

Tehran's first airport to be National Museum of Flight

Social Desk

Restoration work on the flight hangar situated in Velayat Park, formerly Qale Morghi Barracks, in southern Tehran has commenced, announced the CEO of Tehran Municipality Cultural Spaces Development Company.

The plan is to transform Tehran's first airport into a flight museum, according to IRNA.

Mohammad Nazem Razavi told the media that restoration efforts have begun on the flight hangar located in Velayat Park. He highlighted that the collection of flight hangars from the former Qale Morghi Airport is Tehran's oldest airport. It was decided that they should be transferred to Tehran Municipality.

Razavi continued by stating that historic Qale Morghi Airport was officially opened as Tehran's first airport in 1922 and has served Iran's aviation needs for over a century. Moreover, he mentioned that this airport is situated in the 19th district in southwestern Tehran. After

ceasing its flight services, it was decided by order of Iran's Leader to repurpose this complex under the authority of Tehran Municipality. The decision was aimed at addressing deficiencies in public spaces within southern areas of Tehran, while preserving runways and their functionality during times of crisis.

Razavi pointed out that this important decision led to the establishment of Velayat Park in 2011. Throughout its history, valuable buildings were constructed at this significant airport, some with national heritage value. He emphasized that among these structures are historical hangars dating back to when the airport was initially established. These hangars hold considerable cultural significance and were registered as one of Iran's national monuments on December 2, 1996.

Furthermore, Razavi clarified that these flight hangars from Qale Morghi Air-

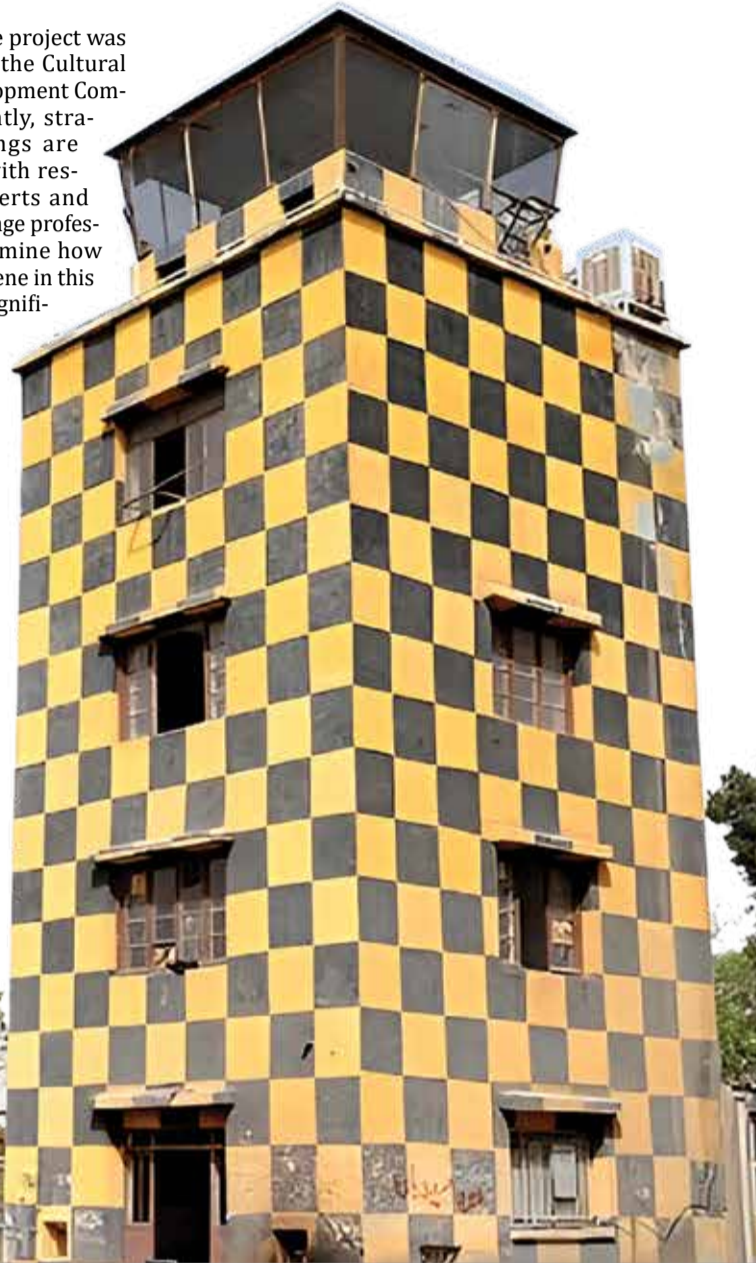
port symbolize a hundred years' worth of aviation history in Iran. Reviving them as a cultural-scientific and recreational site could attract numerous visitors. The architectural design successfully combines past elements with contemporary features using innovative technologies.

Razavi continued by stating that after a century since the airport's establishment, it has been decided to restore and revitalize these historic hangars, intermediate buildings, and surrounding areas. The plan is to establish the National Museum of Flight, which will serve the people of Tehran and Iran.

In addition to showcasing the history of flight and aviation in Iran and globally, this cultural-scientific complex aims to engage individuals interested in flight-related recreational and sports activities. It seeks to create a platform for talented youth in this field while also providing talent scouting opportunities for Iran's air force. Razavi mentioned that in

July 2023, the project was entrusted to the Cultural Spaces Development Company. Currently, strategic meetings are being held with restoration experts and cultural heritage professors to determine how best to intervene in this historically significant building.

Documentation and emergency protection measures will be implemented as initial steps towards preventing further damage to this monument's integrity and eliminating any potential risks.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's Defense Ministry builds solar power plants

Social Desk

Iran's Ministry of Defense has successfully initiated the first phase of its 300-megawatt solar power supply project. This endeavor aims to utilize clean electricity and protect the environment.

During the opening ceremony, Commander Mehdi Farahi, the deputy minister of defense, highlighted the ministry's social responsibilities in terms of environmental protection and reducing air pollution, ISNA reported.

He stated that in order to fulfill these duties, the ministry has planned to establish renewable power plants including solar and wind facilities. Farahi further explained that a four-year plan has been devised for generating 300 megawatts of electricity through solar power plants. The initial portion of the plan was inaugurated on Tuesday, August 8.

The first phase of the project encompasses an area spanning 700 square meters, with a capacity of 140 kilowatts.

Firefighters tackling blaze in southern Portugal



REUTERS

The Guardian – Hundreds of firefighters are scrambling to put out a blaze raging in southern Portugal that has scorched thousands of hectares of land and led to the precautionary evacuation of about 1,400 people.

The wildfire, which is being tackled by more than 800 firefighters, started on Saturday in the municipality of Odemira in the Alentejo region but has since spread south towards the Algarve, one of Portugal's top tourist destinations.

High temperatures and strong winds are complicating efforts to combat the flames, which have destroyed about 6,700 hectares of land. José Ribeiro, commander of the emergency and civil protection authority, said weather conditions were expected to remain a challenge.

Shortly before sunset on Monday, the sky in Odemira turned dark as a huge smoke cloud filled the air. Odemira's mayor, Hélder Guerreiro, called the situation "critical, difficult and complex" while Ribeiro said there was a "lot of work" ahead to bring the wildfire under control.

World is losing forests

In 2015, research on global forest cover revealed a concerning fact: 70 percent of the world's remaining forest now lies within 1 kilometer of the forest's edge. This process, called fragmentation, is causing the deepest and darkest parts of the world's forests to shrink.

Forest fragmentation is bad news for many unique animal and plant species that rely on these forests for their survival. It also reduces the forest's ability to capture and store carbon, which is an important part of tackling climate change.

Researchers from Fudan University in China recently conducted a study that mapped changes in global forest fragmentation between 2000 and 2020. Their results show that the most biodiverse forests on the planet – those found in the tropics – continue to suffer increasing fragmentation, mainly due to clearance for agriculture.

However, the picture is different in certain boreal, temperate, and sub-tropical regions. In particular, patches of forest in western Canada, western and far-eastern Russia, and central and southern China seem to be coming

together.

Less fragmentation should, in theory, benefit forest biodiversity and increase carbon removal. But the outcome ultimately depends on the type of forests that are regrowing or being planted. It's unclear from the study whether the regrowth consists of single-species plantations for timber or bioenergy, or if it's natural regeneration.

However, a different study in 2022 shed some light on the situation. It highlighted the presence of large areas of planted forest in temperate and boreal regions, alongside natural regenerated forests with signs of human management such as logging.

These forests host very different biodiversity to natural, old-growth forests, and are less effective at storing carbon.



GETTY IMAGES

Iran's strategic drug reserves up to 70%

Social Desk

In a recent announcement, Bahram Einollahi, Iran's Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, highlighted the progress made by the Ministry of Health in enhancing healthcare services.

The minister confirmed that strategic drug reserves have now reached 70 percent, ensuring a steady supply for patients across the country, IRNA reported.

Einollahi emphasized that his ministry has fulfilled all legal obligations to bolster the medical field's capacity. He noted that this year marks the second consecutive year of expansion efforts, following approval from the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution.

Last year alone witnessed a remarkable increase in medical field capacity by 27 percent, surpassing even the mandated target set at 20 percent.

Furthermore, Einollahi revealed notable advancements in other crucial areas of healthcare infrastructure. The government has acquired 500 new ambulances to strengthen

emergency response capabilities nationwide. Additionally, an impressive total of 15,000 hospital beds have been added thus far with plans to incorporate another 6,700 beds before year-end.

Addressing concerns regarding patient care within public institutions and hospitals, Einollahi underscored that no doctor is allowed to refer patients from public departments to private facilities or practices. Such actions are considered violations under current regulations. The progressive measures implemented by Iran's Ministry of Health demonstrate their commitment towards improving healthcare access and quality while ensuring adequate supplies for patients throughout the nation.



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