The mangrove ecosystem is home to an incredible array of animals, including various bird species, aquatic creatures, and even rep-

tiles. As you traverse the tangled maze of roots, keep an eye out for the following wildlife.

Birds: The mangroves serve as a critical nesting and feeding ground for a diverse range of bird species, including herons, egrets, and kingfishers. With the guidance of your Iran Tour Guide, you may even spot the elusive mangrove pitta, a vibrantly colored bird that is rarely seen outside of this unique habitat.

Aquatic Life: Sirik Port's mangroves are teeming with marine life, providing the perfect opportunity to observe creatures such as mudskippers, crabs, and fish that have adapted to

the challenging conditions of the tidal forest.

Reptiles: The elusive mangrove monitor lizard can be found lurking among the tree branches and roots, while other reptiles, such as snakes and turtles, also call this habitat home.

Essential tips for a memorable mangrove tour to make the most of your Sirik Island tour, consider the following tips:

Choose the right time

The best time to visit Sirik Port is during the cooler months of October to April when the weather is pleasant, and the mangroves are teeming with life.

Wear appropriate clothing. Comfortable, quick-drying clothes are ideal for a mangrove tour, as you may encounter water and mud. Be sure to also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat for protection.

Bring a camera

Don't miss the chance to capture the breathtaking scenery and wildlife encounters that await you in the mangroves.

Beyond the mangroves

Consider exploring other attractions in Sirik Port, such as:

The local markets: Experience the vibrant local culture by visiting the bustling markets, where you can shop for unique souvenirs and sample the delicious local cuisine.

The ancient port of Sirik: The historic port, with its centuries-old architecture, offers a fascinating glimpse into the region's rich maritime history.

Sasanian rituals



Although far less information exists for the Sasanian Empire, and one must speak more generally, we can nevertheless sketch a picture of Sasanian ceremonial movement between sites.

Much like the Roman accessions, the primary goal of the Sasanian rituals was to mediate between the realm's various power bases and ritually appropriate structures and spaces that were significant to Sasanian kingship. Unlike their late Roman counterparts, Sasanian royal accession rituals were not limited to a single city. Sasanian accession ceremonies often encompassed several sites throughout the empire.

After Ardashir I's coronation in 226, following his triumph over the last Parthian king, the Sasanian kings of kings traveled to Ctesiphon, the empire's capital city, for their coronations.

The kings traditionally held their coronation ceremonies on one of the two great holidays of the Zoroastrian calendar, which fell on the spring and fall equinoxes: The spring "New Year" festival (Nowruz) and Mehregan, the festival of Mithra. Both feasts offered the possibility of linking the sovereigns to primordial kings and the deep workings of the cosmos. The celebration of Nowruz was central to many Iranian cultures and

became exceptionally symbolically dense in the late Zoroastrian tradition. New Year coronation was a custom that the primordial king Yima (Jamshid) was understood to have begun. With its long-standing power to reestablish order out of chaos and renew all things, both cosmic and mundane, the event provided many possibilities for casting heavenly shadows over earthly events. Mehregan was also occasionally chosen, again following a precedent set by a primordial king and hero, this time Fereydon, who freed the Airiia by slaying the foreign dragon king Zahhak. The early Sasanian kings

either crowned themselves or, if elected by their predecessor, were crowned by him; though from the reign of Bahram V (420–438 CE) onward it is possible that the chief priest of the empire, the *mobedan*, performed the coronation, reflecting the growing assertiveness of the Zoroastrian clergy. From at least the early fifth century a tradition emerged whereby the newly crowned king would embark on a pilgrimage from the site of his coronation in Ctesiphon to the sanctuary of Adur Gushnasp (now in West Azarbaijan Province). The sanctuary, known today as, Takht-e Soleyman, held one of the most sacred

fires in the ancient Iranian religious tradition.

The Sasanian kings traveled to Adur Gushnasp by horse; however, at the monument's walls they dismounted and entered on foot as a sign of humility and respect. Through the contiguous link this itinerant established the Sasanian kings anchored the traditions and rituals of the coronation to the primordial weight of Adur Gushnasp. This long distance link, in turn, associated the Sasanian kings' temporal coronations with the royal significances of the site, first among which was the mythological arrival of the once itinerant fire at the site to aid their mythi-

cal Kayanid "ancestor," Kay Husraw, in wresting it from the forces of darkness.

There they would lavish rich gifts on the sanctuary, an act that the kings would often repeat over the course of their reign when praying for victory or giving thanks-giving. According to the Shahbameh, after his victory over Bahram Cobin, Kosrow II spent a week at the site circumambulating the fire while reciting the Zand and Avesta, perhaps reflecting practices that the kings also enacted after their coronation process. The kings often spent several days at Adur Gushnasp and maintained an audience hall at the site, implying a connection with another set of rit-

Takht-e Soleyman, West Azarbaijan Province

visitiran.ir

ual practices.

While ritual inscribed new meanings on architectural or artistic material and created a large-scale ritual syntax, art and architecture also impacted the development and significance of activities within the ritual environment. The construction of a particularly prominent structure could alter the development of the ritual fabric. This is the case, as we saw, at the rebuilt sanctuary of Adur Gushnasp, which drew to itself the previously unrelated rituals of royal accession and triumph.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Iran to play Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan in first qualifying group



● FFIRI

Sports Desk

Iran will begin its quest for a fourth successive berth in the World Cup finals in Group E of the preliminary round in Asia – also featuring Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The draw for the continent's Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2 for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 took place in the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, where 36 teams were divided into nine groups.

Iran's campaign will kick off at home against either Hong Kong or Bhutan on November 16, before Amir Qaleno'i's side plays away to Uzbekistan five days later. The final day of the group fixtures will see Iran host Uzbekistan on June 11, 2024. The newly-expanded World Cup – set to be staged across the United States, Canada, and Mexico – will see 48 teams participate in the International football, with eight and a half slots on offer for the Asian Football

Confederation's member states. All nine group winners and three runners-up will advance to the third round of the Asian qualifiers, while sealing a place at the Asian Cup. The 18 teams will be split into three groups of six, competing in a home-and-away round-robin format from September 5 next year. The top two of each group will be rewarded with direct qualification for the World Cup while the third and fourth teams will be given a second chance in

the fourth round of the qualifiers, where the top team of each of the three-team groups will progress to the global showpiece. The two second-placed sides in the fourth round will go head-to-head in a two-legged tie in November 2025 to decide who will head into the inter-confederation playoffs.

Saudi task

Meanwhile, the draw for the football contests at the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, was held by the organizing commit-

tee of the event and Iran's under-23 team was pitted against Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, and Mongolia in Group B. The competition – starting four days before the Games' opening ceremony on September 23 – will come as a perfect preparation for Reza Enayati's men ahead of their bid for a place in next year's Paris Olympics. The host country, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India are in Group A, with Uzbekistan, Syria, and Afghanistan squaring off in Group C.

Group D comprises three teams – Qatar, Japan, and Palestine – while in Group E Thailand, South Korea, Bahrain, and Kuwait will battle it out for a place in the knockout phase. Group F will feature North Korea, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, and the Chinese Taipei. The top two of each group plus four of the best third-placed teams will advance to the round of 16. Iran is a four-time champion at the Asian Games, having last won the gold medal in Busan, South Korea, in 2022.

Iran U19 beats Brazil in volleyball friendly



● volleyball.ir

Sports Desk

Iran's under-19 volleyball team came out on top against Brazil in four sets in a friendly game on Thursday.

Preparing for the upcoming FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship in San Juan, Argentina, Mohammad Vakili's side won the first set 25-21 before the host tied the game at 1-1, thanks to a 30-28 win in a thrilling second set in front of a jam-packed crowd in Santa Rita do Sapucaí. The Asian champion still managed to walk away with a 3-1 victory, taking the final two sets 25-17 and 25-19.

Mani Alikhani, Seyyed Matin Hosseini, Taha Behboudnia, Armin Qelich-Niazi, Mohammadreza Alejalil, Omran Kukjeili, and Morteza Tabatabaei (libero) were in the Iranian starting lineup.

"We are here to bolster the team's confidence [ahead of the World Championship]," Vakili said after the game as he welcomed the test of playing against the home side's cheering fans.

"The pressure of the crowd was overwhelming, and Brazil caused us problems in reception with powerful and risky serves in the second set, though we were the superior team in all aspects of the game in the third and fourth sets," added the Iranian head coach, whose team will be chasing a third world title – first since 2017 – in Santa Rita. A bronze medalist in the event two years ago on home soil, Iran will begin its campaign with a game against fellow Asian side South Korea on August 2 in Pool C – also featuring Nigeria, Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The host country – also the reigning South American champion – will headline Pool A, with the United States, Egypt, Serbia, and Costa Rica also in the group.

Bulgaria – beaten by Poland in the 2021 final – is in Pool B alongside India, Japan, France, and Slovenia, while Pool D will see European champion Italy and Brazil as well as Belgium, Mexico, and Chile battle it out for a place in the knockout phase.

The top four teams of each pool will progress to the last-16 round.

Having won a maiden trophy in 2007, Iran is also a two-time silver winner in the under-19 championship in 2001 and 2009, while settling for the bronze medal on three occasions (2003, 2015, and 2017).

Ukraine's Kharlan calls for rule change after disqualification for snubbing Russian opponent

REUTERS – Ukrainian fencer Olga Kharlan has said rules have to change following her disqualification for refusing to shake hands with Russian Anna Smirnova at the World Championships in Milan on Thursday. Kharlan, a four-time Olympic medallist and world champion, won the individual sabre bout 15-7 and then refused to shake hands with her opponent, instead offering her sabre to tap blades. Smirnova remained on the piste for over half an hour after the incident, speaking with a number of officials before leaving. In fencing's rules, shaking an opponent's hand is mandatory and failure to do so

results in a 'black card'. "Today was a very difficult and very important day. What happened today raises a lot of questions," Kharlan said in a video posted on Instagram later on Thursday. "I did not want to shake hands with this athlete, and I acted with my heart. So when I heard that they wanted to disqualify me it killed me so much that I was screaming in pain. "I think I understand, like everyone else in this world, in a sane world, that the rules have to change because the world is changing." Tennis player Elina Svitolina, and local football clubs such as Dynamo Kyiv and Shakhtar Donetsk have

been among the figures who have expressed their solidarity on social media for the 32-year-old fencer. Ukrainian athletes in other sports – including Svitolina and fellow tennis player Marta Kostyuk – have also refused to shake hands with Russian and Belarusian opponents following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Moscow using Belarus as a staging ground for what it calls a "special military operation". "We fully support Olga Kharlan in this situation. We are preparing a protest," Mykhailo Illiashev, president of Ukraine's fencing federation (NFFU), said in televised comments. "We will appeal this decision, because the referee

who judged this match did not give directly a black card or disqualify her. "It was only later that the underhanded games began and this disqualification appeared already after the next opponent was determined, already after a judge for the next competition was determined." Ukrainian Sports Minister Vadym Huttsait described the incident as "an obvious provocation from the Russian side".



Ukraine's Olga Kharlan (L) offers her sabre as she refuses to shake hands with Russia's Anna Smirnova, registered as an Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN), at the FIE Fencing World Championships in Milan, Italy, on July 27, 2023. ● AFP



Iran's Kalhor to stage concert in Germany



ISNA –Iranian musician Kayhan Kalhor, a virtuoso on kamancheh (Persian stringed instrument), is set to perform his latest concert in the city of Zurich, Germany.

The renowned artist will stage the 'Voice of Hope' concert on September 15. He will be accompanied by Kia Tabassian (tar player) and Behnam Samani (percussionist).

The 'Voice of Hope' concert, which features an instrumental ensemble of kamancheh, tar, and percussion, was previously held in the Netherlands in Khordad (May-June).

Tabassian has collaborated with Kalhor before, having performed improvisational pieces with the maestro in Vancouver.

Born in 1963 into a music-loving family in Kermanshah, Kalhor started his musical journey at the age of five. By the age of 12, he had already begun his professional music career and collaborated with the Kermanshah radio and television.

At 17, he moved to Italy and later pursued further studies in Canada, graduating in composition from Carleton University in Ottawa.

Iran to overtake Europe as top destination for Russian tourists



Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has become a preferred destination for Russian tourists, surpassing some European countries, thanks to an increase in demand for tours during the peak autumn season. The introduction of visa-free group travel has further attracted more Russians to explore the country. Dmitry Arutyunov, the General Manager of Art Tour Company, highlighted that Iran is now seen as an alternative to countries with visa requirements, particularly European countries.

Russian media outlets, as reported by IRNA, cited several reasons for the rising interest in Iran, including its rich historical and cultural heritage, affordable hotel prices, and flight tickets. The recent visa-free group travel announcement by the Ministry of Economic Development, scheduled to begin on August 1, has played a significant role in drawing more tourists than ever.

Intourist, a Russian tour operator, revealed that tour sales to Iran have surged by 15 to 20 percent compared to the previous year, with bookings extending well

into October. The demand for tours to Iran usually peaks during spring and autumn, with both individuals and organized groups of 30 to 40 people heading to the country.

Despite the increasing interest, experts point out the lack of an active advertising campaign in Russia to promote Iran as a tourist destination.

Arutyunov emphasized that many Russian tourists are unfamiliar with Iran's potential as a fascinating spot for spring and autumn trips. Notably, Iran's excellent skiing facilities have

also garnered interest from winter travelers seeking an alternative to the Alps as a ski resort.

Maria Novoikova, a manager at Star Tour Company, agrees with Arutyunov's assessment, stating that Iran has emerged as a replacement for European countries, offering lower travel prices.

In recent developments, Russian Minister of Economic Development, Maxim Reshetnikov, announced plans for the first visa-free trips to Iran and China starting August 1. Under this arrangement, tourists from

both countries can travel without visas in organized groups of five to 50 people for a duration of two weeks. Additionally, Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding in May, aiming to strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector. The objectives of the memorandum include promoting tourism as a crucial area of collaboration, increasing the number of tourists in both countries, and developing human resources in the travel and tourism industry. The two nations also highlighted their focus on exchanging experts in the

tourism sector, sharing experiences related to various types of tourism, and developing new maritime tourism routes.

Moreover, the memorandum encourages the participation of tourism sector representatives in international tourism events, fosters private sector cooperation in investment and tourism-related trade, and supports organizing familiarization tours for tour operators, travel agencies, journalists, and government officials from both countries to introduce tourism attractions and capacities.

Lost in translation:

The complex maze of Iranian poetry

Arts & Culture Desk

Ahmad Pouri, the renowned Iranian literary luminary and translator, has accomplished remarkable feats in bringing forth prominent works of literature from Spain, Russia, Turkey, Greece, America, and the Arab world, and rendering them into the Persian language.

To this day, he has diligently translated numerous works of poets from across the globe into Persian. Among these luminaries are Anna Akhmatova, the revered Russian poetess; Pablo Neruda, the Spanish poet; and Federico Garcia Lorca, the Spanish-speaking poet; Nazim Hikmet, the esteemed Turkish-origin poet; Nizar Qabbani, the gifted Syrian poet; Yannis Ritsos, the profound Greek poet; and Anne Sexton, the illustrious American poetess. Besides his mastery in poetry translation, Pouri also excels in both writing and translating novels.

As to the reasons behind the relatively limited translations of Iranian poets' works into foreign languages, he expounds that this matter is multifaceted. One aspect revolves around the structure of Persian poetry itself, which poses formidable challenges to translators due to its linguistic intricacies and literary devices. Some poems, with their linguistic artistry, become nearly impervious to translation, while others, focusing on imagination and concepts, prove relatively more amenable.

In the realm of poetry and artistic creations, poems can be classified into "elusive" and "attainable" poetry. Elusive poems are often more intricate in linguistic nature, whereas attainable poems emphasize imagination and ideas, making their translation more feasible. Among ancient Iranian poets, Omar Khayyam's poems, owing to their attainability, have enjoyed wider translations and recognition in overseas, whereas the situation differs for poets like Khaqani and certain works of Hafez. Consequently, in some countries, the works of many Iranian poets remain largely unnoticed. Nevertheless, this is not the sole reason but holds significant weight.

When inquired about how more Iranian poetry can be translated and introduced to the world, Pouri maintains that publishing translated works from Persian into other languages can be likened to finding your way through a complex maze, exceedingly difficult to surmount. Presenting a Persian poetry book independently in foreign countries is no easy feat, unless the government allocates a budget for it and engages in agreements with foreign publishers to release such works. However, due to the subjective preferences of governments in selecting works, this approach may not be a reliable solution. Another avenue is the extensive participation of poets in international festivals. Undoubtedly, Persian poetry holds abundant



potential to be read and appreciated worldwide. Pouri firmly believes that a poetry translator must be a native speaker of the target language and well-versed in all aspects and nuances of the destination language. He suggests waiting and hoping for translators from other languages to become proficient in Persian and translate Persian artistic works; otherwise, as an Iranian, he cannot present an exceptional translation of a Persian poem, for instance, to English speakers. Regarding the notion of "indigenizing" translated poetry and re-creating it, Pouri holds a different view. He opposes the idea of imbuing the poems of foreign poets with Persian expressions during translation, as he believes that each poem should authentically express the living culture of the

poet's homeland. Employing Iranian terms in translating foreign poems would be incongruous with the culture and language of the original country where the poem was composed. However, he wholeheartedly agrees with the concept of re-creation. According to his perspective, when translating a poem anew, it must be composed afresh, as poetry is not a mundane, emotionless text that can be mechanically rendered. The primary goal is to relish reading poetry. The poet's intention assumes a secondary position, and the foremost principle is to savor the experience of reading. To effectively convey emotions, Pouri maintains that re-creating poetry is indispensable, employing the most fitting words, a process that naturally adheres to multiple principles.

Pakistan to host D-8 ministerial meeting on tourism

The group of Developing Eight (D8) Islamic countries will meet in Pakistan's mountain resort city of Murree next week to discuss strengthening tourism cooperation among the member states. The two-day meeting on August 4-5 seeks to identify potential pathways to enhance intra-D8 tourism in line with the objectives and goals of the group, Press TV reported.

It will bring together tourism experts of member states to strengthen their capacities and develop effective strategies for the post COVID-19 tourism era.

This meeting, organized by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), marks the first time such a high-level gathering is being held in Pakistan.

Participants hope it will provide a platform for member states to exchange knowledge and best practices to facilitate cooperation opportunities, and to explore possibilities to promote bilateral tourism.

The D8 group is an economic organization for developing cooperation among member states, namely, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt and Nigeria. Established in 1997, it represents about one billion people, or 14 percent of the world's population.

Muslim countries are scattered in Asia and Africa and have their own characteristics, with significant natural wealth and historical sites and pristine nature which can be a source of significant income for them.

If the political environment is reshaped in such a way that Muslims establish "Islamic tourism", the tourism industry in the world will take a different form and major transitions will take place. Today, the tourism industry has become the third most profitable industry, after the oil and auto industries.

Afghanistan's lack of cooperation could lead to human catastrophe



TASNIM

Social Desk

The deputy of marine environment at Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE) called on Afghan environmental activists and officials to help revive the Hamun Lake and avert potential environmental and humanitarian catastrophes in the Sistan plain and surrounding areas, irrespective of political issues. Hamun Wetland stands as a transboundary ecological treasure shared by Iran and Afghanistan. Recognized as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2016, its significance cannot be overstated, Tasnim news agency reported. Regrettably, conditions within this vital wetland, located in southeast Iran, have deteriorated beyond

measure. Despite assurances from the Afghan government regarding cooperation on granting the wetland's water rights, no tangible steps have been taken thus far. Apart from its ecological importance, Hamun has long served as a lifeline for local communities – providing sustenance and natural air conditioning throughout their lives. However, prevailing chaotic circumstances have severely impacted livelihoods while exacerbating health risks amid escalating environmental crises such as the relentless 120-day winds afflicting residents of Sistan and Baluchestan. "The survival of Hamun relies on upstream river floods originating from Farah and Helmand rivers flowing through Afghanistan," said

Mojtaba Zoljudi, deputy of marine environment and wetlands at DoE. Expressing deep concern over recent developments, he added, "Unfortunately, due to diversion of Helmand River's natural course, along with extensive construction projects further upstream on Farah River, without regard for historical or natural rights associated with this ecosystem, Hamun wetlands now lie dried up." Commenting on ongoing efforts related to the international Hamun Restoration Project, he revealed that "The international Sistan Project, supported by the European Union and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Office, has been implementing crucial measures aimed at improving livelihoods and restoration. How-

ever, it is suspended due to sanctions." The DoE official highlighted that dust storms originating from Hamun's parched bed travel as far as Afghanistan – resulting in numerous hospitalizations of Sistan and Baluchestan residents. He emphasized that Afghanistan's actions including non-compliance regarding Iran's entitlements from Helmand River, diversions enacted at Kajaki Dam, and completion of Bakhshabad Dam on Farah River have played a significant role in the demise of Hamun Wetland. Regarding these developments, Zoljudi stressed, "It is imperative for good neighborliness to adhere to joint treaties, as well as rectifying natural river courses, while honoring downstream environ-

mental water requirements." He further appealed to Afghan environmental activists, officials, and the international community to rally together to restore this globally valuable ecosystem – a responsibility shared by all signatories of the Convention on Biological Diversity – regardless of political considerations. "Our collective aim must be preventing environmental catastrophe devastating Sistan plain and its environs," he said. He further underscored that "fulfillment of international obligations alongside concerted efforts towards restoring Hamun lagoon stand among Iran's priorities through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Energy.

Mourning Imam Hussein:

Manifestation of interfaith unity in Pakistan, India



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

According to a study, the history of *Azadari-e* (mourning of) Imam Hussein (PBUH) in India and Pakistan has been established since the time of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (PBUH). A part of Hindu Brahmins in India has been involved in *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein since the incident of the martyrdom of Seyyed al-Shohada Imam Hussein, up until today. According to Hilal Naqvi, a prominent researcher of Pakistan, the history of *Azadari* in the Indian subcontinent covers a thousand years. There have been some occasions in the Mughal period when the *Azadari* of Imam Hussein was not observed, when the Shia Muslims of India began to keep their faith hidden, but they did not abandon *Azadari-e* Seyyed al-Sho-

hada altogether; the elders in India also protected *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein in this period and continued it with splendor, according to Dutch trader Pehlay Sart's travelogue in the 1620s. Also, a group of Hindus are called Hussein Brahman. According to them, one of their ancestors fought *Lashkar-e* (Army of) Yazid along with Imam Hussein in the field of Karbala and was martyred, and, therefore, the group regularly remembers Karbala. In the former regions of India, noteworthy among them Rajasthan, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, Hindu gentlemen also observed historical traditions of devotion and *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein. The tomb dedicated to the month of Muharram was patrolled in the palaces and the Muslim servants used to pray there, while Shiv Prasad, Indian scholar, linguist, and historian, and his sons followed those barefoot and bareheaded.

In 1775, in the Shia state of Oudh, the established foundation of the *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein was acknowledged by the Mughal rulers. After the British occupation of India, however, the new rulers considered the gatherings of *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein as a threat to them and made it the subject of Shia and Sunni differences. They celebrate it separately, with this division so far intact, which was the will of British occupants. After separation from India, Karachi in Pakistan became the center of *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein, while the second center is Lahore. Countless gatherings for *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein are held in Pakistan, especially in Karachi as the largest center. According to senior journalist and analyst, Kamran Khan, the cost of *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein in Karachi is Rs 20 billion, which also strengthens the Pakistani economy. The Sunni center of *Azadari-e*



Imam Hussein is Hyderabad and Sukkur, where more than a thousand processions are held, wherein the scholars of the Sunnah and the poets perform *Marsiya Khwani* (lamentation). The second largest center of *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein is Multan, which is called the city of Sufi, besides having a historical status. Meer Anees and Mirza Dabeer have played an important role

in the *Azadari-e* Imam Hussein for the subcontinent. There has been no greater poet in writing *marsiya* and *salam*. Even today, in Pakistan and India, *Majalis-e Aza* (mourning processions) begin with the *salam* and *marsiya* of Ustad al-Shu'ara Mir Anees and Mirza Dabeer. Their *marsiya* and *salam* are read by Shia and Sunni Muslims, as well as Hindus of the subcontinent.

Over 1,000 new classrooms ready to use this September

Social Desk

There has been a noticeable improvement in "educational spaces" within Tehran Province, announced director general of Renovation, Development, and Equipping of Schools of the province.

This was achieved "through the efforts of school building enthusiasts" in the renovation department of schools in Tehran, ILNA reported.

The official further stated that continuous endeavors are being made to enhance existing conditions.

Zaare further mentioned that with strategic planning, 100 schools comprising 1,091 classrooms and infrastructure covering 142,000 square meters will be constructed and handed over to education departments by September 2023. Notably, Tehran Province ranks first among all provinces in terms of delivered classrooms across the country.

"This achievement exemplifies our tireless work and dedication towards creating suitable educational environments for our dear students," the official said. Zaare emphasized that upon completion of these educational projects by September, approximately 33,000 students will have access to modernized and standardized schools.

"It is worth mentioning that while considering necessary educational equipment and auxiliary facilities for this year's newly renovated schools, our group strives towards construction as well as development and improvement of schools under the Ministry of Education's purview."

The director general also highlighted the escalating progress made in constructing and delivering educational spaces throughout Tehran Province.

"Thanks to divine blessings along with generous contributions from school-building benefactors combined with unwavering support from government, we are witnessing substantial growth in school construction within the province," Zaare said, adding, "In 2020-21, we delivered 48 educational spaces, followed by another 88 being completed in 2021-2022, and culminating in 100 new educational spaces scheduled for delivery this year."

Currently, there are 183 ongoing educational projects encompassing 2,029 classrooms and an infrastructure spanning 289,000 square meters. A significant portion of these projects will be ready for operation in September 2024, according to Zaare.

Zaare then expressed gratitude for the invaluable support rendered by school-building benefactors in various parts of Tehran Province.

Ashura: Resolute stand for truth against falsehood

Ashura, a day of profound significance for Shia Muslims globally, stands as a symbol of unwavering truth against falsehood and humanity's enduring fight against injustice and oppression.

This solemn day commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH) in the tragic Battle of Karbala some 1,400 years ago.

Imam Hussein, a revered figure known for his piety and virtue, found himself in the midst of a political succession crisis in the capital of the Umayyad caliphate, Damascus. The appointment of Yazid as the new caliph, who was unqualified to lead the Islamic system, shocked the Islamic world and ignited a pivotal moment in history.

The Ashura event, lasting about half a day, saw Imam Hussein and 72 of his followers martyred in a valiant stand against the forces of Yazid in Karbala. Despite centuries having passed since this occurrence, the legacy of Imam Hussein continues to inspire not only Shia Muslims but also non-Muslims worldwide to follow in his footsteps in the pursuit of independence and emancipation.

Shia Muslims observe the first 10 days of Muharram with special rituals, which this year spanned from July 19 to 28. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from Iran and other countries journey to the holy city of Karbala, Iraq, where Imam Hussein's shrine is located, to mark Ashura.

During these days, Iranians engage in mourning processions, listen to elegies, and distribute votive food, known as *nazri*, to honor the sacrifice of Imam Hussein. The night of Ashura in Iran, called *Shaam-e Ghariban*, is a time of lighting candles in holy places and gatherings, signifying solidarity with those far from home and in need of help.

Ta'zieh, a form of religious drama, becomes a centerpiece of Ashura commemorations in Iran. Representing religious events, historical narratives, and folk tales, *Ta'zieh* performances incorporate poetry, music, song, and motion. This powerful art form has been recognized by UNESCO, being registered on the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2010. It dates back to the 9th century and flourished during the Safavid (1501-1736) and Qajar eras.

Ashura's significance is not confined to Iran alone, as other countries with sizable Shia communities, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, also observe the day with reverence.

Ashura remains a poignant reminder of courage, devotion, and the eternal struggle for truth and justice. The legacy of Imam Hussein's sacrifice continues to resonate, inspiring people from diverse backgrounds to uphold the principles of righteousness and stand against oppression and tyranny.

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Iran mourns Imam Hussein



◀ Semnan Desert in central Iran, an unlikely location for gathering, hosts mourners of Imam Hussein (PBUH) on a hot Thursday, July 27, 2023.
 ● ALI ABAK/IRNA



◀ A green tent is burned in Sorkeh, central Iran, on July 27, 2023, as part of a practice carried out annually to recount the tragedies that the family of the third Shia Imam went through.
 ● AMIR SALAVATI/MEHR

◀ People of Qurtan village in the central province of Isfahan, Iran, take part in a unique mourning ritual dubbed "Zarkhak" on July 27, 2023.
 ● HASAN SHIRVANI/IRNA



◀ Shiite Muslims hold their hands up high, calling on their revered martyr, Imam Hussein (PBUH) in Tehran, Iran, on July 28, 2023.
 ● AHMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA



▶ Shiite Muslims perform their torch-carrying mourning ritual in Shahr-e-Rey, Iran, in a district where Iraqis mostly reside, on July 28, 2023.
 ● FOOROOGH TAHERKHANI/MEHR



◀ The Tabriz market hosts people of all ages beating their chests on July 27, 2023, in mourning for the seventh-century killing of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein.
 ● ALI HAMED HAGHDOST/IRNA

