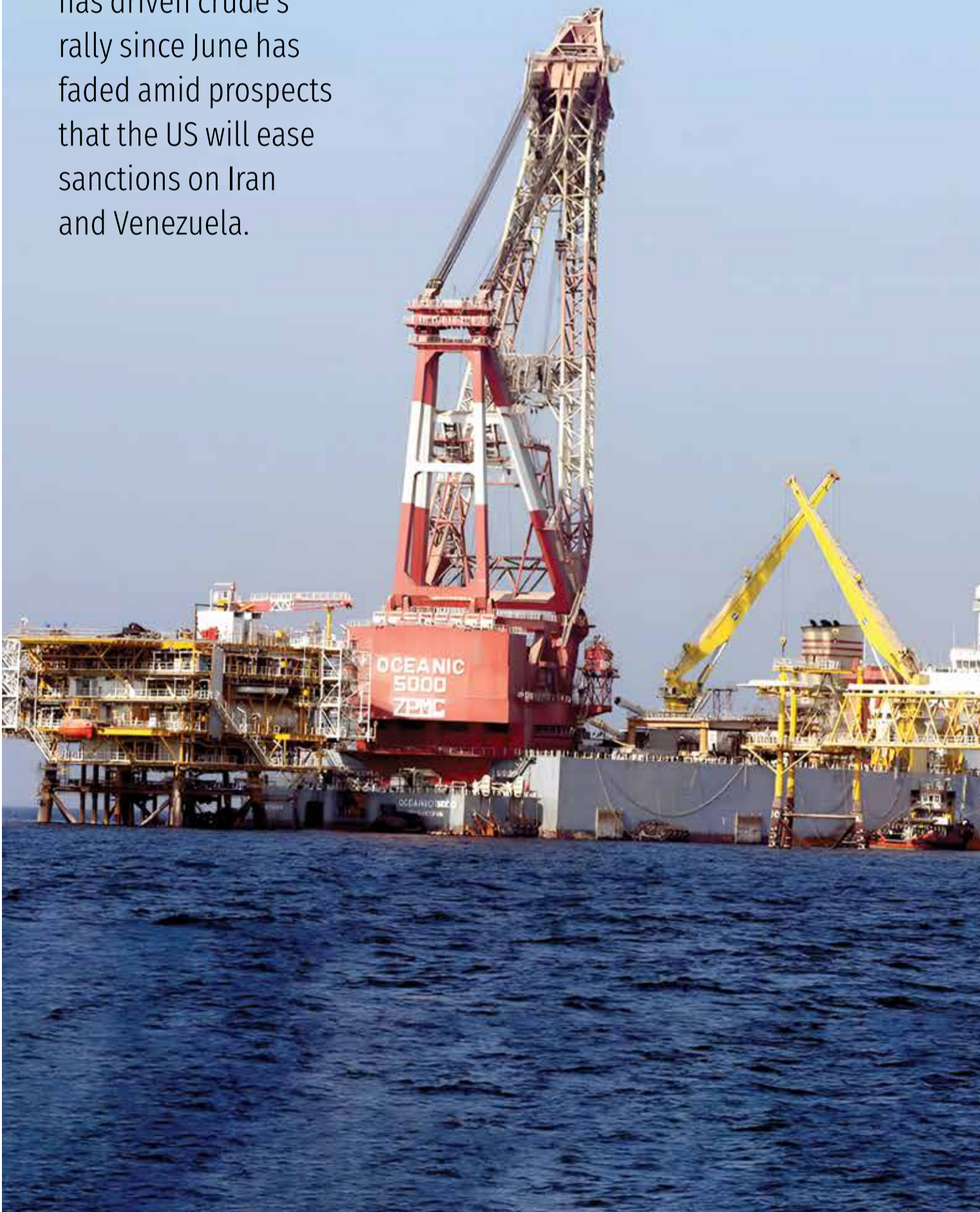


Prospects of Iranian Crude Pushing Prices Down

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The narrative of tight supplies that has driven crude's rally since June has faded amid prospects that the US will ease sanctions on Iran and Venezuela.



Raesi calls for 'efficient, agile' administrative system

Social Desk

Removing obstacles and challenges facing the country's administrative system requires motivated, thoughtful, and speedy hard work, Iranian President Ebrahim Raesi said. "In a situation where the enemy wants an inefficient administrative system with the aim of creating dissatisfaction among people, officials should work hard with a double spirit," he said on Saturday morning during the celebration of Government Week and the 18th Shahid Rajaie Festival. The Iranian President appreciated the sincere efforts of all the government officials in the ministries, organizations and administrative bodies across the country to create hope in society and emphasized the undeniable necessity of transformation of the country's administrative system in the second step of the Islamic Revolution. "An efficient, agile, and promising administrative system plays a very important role in realizing the goals of the glorious Islamic Revolution and the continuation of this revolutionary system," he said.

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UN welcomes Iran's regional initiative



By Mehdi Shakibaei
Expert on Middle East Affairs

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani has said that the United Nations will host an important meeting of the foreign ministers of the eight littoral states of the Persian Gulf, which is scheduled to be held next month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. In fact, the meeting is to be held in the framework of an Iran initiative for the formation of a regional forum for dialogue and cooperation between the northern and southern states of the Persian Gulf. After being welcomed by the countries of the region, the plan has now been welcomed by the United Nations.

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Iran-Russia military ties will withstand pressure: Ryabkov

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Moscow's military cooperation with Tehran will not succumb to geopolitical pressure amid expansion of military relations between the two countries. "There are no changes, and cooperation with Iran will continue," Ryabkov said, according to a report on Saturday from Russian state news agency RIA. "We are independent states and do not succumb to the dictates of the United States and its satellites." The senior diplomat's comments came days after the commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force said during a visit to Russia that military cooperation between the two countries was expanding every day.

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Iran's steel production capacity increases by 200K tons

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Museum of Contemporary Art hosts impressive collection

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Russia's TASS delegation visits Iran Cultural & Press Institute

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran's H1
pistachios
exports
to Europe
at €48m

TASNIM – The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) said Iran exported €48 million worth of pistachios to the European Union in the first six months of 2023 (January-June), showing a 39 percent decline compared with the same period last year. Iran had exported over €78.6 million worth of pistachios to the European Union from January to June 2022. According to the report, Iran's shelled pistachio exports to Europe from January to June 2023 reached €15.7 million, registering a 50 percent decline compared to the corresponding period last year.

Iran to
inaugurate
agricultural
projects

IRIB NEWS – Iranian Agriculture Minister Mohammad-Ali Nikbakht said that 2,300 agricultural projects, with a total investment of about \$492 million, will be inaugurated across the country by August 30. According to Nikbakht, most of the projects will be operational in less privileged regions of the country. Projects related to water and soil have the lion's share.

'ECB must
gauge digital
euro impact
on banks
before launch'

REUTERS – The European Central Bank needs to measure the impact of the digital euro on the euro zone's banking system before any final decision on its potential launch, said Spain's Deputy Central Bank Governor Margarita Delgado. The ECB is due to decide in October whether to push ahead with a digital euro, which aims to tackle a shortage of European payment service providers.

Prospects of Iranian crude
pushing prices down

Oil posted its second straight weekly decline as signals of additional crude supplies and a deteriorating global demand outlook loomed over a string of thinly traded sessions. The narrative of tight supplies that has driven crude's rally since June has faded amid

prospects that the US will ease sanctions on Iran and Venezuela, wrote Bloomberg. In the physical market, Marathon Petroleum Corp. is shutting the third-largest oil refinery in the US after a fire. Crude has had a volatile week, with prices often struggling for direction amid thin

summer trading. Oil's open interest is hovering near January lows, while the US Oil Fund ETF reported its biggest daily outflow since 2020 on Wednesday. West Texas Intermediate futures settled below US\$80 a barrel, cementing a 1.7 per cent weekly decline. Prices pared some of this week's drop on Friday as Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's

speech on the path for interest rates largely matched traders' expectations. In addition to Powell's remarks, China unveiled a further easing of its mortgage policies to halt a slump in its ailing property market. Crude is now trading roughly where it started the year, despite efforts by OPEC+ members Saudi Arabia and Russia to boost prices by curbing supply.

Lingering expectations that the Fed isn't completely done with its campaign of monetary tightening have also added to headwinds. Iran's production climbed to 3 million barrels a day in July, the highest level since 2018, according to the International Energy Agency in Paris. Tehran expects to boost output to 3.4 million barrels in coming weeks, Oil Minister Javad Owji recently

told the Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee, according to Shana. That may increase to 3.6 million barrels by year's end, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter. Rebounding sales are one of the most tangible signs yet that Iran is reasserting itself on the global stage after starting to repair ties with regional rivals and foster relations with Asia's leading powers.

Renewables development increased
by three times

● IRNA

Economy Desk

The development of Iran renewable energy has increased by 225 megawatts (MW) which has been a threefold increase in current government since two years ago, said Ali Shabnavard, the director general of the supervision, qualification, and project control of Iran's Renewable Energy and Electricity Organization. About 79 percent of the installed renewable energy capacity of Iran has been launched before the current government took office in

2021, while 21 percent was added later and the quick growth has been achieved thanks to proper policies and facilitations of the current government, according to IRNA. The current capacity of Iran's renewable power plants stands at 1,084 MW since thirty years ago, Shabnavard noted. In the past years, only one method was used to develop renewable energy, while currently many other methods have been considered to accelerate the development of renewable energy, the official added.

Iran's steel production capacity
up by 200K tons

Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Abbas Ali-Abadi inaugurated the second phase of the Bisotoun Steel Company in the western province of Kermanshah on Saturday. By launching the development project, the annual sponge iron production capacity of the plant increased by 200,000 tons, IRNA reported. The mill's second phase, that includes smelting and

reduction units, created 472 jobs. The first phase of the Bisotoun Steel Company was inaugurated on May 1, 2019, with a nameplate capacity of 250,000 tons per year. According to the figures released by World Steel Association (WSA) on August 22, Iranian steelmakers churned out 18.1 million tons of crude steel during the first seven months of the current year, up 4.1 percent compared to the



● IRNA

same period in 2022. WSA figures indicated that the country produced two

million tons of steel ingots in the seventh month of 2023.

Iran to launch Mideast
largest zinc plant

● IRNA

The largest zinc processing factory in the Middle East will be launched in central Iran.

Possessing over 700 million tons of mineral reserves of lead and zinc, and about 170 million tons of extractable reserves, the Mahdiabad Lead and Zinc and Barite Mine Complex is considered the second largest reserve in the world, said the director of the complex, Hamidreza Hemayat, according to IRNA. The mine will produce 800,000 tons of zinc concentrate and 80,000 tons of lead-silver concentrate in three phases, he said, adding that the first phase of the complex is proceeding to its final stages.

Once the first phase of this giant project is completed, the largest lead and zinc processing factory in the Middle East will

come into being, Hemayat underscored.

He put the country's current production capacity of zinc ingot and proven ingot production at 490,000 and about 220,000 tons, respectively. Regarding the supply of main infrastructures of this project, he said that the implementation of a plan to supply water to Mahdiabad Plant was launched with the construction of a 100-km pipeline from Yazd Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is considered the largest wastewater conveyance project in the country. Hemayat also pointed to the \$1 billion worth of investment needed for the operation of all phases of this giant project and put the investment made for the completion of the first phase of this project at \$300 million.

Mass supply of electric vehicles to start next year: **Minister**

Economy Desk

Iran will start mass production and supply of electric vehicles (EV)

from the next Iranian calendar year (starting March 2025). Also the country has started mass production

of electric buses that a significant number of them will start services by the end of the current Iranian calendar year

(March 21), said Abbas Aliabadi, the minister of industry, mine and trade, according to IRNA. A large number of EVs

are to be available for people by next year as currently several EVs have been produced. The commercial produc-

tion of electric motorcycles has started either, as two companies are ahead of the others to produce them, Aliabadi noted.

Museum of Contemporary Art hosts impressive collection



● apochi.com



● apochi.com

As the capital and largest city of Iran, Tehran is a vibrant and culturally rich destination that offers a wide range of attractions and activities for visitors. One of the city's top destinations for art lovers is the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, a world-class museum that features a vast collection of modern and contemporary art from Iran and around the world. Located in the heart of the city, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is housed in a beautiful building that was once the palace of the Qajar dynasty. The museum's collection includes more than 3,000 works of art by Iranian and international artists, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, and multimedia installations, apochi.com wrote.

One of the highlights of the museum is its collection of works by famous European and American artists, including Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, and Andy Warhol. The museum also has a significant collection of works by Iranian artists, including Faramarz Pilaram, Sohrab Sepehri, and Abbas Kiarostami. The museum's diverse collection offers a fascinating insight into the art of Iran and the world. In addition to its permanent collection, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art also hosts temporary exhibitions featuring the work of emerging and established artists from around the world. These exhibitions provide a unique opportunity to see the latest trends in modern and contemporary art and discover

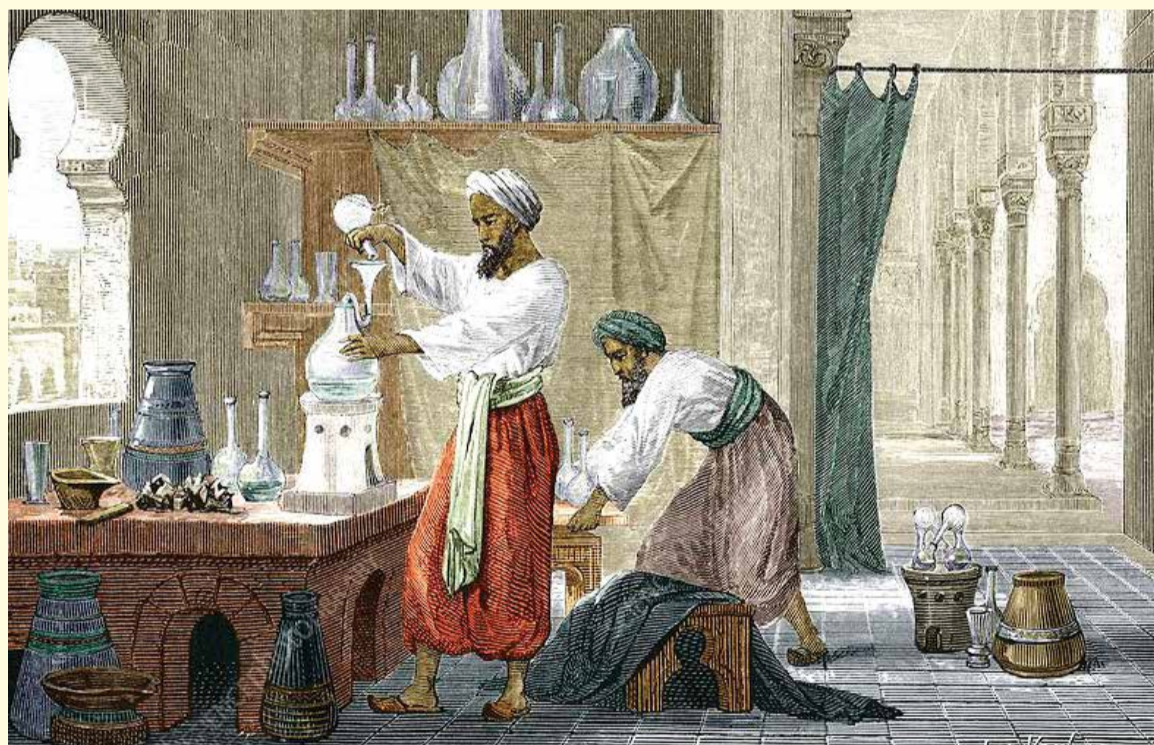


● livingintehran.com

new artists. The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is more than just a museum; it's a cultural hub that offers a range of amenities and services to its visitors. The museum has a library with a wide selection of books on art and culture, as well as a café where visitors can relax and enjoy a meal or a cup of coffee. The museum also has a gift shop where visitors can purchase souvenirs and gifts. If you're planning a trip to Tehran and are interested in modern and contemporary art, you must visit the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. With its impressive collection and constantly changing exhibitions, the museum offers something for art lovers of all interests. Whether you're a seasoned art

enthusiast, or simply looking for a unique and educational experience, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art has something to offer. To make the most of your visit, it's a good idea to plan ahead and purchase tickets in advance, as the museum can get quite busy. The museum is open every day except Mondays, and tickets can be purchased online or at the museum's ticket office. Overall, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is a unique and exciting destination that offers a variety of art and cultural experiences for visitors. If you're interested in modern and contemporary art, be sure to add the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art to your itinerary during your trip to Tehran.

Persian polymath Razi's legacy in medicine



 **Complied by Sahba Saffary**
Guest contributor

Abu Bakr Muhammad Ibn Zakariya al-Razi, a versatile Persian physician, philosopher and alchemist, was born in 865 CE in the ancient city of Rey, a provincial capital of the Samanid Empire. He died there in 925 CE. He is best known for his contributions to alchemy, medicine and philosophy, ethics in

medicine and metaphysics, and authored 184 books and treatises on these subjects. Razi was well-versed in the Greek language and was an admirer and critic of Galen, the Roman Greek physician, surgeon and philosopher. There is little information regarding Razi's early life, but it is written that he played the lute in his youth and wrote an encyclopedia of music. Unable to make a comfortable living

with music, he changed his interest to alchemy. As a real chemist and physicist, he performed a great deal of research and laid the foundation for scientific chemistry to replace alchemy, having written several books and treatises in the field. He discovered and purified alcohol (ethanol) and pioneered its use in medicine. The discovery of ammonium chloride and other acids is also attributed to Razi. His achievements are par-

ticularly important in the history of chemistry for his systematic classification of chemical substances, chemical reactions, and the apparatus used in his laboratory. In two important books, Kitab al-Asrar (the Book of Secrets) and Sirr al-Asrar (Secret of the Secrets), he classified matter into three categories: plant, animal, and mineral origin. When asked if he had obtained the knowledge of turning iron and copper into gold,

he replied with heretofore not described appreciation of the limits of scientific chemistry: "I understand alchemy and I have been working on the characteristic properties of metals for an extended time. However, it still has not turned out to be evident to me, how one can transmute gold from copper." Twenty books and treatises in chemistry, written in the Persian language are known to be the work of Razi. But he stopped his studies in alchemy because the chemical experiments caused him an eye disease. At age 30, Razi, the great Persian polymath, began his medical and philosophical studies and gained practical experience as the director of the Royal Hospital of Rey. Later, at the invitation of Baghdad's ruler, he moved to the city to head its famous Muqtadari Hospital for a long time. The same caliph asked Razi to build a hospital, but before doing so, Razi put fresh pieces of meat in various places in the city. Some later time he checked each piece to find the least spoiled one and chose that place as the site of the hospital. Because of his high reputation as a physician, philosopher and teacher, students flocked to him



from all over the Islamic territories. He was a tireless and prolific author in medicine. About 40 of his medical books and treatises are still extant in the libraries and museums of Iran, Britain, France and the library of the United States Congress. George Sarton, a Belgian-American chemist and historian, in his 'Introduction to the History of Science' wrote that Razi was the greatest physician of Islam and the Middle Ages. Razi was a pioneer in many areas of medicine particularly in the fields of pediatrics and infectious diseases. He wrote an immense medical encyclopedia, a comprehensive book on medicine called Hawi or Kitab al-Hawi Fi al-Tibb (the Comprehensive Book on Medicine) consisting of 23 volumes, containing many extracts from Greek

and Hindu authors and clinical observations of his own. Razi was the first to note the pupillary reaction to light. He wrote in the middle of the iris appears a hole that contracts when the light is strong but dilates in obscurity. He also described the operation for the cataract and stated: "I have split the lower part of the pupil and have led the cataract outward." He did animal experiments with new drugs, noting their effects and toxicity before administering them to his patients. A volume of Hawi is dedicated to pharmacology. Indeed, pharmacy can trace much of its historical foundations to the singular achievements of Razi. His birthday on August 27 has been adopted as the Pharmacology and Pharmacy Day in Iran.

Some Want to 'Wipe Iran, Armenia Off Map'



By Zhanna Vardanyan
Iranologist

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Armenia and Iran, bound together by threads of civilization and history, find themselves facing fresh challenges in the evolving regional landscape. Effectively tackling these challenges demands concerted collaboration. Our interview with Professor Vardan Voskanyan, the head of the Chair of Iranian Studies at Yerevan State University's Faculty of Oriental Studies, sheds light on these pressing concerns, exploring strategies to address them and envisaging the potential horizons for the advancement of Armenian-Iranian relations.

IRAN DAILY: Armenian-Iranian relations have stood the test of time, and a new chapter unfolded after the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) war. What current challenges confront both parties and where do their interests align?

VOSKANYAN: The relations between Armenia and Iran go back to thousands of years ago. It should be noted that these relations fit into the concept of "one civilization, two nations," "one civilization, two states," and "one civilization, two religions," forging a distinctive bond. The Armenian-Iranian border stands as one of the oldest worldwide, emblematic of friendship, brotherhood, and peace, particularly following the dissolution of the Soviet

Union. Nonetheless, the aftermath of the 2020 Azerbaijani aggression has introduced fresh challenges for both Armenia and Iran. Foremost among these is Turkey's expanding footprint in the South Caucasus, marked by political, military, and economic entanglements with Azerbaijan. This Turkish influence presents formidable obstacles for both the Republic of Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Moreover, Turkey's involvement within the bounds of Azerbaijan has introduced supplementary challenges across various domains. It is evident that the present-day Erdogan administration pursues a policy aimed at establishing the "Great Turan," a two-phase initiative

involving, first, the establishment of a presence in the territory of Azerbaijan, then, the increase of Turkish influence in the Turkic republics of Central Asia beyond the Caspian Sea. In this sense, the so-called "Turanian Corridor" has become one of the components of this plan. The Turkish presence not only has the context of promoting the Turkish expansionist policy but also significantly refers to Turkey's membership in NATO. Therefore, these Pan-Turan aspirations also have a NATO component at their core. Consequently, these Pan-Turan aspirations evoke apprehension in both Armenia and Iran. Another important circumstance should be taken into account. It is obvious that although Baku and Ankara are

now actually afraid to speak about Atrpatakan (northwestern provinces of Iran), in their long-term plans there is a clear policy aimed at making this ancient Iranian territory a part of their expansionist plans as well. Equally noteworthy is the notion of "Azerbaijani expansionism" encompassing aggressive policies and military actions aimed at compromising Armenia's territorial integrity, alongside the comprehensive annexation of the Republic of Artsakh. In addition to these challenges, it is pertinent to highlight that Baku often does not hide the support and assistance it provides to various terrorist entities inside Iran with the objective of destabilizing Iran's internal security. This backing

extends to terrorist entities in Atrpatakan and other regions. In this regard should be mentioned the 2022 terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz with its links tracing back to Baku. Consequently, the current landscape has necessitated a recalibration of Armenian-Iranian relations. Beyond their historical camaraderie, this recalibration primarily centers on the shared threats that have the potential to undermine the security of both nations.

In particular, what are the areas that Yerevan and Tehran should give priority to deepening?

As I previously mentioned, security should serve as the fore-

most axis around which they should shape a qualitatively new phase of Armenian-Iranian relations. Naturally, these relations should encompass military-political and security facets. In my perspective, the establishment of a collaborative Armenian-Iranian military force holds great potential for effectiveness. This joint force could take the form of a synchronized and coordinated unit, comprising elements from both the Iranian and Armenian militaries.

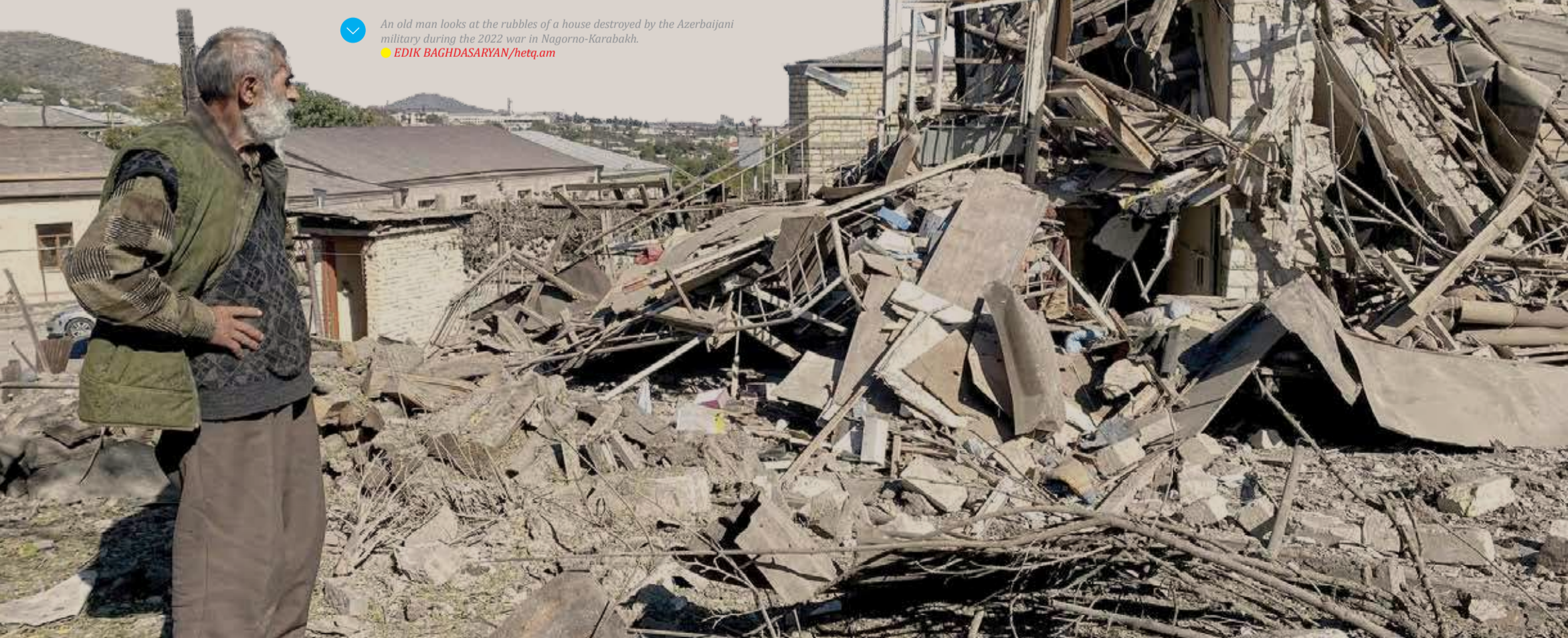
Secondly, it is extremely important for the military-political com-

ponent of Armenian-Iranian relations to have an anti-terrorist character as well. It is noteworthy that during the 2020 Azerbaijani aggression in Artsakh, terrorist elements were introduced to our region, with Ankara's involvement being transparent. Hence, the military-political sphere of Armenian-Iranian relations should encompass the planning and execution of concerted anti-terrorist operations. These operations can be carried out under the supervision and guidance of a jointly established anti-ter-



Professor Vardan Voskanyan, Head of the Chair of Iranian Studies at Yerevan State University's Faculty of Oriental Studies

An old man looks at the rubbles of a house destroyed by the Azerbaijani military during the 2022 war in Nagorno-Karabakh.
● EDIK BAGHDASARYAN/hetq.am





Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (L) shakes hands with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Tehran, Iran, on November 1, 2022.
IRNA

rorist center, complete with strategic coordination and programming. Turning to the conventional domains, it is evident that they remain of utmost importance — once again with a focus on security. Significantly elevating the quality of economic relations between Iran and Armenia is paramount. The two nations should strive to enhance the efficiency of their economic interactions, fostering an enduring era of collaboration. In essence, both states can make substantial strides toward economic integration, thereby laying a robust economic foundation that bolsters the overarching security framework.

What internal and external obstacles do you see in the development of bilateral relations? What steps are needed to eliminate them? In the realm of bilateral relations, significant obstacles stem from both internal and external sources. If we address the internal impediments, it would become apparent that further steadfast will is required within Armenia to foster multilateral ties with Iran. This determination must assume a strategic character, effectively endowing relations with Iran with a privileged status within Armenia's security strategy. Elevating this relationship to a level of strategic aspiration or significance across all dimensions is imperative. There are also certain challenges within Iran itself. Notably, one of the principal hindrances, in my view, arises from the activities of various pan-Turkic lobby groups. While these groups may not hold positions at the upper echelons of the Iranian government, they nonetheless

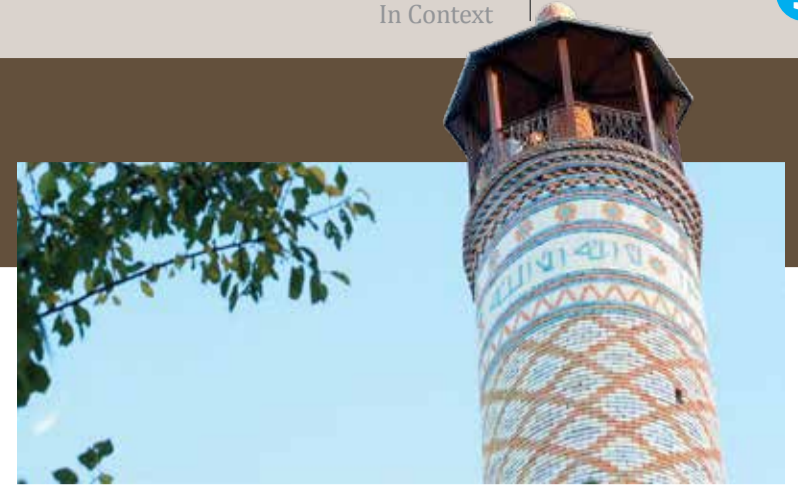
manage to introduce certain obstacles at intermediate and lower levels, hindering the advancement of Armenian-Iranian relations. Concerning external barriers, it is evident that nations harboring adversarial stances toward both Iran and Armenia could express substantial reservations about the deepening and heightened strategic nature of these relations. Hence, external obstacles do wield significance. However, a crucial aspect must be borne in mind: neither internal nor external impediments can preclude the elevation of Armenian-Iranian relations to the sought-after aspirational or strategic level. Such relations emanate from the vital security interests of both nations. Consequently, it is incumbent upon both sides to capitalize on all available avenues, ensuring that Armenian-Iranian relations firmly embody the aspirational or strategic nature underscored earlier.

In addition to governmental cooperation, what role should the scientific and expert communities of both sides, as well as representatives of civil society, play?

Over centuries, the Armenian and Iranian peoples have exemplified exceptional fraternal and amicable relations within our region. As I highlighted at the outset of this interview, I firmly believe that we are products of the same civilizational sphere. Armenians and Iranians, along with Armenia and Iran as states, represent two advanced and cultured societies that find themselves confronting hostile and uncivilized elements within our region, whose aim is to propagate terrorism, undermine the internal and exter-

nal security of Armenia and Iran, and ultimately erase our civilizations from the regional map. This is a complex and far-reaching agenda, which necessitates not only the active engagement of politicians but also places a significant responsibility on the intellectual class within both nations. The scientific community, in particular, possesses a pivotal role, as does the sector devoted to what is often termed "people's diplomacy".

In my view, the cornerstone of this people's diplomacy should center on the ideological framework of "one civilization, two nations," "one civilization, two states," "one civilization, two religions," and "one civilization, two languages". Within this framework, gradual deepening of relations and cooperation across scientific, academic, cultural, and broader civilizational spheres should transpire. It is within this cultural realm that a fertile ground for the advancement of political, military-political, and economic ties can be cultivated. This civilizational realm holds the potential to engender an atmosphere within both societies that yields influence over political decisions. This civilizational domain should formulate the vision that is appropriate to the concept of forming a civilizational alliance between the two states and peoples with such ancient civilizational roots. This civilizational domain is of paramount significance, and considerable effort needs to be channeled into its development. Therefore, diligent work in this direction should be actively promoted with state backing and sponsorship, amplifying the potential for even more effective cultural, civilizational, scien-



Gohar Lady's Upper Mosque A Sentiment to Armenian-Iranian Cultural Dialogue



By Karine
Mkrtchyan
Iranologist

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The restoration and preservation of Gohar Lady's Upper Mosque (also known as Gohar Agha Upper Mosque) attests to Armenia's and Nagorno-Karabakh's respect for Iran's cultural and historical heritage. The mosque in question is a religious complex and "madrasa" (seminary) building adjacent to another mosque in the city of Shushi of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), which came under the control of Azerbaijan after the 44-day war in 2020.

The Upper Mosque, the main Muslim religious building in Shushi, was constructed in the 1880s under the patronage of the daughter of Ibrahim Khan of Karabakh. The roof of the Upper Mosque was renovated with state subsidies in 2009 as part of the Shushi mosques' rehabilitation program. Large-scale rehabilitation work began in 2014 with the assistance of the Initiatives for Development of Armenia (IDeA) Foundation and the Revival of Oriental Historical Heritage Foundation. Work on the study and restoration of the mosque was completed in 2019 with the participation of the Armenian National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites NGO (ICOMOS-Armenia), the Iranian architectural firm Part Saman Jahan, the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization, and Lorenzo Yurina, lecturer of Polytechnic University of Milan.

Making an opening speech at the event dedicated to the completion of the Upper Mosque's restoration, Nagorno-Karabakh's Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs, and Tourism said that the mosque will function as an Armenian-Iranian scientific cultural center and will contribute to the strengthening of Armenian-Iranian relations. As a Christian-Islamic cultural prop-

erty, Gohar Lady's Upper Mosque shows how deep Armenian-Iranian cultural ties go. The existence of the Iranian religious and cultural center in Shushi testifies to both the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's outlook toward civilizational values and the representation, preservation, and development of the cultural heritage of its neighbor state in step with its own regardless of ethnic, religious, and other differences.

In this context, Iran, too, has always demonstrated a matching civilized approach towards the Armenian cultural properties that are located on Iranian territory. Mutual respect and preservation efforts ensure that the cultural heritages of both are protected and serve as a vivid model for other countries in the region to follow.

The liberation of Shushi in 1992 was a watershed moment that paved the way for showcasing and acknowledging both Armenian and Iranian cultural properties with their unique historical, architectural, and aesthetic qualities. Furthermore, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic undertook various initiatives from 1994 to 2020 to preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage, but the war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Artsakh on September 27, 2020, and Baku's post-war policies clearly targeted the historic Armenian presence in Nagorno-Karabakh and the territory's cultural properties. The deliberate destruction of Nagorno-Karabakh's cultural properties during and after the armed conflict has been qualified as a war crime in several international conventions and declarations. The most famous examples of such policies are the deliberate targeting and desecration of Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral and St. John the Baptist (or Kanach Zham) church of Shushi, and the targeting of the Upper Mosque on November 1, 2020.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the promotion of the Armenian-Iranian resource-based cooperation policy can best fulfill the strategic task of preserving, recognizing, and popularizing their civilizational and cultural heritages.



Gohar Lady's Upper Mosque in Shushi city of Nagorno-Karabakh's
artsakhpress.am

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lula: Iran
'important
partner'

NATIONAL DESK

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva underlined the crucial role of Iran as a significant trade partner for his country, emphasizing the importance of maintaining this commercial partnership in the years ahead.

"For the first time, I met with Ebrahim Raeisi, the president of Iran, one of the countries that will join the BRICS as of 2024," Lula wrote in a post published on his X (formerly known as Twitter) page, after a summit of the bloc in Johannesburg. "Iran was the largest importer of Brazilian products in the Middle East in 2022, having imported almost \$4.3 billion worth of commodities, and should continue to be an important commercial partner for Brazil in the coming years."

Minibus
plunge
kills 10 in
E Azarbaijan

IRNA – A minibus carrying mountaineers in north-western Iran plunged into a ravine on Friday, killing 10 people and injuring eight others.

The accident occurred near the city of Varzaqan, East Azarbaijan Province, said the provincial emergency services spokesman Vahid Shadinia.

The minibus was heading towards a tourist village in the mountainous region when it overturned for an undetermined reason and fell into the ravine, Shadinia added.

"If the seat belts had been buckled, the number of victims would have been lower," the official said.

Photographer
released
from Taliban
custody

PRESS TV – An Iranian photojournalist recently taken into custody by the Taliban-run government in Afghanistan has been released and handed over to officials at the Iranian Embassy in Kabul.

Taliban deputy spokesman Bilal Karimi confirmed on Saturday the release of Mohammad Hossein Velayati, who works for the Tehran-based Tasnim news agency.

Defense Ministry spokesman:

Huge demand for
Iranian drones in Europe

National desk

The Iranian Defense Ministry spokesman has highlighted the increasing demand for Iran-made advanced unmanned aerial vehicles, revealing a strong interest from numerous countries in procuring these drones.

"We have received numerous requests from various countries, notably from Western and European countries. However, these parties have expressed a preference to keep their identities confidential," Reza Talaie-Nik told Tasnim news agency.

Offering insight into the defense industries' achievements exhibition, he explained, "While our permanent export exhibition showcases a range of products, certain achievements are deliberately omitted from the display due to certain considerations."

On Wednesday, military attachés from 37 countries visited Iran's Defense Industries Exhibition, organized to mark Iranian Defense Industry Day – August 22.

Emphasizing the ministry's cautious approach, the spokesman underscored, "We are open to exporting drones from our designated portfolio, provided that there are no political or security constraints with the recipient country."

"And we must be confident that



IRNA

our drones won't be used inappropriately. Considering the capacity for drone production and fulfilling domestic needs, we are prepared to export drones that are included in our export portfolio," he added. Addressing the topic of foreign weaponry procurement, Talaie-Nik emphasized:

"While prioritizing domestic capabilities remains paramount for meeting our Armed Forces' needs, there are instances where external procurement is necessary to complement our domestic armaments. Especially in the field of aerial combat, historically, the Ministry of Defense has included

this consideration in its foreign procurement plan. Some initiatives have reached their final stages, but the process of foreign arms procurement contracts tends to be lengthy."

When asked about the arrival of specific aircraft, Talaie-Nik clarified, "As agreements progress to

the final operational phase, the necessary information will be shared with the people of Iran. Given security concerns, no country is willing to disclose information about these processes before their completion. I can assure you that no process has been canceled or disrupted."

UN welcomes Iran's...

The initiative to create such a forum was proposed after a recent Chinese-brokered détente between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which was welcomed by the regional countries amid a positive atmosphere, which has been created after the thaw in relations between Tehran and Riyadh.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian spelled out the details of Iran's plan during a recent trip to Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE. The plan has been welcomed by the countries in the region – an issue that would also make it easier for the UN to host the meeting.

This initiative is in line with the general policy of Iran's current government, which pays special attention to the development of relations with its neighbors and emphasizes a balanced foreign policy. As a result of this policy, we have seen that improvement of Iran's relationship with its neighbors has gained momentum over the past two years, and the poor relations has now turned into friendship and coop-

eration among these countries. Before this, the previous Iranian government had put forward an initiative called Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE) for cooperation on the region's security and peace, which was not welcomed by the countries of the region. This is because the previous government paid all its attention to development of its relations with Western countries and paid no heed to relations with regional countries.

So, the Arab states of the Persian Gulf came to a conclusion that the HOPE initiative is just a tactic employed by Iran to buy time.

However, after the current government took office in Iran, the same countries warmly opened their arms to Iran and grabbed Iran's outstretched hands. Therefore, the de-escalation in the region and the improvement of Iran's relations with its neighbors is a great achievement for Iran's current government, which has completed work that had been left incomplete over the last four decades, that is ensuring the security of the region

by the countries of the region. Since its establishment, the Islamic Republic of Iran has pursued the policy of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the West Asian region. Tehran has defined the issue of the security of the Persian Gulf and the important Strait of Hormuz in the framework of a "nation-based" security and believes that the countries of the region can themselves guarantee the security of this important region without the presence of foreigners.

Iran believes that the presence of foreigners not only brings insecurity, but creates crisis in the region.

The events that have occurred in the region in the last four decades and the various crises and wars with huge costs imposed on the regional countries, have proved that Iran's opposition with the presence of foreigners is correct. And now for the first time, the southern countries of the Persian Gulf have realized that foreign forces cannot bring them security. The Persian Gulf countries have



significant capacities that can improve their position in the world through cooperation. These countries are energy producers and 40% of the world's energy passes through the Strait of Hormuz. The cooperation of these countries and the definition of common programs between them will surely promote their role in international political and economic organizations. These countries are a bridge between East and West as well as North and South, and through better relations they will have better economic, political and

security positions in the world. The Dialogue and Cooperation Forum of the Persian Gulf countries can be a suitable platform for the development of cooperation between the eight Persian Gulf countries and generate more economic, political and security benefits for them. Therefore, the meeting of the foreign ministers of Persian Gulf countries in New York is an important event for the future of the region. It also contributes to the new position that Iran has gained in international developments since the Ukraine crisis.

Iran-Russia military ...

Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari said his force is ready to boost military cooperation with Russia.

Heidari made the remark in a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army's

Ground Forces, General Oleg Salyukov, in Moscow on Monday. The Russian commander, for his part, said his country regards Iran as one of the key countries in West Asia and a strategic partner of Moscow. Salyukov added that intensive

political talks are underway between Tehran and Moscow aimed at improving relations.

No deals canceled

Meanwhile, the spokesman for Iran's Defense Ministry Reza Talaie-Nik said on Saturday that

none of the agreements reached between Tehran and Moscow have been canceled.

Iran has previously reiterated that its military and defense ties with Russia sit in the framework of mutual interests of the two states and are not against any

third country.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great progress in developing a broad range of military equipment, making the Armed Forces self-sufficient in the defense sector.

Iranian leopards enjoy favorable condition in northern forests



Social Desk

The presence of Iranian leopards in the forests of the northern county of Savadkuh, Mazandaran Province, has been captured by environmental ranger Ali Akbar Imani's camera trap images. The video is currently being shared on social media, while wildlife officials interpret it as an indication of favorable living conditions for these leopards in natural areas within the province, IRNA reported. The Iranian leopard, scientifically known as *Panthera pardus tulliana* and commonly referred to as Persian Leopard, is one of the largest subspecies native to West Asia. Considered the world's largest leopard species,

the Iranian leopard has a wide habitat throughout Iran. Estimates suggest a population ranging from 500 to 800 individuals observed in various provinces including Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, Semnan, Fars, Yazd, and Sistan and Baluchestan.

The forests of Iran's northern part serve as a significant habitat for Iranian leopards. More than a hundred individuals have been identified through collar tagging according to environmental reports. Mazandaran's Department of the Environment announced that approximately 24 percent of its area falls under one of four specified environmental zones managed by their department –

national parks, national natural monuments, wildlife refuges, and protected areas. Mazandaran boasts several notable sites such as Shahdezh and Paband national parks, along with Miankaleh Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetland, as well as Semeskandeh, Dasht-e Naz, Do Dangeh, Chahar Dangeh, and Fereydunkenar wildlife refuge areas.

According to the director of Mazandaran Wildlife Department, leopards tend to be scattered across most protected areas within the province where they find suitable environments for habitation.

As nocturnal creatures often roaming forests and pastures during nighttime, Iranian leop-

ards are frequently captured on camera trap images set up to monitor animals and detect any violations by hunters. These photographs are also shared online.

Kuros Rabiei, the head of Mazandaran Wildlife Department, highlighted the presence of camera traps in protected areas like Kiasar, Savadkuh, Amol, and Central Alborz.

"This system not only aids in monitoring animal species and protecting the environment, but also helps track hunting violations," he said.

Rabiei expressed optimism about the future prospects for leopard conservation within Mazandaran Province due to numerous leopard sightings recorded

through camera traps. "The relatively good living conditions observed suggests that leopards thrive there," he added. The improved awareness among forest communities has played a significant role in creating a favorable environment for leopards. In recent years, environmental experts and rangers have provided valuable information regarding their behavior to local ranchers. Consequently, conflicts between humans and leopards have been reduced as ranchers gain better understanding.

"Non-governmental organizations devoted to wildlife preservation along with media efforts in reporting on leopard conservation contribute significantly towards op-

timizing their habitat," the official stated.

He pointed out that spring marks the time when leopards give birth to multiple cubs.

"Providing a secure environment with minimal conflict is crucial during this period," he said.

Considering the simultaneous presence of livestock alongside these wild animals' habitats during birthing season necessitates vigilance from ranchers to ensure safety and comfort for both domesticated livestock and leopards alike.



Scan QR code to watch video

IRNA



TASNIM

Social Desk

A young disabled teenager achieved an impressive 25th rank in this year's national university entrance exam in humanities, despite his severe disability. Despite being unable to move any of his body parts, Esmail Nasrollahi, an 18-year-old, dedicated 10 to 12 hours a day to studying and managed to achieve this remarkable success, Tasnim reported.

Although he has already earned numerous medals of honor in chess, he has now attained an even greater accomplishment by securing a top rank in humanities' university entrance exam.

Esmail's achievement is a testament to his dedication and perseverance as he spent long hours immersed in reading and studying throughout the day.

Speaking about her son's accomplishments, Esmail's mother shared that she al-

Disabled Iranian teen ranks top in university entrance exam

ways provided him with motivation and support, proudly referring to her son as an "elite." Regarding Esmail's physical condition, his mother explained that they observed abnormalities since he was nine months old when it became apparent that he couldn't crawl on all fours. Doctors diagnosed him with a rare disease.

Describing her son's study routine, she mentioned that Esmail studies while lying down since he is unable to

turn pages. He devotes himself for approximately 10 to 12 hours each day.

The young man expressed his aspiration for higher education by stating his desire to pursue philosophy at Tehran University. He dreams of becoming a writer of philosophical stories.

Due to his physical challenges, he has requested authorities at Tehran University to provide non-attendance classes specifically tailored for his condition.

One wolf revives an entire forest ecosystem



GETTY IMAGES

In 1997, a lone wolf crossed an ice bridge that briefly connected Canada with the remote Isle Royale, which lies off the coast of Michigan in Lake Superior and is renowned for its rich biodiversity.

His arrival revived the flagging fortunes of the wider wolf population, which had been hit by disease and inbreeding, and triggered cascading effects that improved the health of the overall forest ecosystem, a study in Science Advances showed Wednesday, according to AFP. The first wolves arrived on the island in the late 1940s, and their main prey is moose – giving rise to the longest running study of a predator-prey system anywhere in the world.

But by the 1980s, the wolves were in trouble due to the arrival of canine parvovirus which drove their numbers down from a high of 50 to around 12.

Though the disease eventually disappeared, the population didn't recover right away. The reason was severe inbreeding, which caused lower reproductive success, as well as poorer health outcomes such as spinal deformities of the kind often seen in purebred dogs.

Enter the immigrant, identified as "M93" by scientists, but affectionately nicknamed "The Old Gray Guy." M93 was unrelated to the existing population, and also had the advantage of being unusually large – a big benefit when defending turf from rivals or taking down 800 pound ungulates.

He quickly became the breeding male in one of the island's three wolf packs and went on to sire 34 pups, greatly improving the genetic health of the population and the kill rate of its prey.

Moose are voracious herbivores, consuming up to 14 kilograms of vegetation a day. By reducing their numbers, the wolves helped bring the forest back into balance, which was most notable in the effects on balsam fir – the species commonly used as Christmas trees.

Contract for the construction of Iran's largest Ferris wheel was signed in Bandar Abbas

Iran Daily – The contract to build the country's largest Ferris wheel in Bandar Abbas was signed between the mayor of Bandar Abbas and the CEO of Salgi Industrial Engineering Group.

At the meeting to sign the contract for Bandar Abbas amusement park, which was held in the presence of the head of the Islamic Council of Bandar Abbas, Mossayeb Nazari and other members of the council, Mayor of Bandar Abbas Mehdi Nobani said, "Today, we have gathered together to fulfill the 43-year-long wish of the people of Bandar Abbas, to take a big step forward and sign the contract for the



Bandar Abbas amusement park."

"The amusement park will be constructed by Salgi Industrial Engineering Group, with the experience of constructing 23 large amusement parks in major cities of the country such as Tehran, Tabriz,

Yazd, etc.," he added.

The mayor of Bandar Abbas said, "Iran's largest Ferris wheel with a height of 82 meters and 28 cabins, each with a capacity of eight persons will be built in 24 months."

Nobani said, "Currently, Iran's biggest Ferris wheel is the one built in Bushehr, which is 72 meters long, and the Bandar Abbas Ferris wheel will be significantly bigger than that."

Stating that each round of the new Ferris wheel takes 25 to 30 minutes, he said, "This Ferris wheel will be built in Dolat and Ghadir parks on a two-hectare land."

'100 Arts, 100 Artists' draws visitors in Tehran



MEHR – A group art exhibition titled '100 Arts, 100 Artists', featuring various painting styles, is underway at Tehran's Eshragh Cultural Center.

Curated by Niloufar Yazdi and Farahnaz Reyhani, the exhibition hosts artists including Yasaman Ebrahimian, Zohreh Ahmadi, and Sarvin Ja'farian.

The works on display were created using oil, acrylic, watercolor, pencil, and colored pencil techniques and encompass artistic styles including realism, modernism, cubism, impressionism, and decorative art. They are being unveiled for the first time at this exhibition.

The exhibition opened on August 25 and will run through August 29.

'Palmas' published for Flamenco enthusiasts

ISNA – A pioneering instructional guide titled 'Palmas', authored by Mohammadreza Raeesi and Mohammad Moazzen, was unveiled as the first teaching method for Palmas playing in Iran's music scene.

Raeesi highlighted the book's purpose, stating it addresses the shortage of proper and systematic elements within Flamenco music, offers an enticing exploration of its rhythmic hand-clapping techniques, and establishes a solid foundation for understanding the various rhythms in this genre.

The book's contents include the historical roots of Palmas worldwide, accurate execution methods, practice pointers, explanations of key Flamenco music instruments, and both solo and duo Palmas techniques.

Moazzen said "The book is designed to be effective for beginners as well as musicians engaged in professional Flamenco music."

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Hamideh Hosseini
Ali Amiri
Ali Mehran

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617
● Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
● Website: www.irandaily.ir
● Email: newspaper.irandaily.ir
● Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
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Russia's TASS delegation visits Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Arts & Culture Desk

A delegation from TASS Russian News Agency, led by TASS Deputy Director General Alexander Kopnov, paid a visit to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and Iran Cultural & Press Institute which publishes several newspapers on Saturday.



During the visit, the Russian delegation engaged in productive discussions with key figures in Iran's media, including Ali Naderi, the managing director of IRNA, CEO of Iran Cultural & Press Institute Mohammad Hasan Roozitalab, Ali Kakadezfuli,

the managing director of the English newspaper Iran Daily, and Sajjad Eslamian, the managing director of the Arabic newspaper Al-Vefaq. The editor-in-chief of the foreign media monitoring group at TASS News Agency,

was among the Russian visiting delegation. After a welcoming working lunch, both sides discussed the possibilities for collaboration on potential joint initiatives, cooperative news coverage, and knowledge sharing in the realm of media.

The visit carried substantial significance considering the diplomatic relations between Iran and Russia. The Russian delegation received kudos from the Iranian hosts, considering it a significant step in deepening bilateral relations.

Iranian book of viola concertos released worldwide

Arts & Culture Desk

Amir Hossein Taei, a skilled viola player, unveiled his book 'Famous Viola Concertos' in the global music market. This publication stands as the first-ever work dedicated to the viola by an Iranian artist in the international music field, IRNA wrote. Taei's book compiles and presents several prominent concertos for the viola, including pieces such as 'Concerto in E Minor, Oskar Reiding,' and 'Viola Concerto No. 2, by Friedrich Seitz.' These compositions have been reinterpreted and adapted for the viola, help-



ing players ranging from beginner to intermediate levels. Taei highlighted the necessity of this book, noting the lack of comprehensive resources for the viola despite years of teaching in the field. He emphasized that the existing repertoire for the viola on the international stage mainly assists intermediate to advanced players, lacking a progressive structure for beginners and intermediates to enhance their skills gradually. He said, "For this reason, I decided to create this collection as a service to those who are actively engaged

with the viola. The book begins with simplified violin concertos and, through my efforts, has been rewritten, adapted, and revised for the viola." The violist added, "The second volume of this work has been specially tailored for intermediate to advanced players who are preparing for university entrance exams or international orchestra auditions." The first volume of the book is organized into levels ranging from introductory to intermediate and is available on several international websites, with plans for its imminent release in Iran.

Recovery of British Museum artefacts underway

The recovery of missing British Museum artefacts is underway, George Osborne, the institution's chair of trustees, said as he apologised over the scandal that has engulfed the museum, and admitted that its reputation had been damaged. About 2,000 items are believed to be missing, Osborne told the BBC Radio 4's Today programme, the day after the organisation's head resigned and his deputy stepped back. Hartwig Fischer said on Friday he accepted re-

sponsibility for the museum's failure to properly respond to warnings about the suspected thefts of thousands of objects in 2021. A police investigation has been launched, the Guardian reported. Admitting that the museum did not have a complete catalogue of its collection, he said that a new storage facility in the Thames Valley was planned, but acknowledged this issue put the museum's security at risk. "Someone with knowledge has an advantage in

removing some of those items," he said. After Fischer's resignation, Osborne said the director had "acted honourably" and that "no one has ever doubted Hartwig's integrity, his dedication to his job, or his love for the museum". The museum said Fischer would step down "with immediate effect", but later clarified he would step down once an interim leadership arrangement was in place. It was then announced that the museum's deputy direc-

tor, Jonathan Williams, had agreed to voluntarily step back until the independent review into the suspected thefts had concluded. The chair of trustees defended the British Museum after the scandal led to an outcry from nations that have been campaigning for the institution to return its artefacts. The development has led Greek officials to renew their demands for the return of the Parthenon marbles, while Nigerian officials have also called

for the return of looted treasures. Asked about whether the suspected thefts, and the museum's response to them, invalidated its argument that other countries' institutions could not be trusted to care for their treasures properly, Osborne said it was a "statement of the obvious" that the saga had been damaging to the institution's reputation. But he added that many large museums were "potential victims to this kind of theft". "Our responsi-



bility now is to make sure we really have learned the lessons so that this kind

of thing is much harder, much less likely to happen in the future," he said.