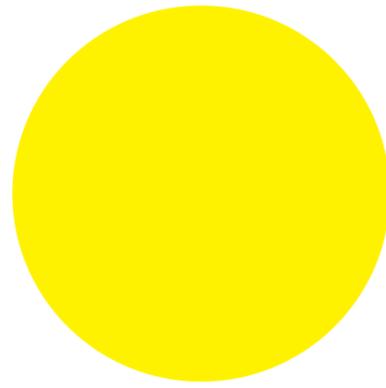


Raeisi meets families of security forces killed during last year's unrest



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The Crisis Group's Crisis

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The riots known as "Woman, Life, Freedom" from the past year can be examined from different perspectives. One crucial aspect of these events was the emergence of various adversaries, opposition groups, and opponents of the Islamic Revolution. They were supported by different countries with diverse objectives, which contributed to the ongoing unrest in Iran. Throughout these disturbances, there were widespread disinformation campaigns by opposition media and Persian-language networks. Almost every minor and major development within Iran was excessively amplified by both domestic and international media, to the point where some influenced by this media frenzy believed that everything was coming to an end and that agitators were about to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran. The International Crisis Group was one organization that aimed to manipulate events towards the desired objectives of the West and the US by advocating for interventionist policies.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Phony charges' of violating UN resolution rejected

PRESS TV - The permanent mission of Iran to the UN has categorically rejected the "absurd" and "unfounded" claims raised by the US that Tehran has sold drones to Russia for use in the Ukraine war.

The Iranian UN mission, in two identical letters addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and rotating President of the Security Council Ferit Hoxha, said Washington's cynical attempt to establish an illusory link between the alleged use of drones in the Ukraine conflict and the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) to accuse Tehran of violating the resolution is "misleading and entirely unfounded."

Anti-Iran groups accept KRG's call for disarmament: Report

TASNIM - An informed source said secessionist anti-Iranian groups in northern Iraq have agreed to lay down their arms and leave the areas along the common border between Iran and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The informed political source told Tasnim news agency on Friday that the KRG has practically started the activities to draw the opposition parties away from the Iranian border, denying rumors that the parties have declined to accept the provision of a security agreement between Iraq and Iran, or have plans to take up the option of military action.

Fresh sanctions condemned

PRESS TV - Iran strongly condemned the US and its allies for imposing a slew of fresh sanctions against the country over the defense of its nation's security in the face of Western-backed riots that spread throughout the country last year. On Friday, the US, the UK, and the EU sanctioned dozens of Iranian individuals and entities, which they accused of either suppression or misrepresentation of last year's unrest. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani denounced the sanctions as "unconstructive behavior" which was not in line with the Western countries' own interests.

Iran can retaliate against US theft of its oil on 'larger scale': Defense minister

Iran's defense minister rebuked the US government's seizure of one million barrels of Iranian crude, warning that the Islamic Republic is fully capable of retaliating "on a larger scale" in due time.

The US Department of Justice confirmed on September 8 that it had seized the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker carrying Iranian oil, named Suez Rajan, and its cargo of 980,000 barrels of crude oil off the coast of Texas.

The department claimed that

Suez Rajan was in April transporting Iranian oil to China in violation of Washington's sanctions against Tehran. It also said the US government had obtained a warrant earlier this year for its seizure.

"This is an act of theft by the United States, which is not acceptable across the world whatsoever," Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani stated.

Speaking with ISNA, Ashtiani warned that if Washington goes ahead with stealing the Irani-

an oil cargo, "we will definitely retaliate, and we can react on a larger scale."

"But for now, we have limited our action to the discussions we are engaged in," he said, stressing that Iran expects the Americans to stop such actions.

"We are located in a strategic and very important region. The energy transmission lines pass through this region, and we have control over these lines. Therefore, it is possible for us to take countermeasures against the US on a larg-

er scale."

For months, American oil firms had resisted the temptation of touching the 800,000-barrel tanker for fear of Iranian retaliation in the Persian Gulf waters. Still, the US Navy later unloaded the tanker of stolen Iranian oil worth around \$56 million off the Texas port, brushing off warnings from the Islamic Republic.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani described the US move at the time as contradictory and said Tehran had

summoned the Swiss ambassador to the ministry in this regard.

Under the guise of "sanctions-enforcement operations," the United States has in recent years seized foreign vessels carrying Iranian oil across the world.

Back in February 2021, the Americans seized a tanker carrying Iranian oil off the coast of the Emirati city of Fujairah and sold more than a million barrels of oil confiscated from it for \$110 million, or \$55 a barrel.

Raeisi meets families of security forces killed during last year's unrest

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi met with the families of security forces killed during mass protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini last year.

Raeisi's meetings were held during a visit to the northeastern city of Mashhad on Thursday and Friday, ahead of the Sept. 16 anniversary of Amini's death, which caused months of protests across the

country.

"Raeisi met today with the families of security defenders," the official IRNA said.

His meetings included the families of Danial Rezazadeh and Hossein Zeinalzadeh, according to Tasnim news agency.

Rezazadeh and Zeinalzadeh - members of the Basij forces - were killed on November 17.

Their deaths were blamed on Majidreza Rahnavard, one of seven people Iran's judiciary later executed over their links to the protests.

During a meeting on Thursday, Raeisi welcomed "the shameful failure of the enemy's project aimed at destabilizing" Iran, according to a statement issued by the Office of the President.



president.ir

Iran sends humanitarian aid to flood-hit Libya

National Desk

The Iranian Red Crescent Society said on Friday that it has sent 40 tons of humanitarian aid to flood-stricken Libya to help the victims.

The head of the Iranian organization, Pir-Hossein Kolivand, said the aid package includes tents, blankets, mats, medicine, and foodstuffs, according to Mehr news agency.

He also said that three rescue teams have been dispatched to the African country, which hit by devastating floods.

According to the Libyan Red Crescent, at least 11,300 people have been killed so far and another 10,000 people are feared missing after a storm in the Mediterranean caused dams to burst - washing entire coastal neighborhoods out to sea.

Storm Daniel pounded the North African country last Sunday night, unleashing heavy rainfall that caused flash flooding. But the major destruction would come hours later, when two dams located on



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the Wadi Derna River burst, creating a wall of water that destroyed everything in its path. The greatest devastation was seen in the port city of Derna, which is home to 90,000 people.

Derna's mayor Abdel-Moneim al-Ghaithi said the death toll would likely climb to 20,000 considering the devastation of the city. Another 170 people reportedly died in neighboring coastal cities.

Before the devastating storm struck the east of Libya, the area was already host to more than 46,000 internally displaced people as a result of the country's decades-long conflict.

US's interaction with Syria terrorists sparks regional instability concerns

By Syed Ali Hassan

Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The Syrian government has strongly condemned the recent visit of a US delegation to northern Syria, calling it a destabilizing move for the region. The delegation, led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ethan A. Goldrich, visited areas controlled by Western-backed anti-Damascus armed groups this month.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry decried the visit as illegal and a clear infringement on Syria's sovereignty, also citing violations of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions. Notably, some Kurdish regions in northern Syria are under the sway of US-supported separatist militias, such as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which receive material and financial backing from various countries, including the United States.

The US military occupies roughly half of Dayr al-Zawr Province, with Syrian government forces in control of the other half. The US maintains influence over oil-rich Syrian territories through the SDF. President Biden's statement that the US military has not fully withdrawn from these areas contradicts these ongoing operations. Moreover, the SDF is actively working toward establishing an independent state in Syria, as well as in Kurdish-majority areas in Turkey. The Syrian government accuses the Unit-

ed States of using the SDF to fuel instability in the region. The SDF, created in 2015 with US support, includes Kurdish separatists and other ethnocentric factions that resist Arab and Turkish governance.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry said that the visit of a senior US official is not merely an intrusion into internal affairs but also an indication of the United States' hostile intentions toward Damascus, warning of severe consequences.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Goldrich said that the visit aimed to "discuss the way forward in Syria" and to "support the Syrian people".

The visit is expected to further strain the already tenuous relations between the US and Syria, which have been at odds since the outset of the war in the country in 2011.

In addition to Syria, the Arab League has criticized the US delegation's visit, citing it as a violation of Syria's sovereignty and a refusal to support any actions that might destabilize the nation.

The timing of this visit is significant, given Syria's mounting international pressure, with calls from the United Nations for an end to violence and national reunification. While the exact repercussions of the visit remain uncertain, it is evident that it has stirred outrage from the Syrian government and the Arab League. Despite the US support for armed groups deemed terrorists by Syria, the United States has struggled to achieve its objectives in Syria, with the SDF, its primary ally, seemingly encouraged to foster instability in both Turkey and Syria, potentially reigniting conflict in the region.

Discover the enchanting charms of Tafresh:

A pristine summer paradise



Khanak village
juzabeh.com

Iranica Desk

The city of Tafresh in Markazi Province is one of the pristine and picturesque destinations in Iran. The city, with a population of about 33,500, can be a great host for summer trips. You can enjoy attractive landscapes and pleasant weather there. Tafresh is situated at an elevation of approximately 2,000 meters above sea level and boasts of a total of seventy villages, some of which are Kabouran, Naqusan, Bazarjan, Farak and Joftan. When we look at a map, we will find that this city is located ap-

proximately in the southwest of Saveh, a city known for its warmth. However, this warmth doesn't affect the delightful coolness of Tafresh.

To get to this city, you need to pass through the scorched plains of Saveh. Keep going towards Arak, and after the Rahjerd, veer off the main road towards the north. Continue your journey by crossing through the rugged mountain passes to finally reach Tafresh. The maximum temperature reaches 32°C during the summer, while it drops to a minimum of 15°C during winters.

In the northern part of Tafresh, you can find Gandomkuh Mountain. This mountain has a conical

shape and stands at an elevation of 2,156 meters. It is visible from almost all parts of the city. In Persian, *gandom* means wheat, and *kuh* means mountain. If you look from the heights of Kharazan Pass towards this mountain and its neighboring hill, you will see that it looks like a pile of unharvested wheat. That is why it is called Gandomkuh (Wheat Mountain).

A circular-shaped mountain named Deymnar, having two caves, is known as the symbol of the city.

A river flows in the city. One of natural attractions of Tafresh is Garav Mineral Water Spring situated five kilometers from the city, be-

tween two villages. It is easily accessible.

In one of the alleys of the neighborhood, named Abdokan in Tafresh, you can find the remains of a fascinating historical house dating back to the Qajar period. This house, called Mirfakhrayi House, has stood for 200 years and holds the prestigious distinction of being a registered National Heritage Site.

The natural attractions of Tafresh are scattered throughout this area; in order to see them, you need to gradually distance yourself from the city.

The village of Tad is located near Tafresh and its prominent

feature is its abundance of fruit orchards. These orchards thrive and yield bountiful harvests thanks to a qanat (aquifer) flowing in the region.

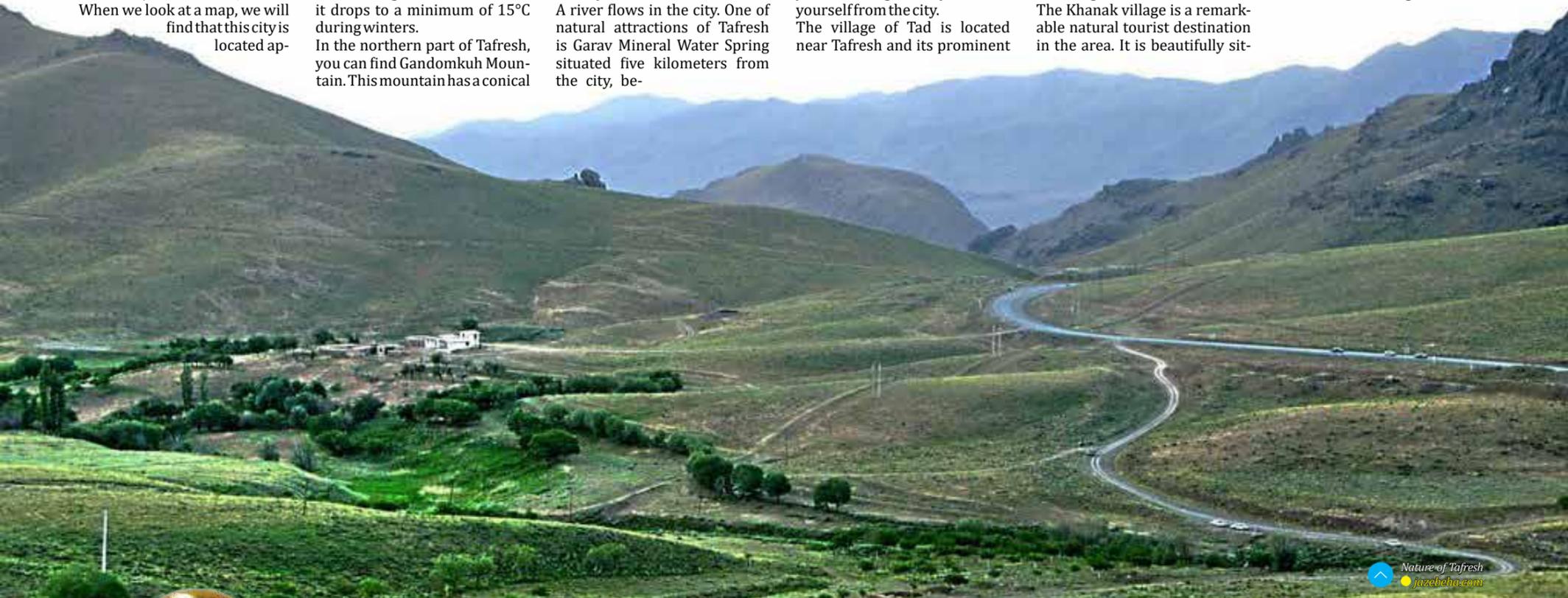
The water of this qanat, situated in the heart of the village, after being stored in a massive reservoir, cascades through countless streams, nourishing the gardens. The existence of this qanat has brought about a harmonious climate, the growth of exquisite fruits, and the establishment of a spiritually uplifting atmosphere in the region.

The Khanak village is a remarkable natural tourist destination in the area. It is beautifully sit-

uated along the Tafresh-Saveh route, offering breathtaking sceneries and captivating experiences for visitors.

At the entrance of Khanak village, beyond its beautiful garden alleys, lies a renowned qanat loved by locals and visitors alike. Khanak waterfall adds to the charm of this village. It inspired the creation of a traditional mill next to the cascades.

The summer season, especially the month of September, is one of the most suitable seasons and months for traveling to Tafresh.



Nature of Tafresh
juzabeh.com



Development of polymetallism

In the course of the 4th millennium BCE, new metals attracted interest: gold, silver and lead, a phenomenon visible at Susa and Tappeh Hesar. The gold most probably came from Muteh, near Kashan, one of the richest mines worldwide.

Its treatment is illustrated in the little dog with pendant loop, treatment of silver in the cruciform pendant and the triangular chased pendants with hematite inlays, all of them coming from two children's tombs.

Obviously, a play of colour effect between the silver and the new materials was sought. This phenomenon is not inherent to Susa. As Françoise Tallon emphasises, «this extremely refined jewellery, consisting of precious materials previously unknown at Susa, have to be compared to ob-

jects from a contemporary burial at Sialk, namely two circular silver medallions with lapis lazuli and bone inlays.

Actually, the burial where the triangular pendants had been found, also held an intricate piece of jewellery made of lapis lazuli, quartz, shell, carnelian and rock crystal beads.

Lead appears in Susa and Sialk in the Late Uruk period, but is rare elsewhere. It is used to fashion vessels like the beak-spouted jar, bowls and cups. At the end of the 4th millennium BCE, the material was mined in the same district of Anarak that already provided copper. The simultaneous appearance of lead and silver at Susa is certainly not accidental. In fact, no silver-bearing mineral deposit in the Middle East seems to exist; silver emerges as a by-product of copper and

lead following the cupellation process.

The emergence of new techniques

Lost-wax casting – already known for several centuries in Palestine and magnificently showcased in the Nahal Mishmar Hoard – allows the production of metal sculptures at the same time as the stone sculpturing which develops rapidly. The objects are in the round, like the small golden dog mentioned earlier or its even smaller counterpart in silver, or adorn the heads of pins. The bird sitting on a closed fist nicely demonstrates the original and sometimes humorous approach to art in Susa. Soldering is used for the first time in the manufacture of the golden dog that, as small as it may be, definitely synthesizes the important innovations of the period. In the Proto-Elamite period,

soldering was used on several joints of the silver bull in the Metropolitan Museum.

In both cases, the solder is an alloy – gold and copper, silver and copper – to reduce the risk of overheating and thus deforming the objects.

The *champlevé* of silver pendants allowed inlays of the already mentioned rare materials and simplified their fixation. Metal hammered into sheets was used in the manufacture of statuettes, such as the bull from the Metropolitan Museum. Equipped with a beaked spout, they reproduce ceramic models and demonstrate the virtuosity of the metalworkers, since the entire vessel was made out of a single sheet by hammering and annealing. X-rays and microscopic studies indicate that the transition from the spout to the body of the vessel is continuous and not soldered.

The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled, 'Susa', from a book entitled, 'Persian Antiques Splendor', edited by T. Stollner, R. Slotta, and A. Vatandoust, published by German Mining Museum. The photo was taken from the book.



By Faezeh-Sadat Yousefi
Guest contributor

The International Crisis Group (ICG) is an organization that was established in 1995 to study violent conflicts and propose solutions

for them. It presents itself as an independent and impartial think tank on the global stage, providing advice to governments and institutions like the UN, the World Bank, and the EU by offering them information and analysis. Its main headquarters are in Brussels, and it has representative offices in various locations, such as Washington, New York, Bangkok, Tripoli, Beirut, Cairo, Dakar, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Kabul, London, Mexico City, and Seoul. All the members of the board of trustees of this organization are influential politicians and capitalists with strong connections within the governmental structures of the US and other Western nations. They have significant access to influential policy circles. The track record of some members suggests that this organization cooperates closely with the US government and its Western allies. Currently, George Soros and his son Alexander Soros are listed on the International Crisis Group's Board of Trustees. Robert Malley, the former Special Representative for Iran in the US, has been the President and CEO of this group. Federica Mogherini, the former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Meghan O'Sullivan, former Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan in the US, Wesley Clark, the former Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) of NATO, Tzipi Livni, the former Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Stephen Hadley, former National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush, are also members of this organization.

According to the texts of reports presented by experts from this organization, impartiality is merely a means to legitimize actions aimed at infiltrating the social and political structures of targeted countries, primarily led by the US targeted countries are either considered enemies of the US or are evaluated as undesirable for Washington's national interests. These countries include China, Russia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Venezuela, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Mali, Niger, North Korea, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

The Crisis Group's Crisis

How does 'international crisis group' destabilize nations through its intervention in their affairs?

Governmental Dependencies and Financial Resources

Regardless of the aforementioned examples that accurately depict the Crisis Group's alignment with White House policies, the track record of the political figures within the group and its sources of funding also corroborates this alignment. While the Crisis Group claims to be non-governmental and impartial, its close ties with policymakers at the White House and the convergence of the group's recommendations with US government strategies, cannot be viewed in isolation from political and financial support. Therefore, its alleged neutrality and independence from the US government and its allies, despite the repeated claims of its leaders, have been challenged and undermined. Moreover, the presence of figures like George Soros, the architects of color revolutions in the world, and the Rockefeller brothers in the list of major financial contributors to this organization, further demonstrate the alignment of the group's viewpoints and actions with these influential individuals. Consequently, one can label this group as an effective arm of the US Department of State and the CIA.

This group has very close ties with George Soros to the extent that, according to information on the group's website, Soros is one of its principal financial contributors. Soros is also a member of the International Crisis Group's board of trustees, and in 2010, the Crisis Group awarded its annual prize to George Soros.

Open Society Foundation

The activities of the Open Society Foundation, which is chaired by George Soros and is known for its involvement in color revolutions, were first openly witnessed in 2004 during the Orange Revolution in Ukraine. The Foundation's track record includes the Rose Revolution in Georgia in 2003, the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, the Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan in 2005, and even the unsuccessful attempt at fomenting unrest in Iran in 2009. Media outlets like The New York Times, The Guardian, and The Washington Post have openly stated that the West, led by the US, has been directly involved through organizations supporting democracy and associated charities in orchestrating color revolutions in developing countries.

However, these events are not exactly hidden, as George Soros himself charac-

terizes himself in his book "Soros on Soros" in the following way: "If there ever was a man who had all the qualities of a global Zionist elite conspirator, that man is me!"

In February 2011, while just over a year had passed since the events of the 2009 Iranian election protests, and his involvement in Iranian affairs had become widely known, George Soros appeared on a television program and said: "I would like to bet that the Iranian regime will not be there in a year's time."

As a result, given that those who secure budgetary conditions and financial resources are the ones who can align themselves with and not deviate from the policies that provide those resources, the scope of the International Crisis Group's activities is not limited to merely providing reports and written materials and diplomatic activities. Instead, it serves as a complement to planned and field operations for intervention and disruption in countries.

The Rockefeller Foundation

This institution, responsible for the interests of the Zionist regime, reduced its financial support to this international entity in 2016, following the approval of the sole United Nations Security Council resolution regarding restrictions on the regime's urbanization. Ali Vaez's presence also underscores the institutional connection of this group to the White House. He played key roles in negotiations and his access to negotiation teams is rooted in his collaboration with the CIA from 2004 to 2008. Moreover, during this period, he worked as a correspondent for "Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty" in Switzerland. Radio Free Europe was launched by the CIA during the Cold War and its budget was exclusively and, of course, covertly funded by the CIA until 1972. In that year, with the release of reports about this radio's affiliation with the CIA, the CIA cut its direct budget, and the radio's budget came under the oversight of the US Congress. However, virtually all political and security experts know that this radio is currently both directed and financially supported by the CIA. It is worth noting that the anti-revolutionary radio network "Radio Farda" is the Persian-language branch of Radio Free Europe.

The primary objective of the Crisis Group is to foment a crisis

Contrary to its stated purpose of managing crises and providing solutions, this organization's actual activities and reports seem to aim at destabilization as one of its main goals. It exploits crisis indicators to further its agenda and has actively tried to spread these crises across the country, especially during critical moments like recent protests.

For example, the organization has focused on turning natural disparities in Iran into social fault lines, a topic that national security services consistently monitor. Consequently, the studies and recommendations produced predominantly cater to espionage and information services, aiming to undermine the existing order in these regions. This shows that their real objective is not just to address crises, but rather to identify potential crises that help create a cognitive warfare infrastructure supported by Western-sponsored media.

One of their reports, titled "Iran's Khuzestan: Thirst and Turmoil," thoroughly examines the situation in Khuzestan. It not only provides a detailed account of the challenges faced by the province, but also presents a somewhat biased portrayal of these issues. The report specifically emphasizes the difficulties that the Islamic Republic of Iran encounters in resolving these problems and highlights the issue of Iranian ethnicities, including Arabs and other ethnic groups.

A careful analysis of anti-Iranian media, backed by the US and its allies, in recent years clearly demonstrates that one of the central strategies to advance the agenda of regime change or fragmentation in Iran is to exacerbate ethnic and religious divisions within the country. These reports actively contribute to this agenda, employing various tools

and techniques. These perspectives have been expressed before in other American think tanks and institutions like FDD, and the only discernible approach is to fuel discord and exploit existing differences.

In alignment with US policies regarding the JCPOA

The Crisis Group managed to play a significant role in the negotiations leading to the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA, between Iran and the P5+1. This group engaged with both Western powers and Iran through consultative efforts, using constructive and impartial proposals as a pretext to address areas of disagreement. However, the release of a document titled "Solving the Nuclear Rubik's Cube" several months before the signing of the JCPOA by the International Crisis Group raised suspicions that the group's involvement was meticulously orchestrated by the White House, serving its interests. Furthermore, the recommendations outlined in the nuclear negotiations reports consistently urged Iran to make concessions.

For instance, as a sample, Iran was suggested to open up its monitoring processes and provide access as requested by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a move seen by some as a result of manipulation and pretextual maneuvers by the Zionist regime. This recommendation essentially aimed to grant the IAEA broader oversight, in line with the agency's demands.

Furthermore, in the early stages of the JCPOA negotiations in 2013, the report "Spider Web: The Making and Unmaking of Iran Sanctions" attempted to convey the idea that American sanctions against Iran were used as a tool for altering Iran's behavior. It stated: "For now, the priority is devising a menu

of meaningful, realistic sanctions relief to match meaningful, realistic nuclear concessions."

In another context, despite former US president Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA, it is suggested that Iran is perceived as the party responsible for the JCPOA violation by the US. Iran is expected to return to the JCPOA while the US takes no immediate action: "Iran developing a timetable, in consultation with the JCPOA's Joint Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to completely reverse its breaches of the nuclear deal within two to three months. Tehran will need to dismantle excess centrifuges and blend down or ship out the enriched uranium stockpiles that go beyond what the deal allows."

Another clear example that underscores the interventionist methods aligned with the foreign policy objectives of this country is the report titled "On Thin Ice: The Iran Nuclear Deal at Three," issued in December 2018. This report advises Iran to move towards regional alignment within the framework of the JCPOA and reminds Tehran of the White House's extrajudicial demands, stating:

"Iran should not test the JCPOA's boundaries or escalate regional tensions... Arguably the most likely place to start is Yemen, where UN-sponsored talks offer a genuine hope for de-escalation and potential resolution of the four-year-long conflict... Iran's regional discussions with the E4 (the E3 plus Italy) should be deepened and broadened to other security issues of common interest beyond Yemen."

This is while Antony Blinken, the Secretary of State under the Biden administration, needs to explicitly outline his and Biden's stance on Iran, which ultimately may not lead to the lifting of sanctions, considering their implications for regional and missile negotiations.

Security threats

Another notable aspect observed in the content of these reports is the deliberate undermining of national security and territorial integrity of target countries, including Iran. Portraying internal conflicts and challenges within a country and simultaneously attempting to highlight the government's inability to address them based on skewed analyses is a recurring method in the written reports by this group. This approach relies on creating an incongruity between the social fabric, either among the people themselves or between the people and the government. By identifying contentious issues, it provides valuable fodder for Western intelligence services and the Zionist regime to exploit in their efforts to foment violent crises in target countries, primarily for their interests and ultimately for the US as the principal orchestrator. This strategy aims not to resolve rifts but to exacerbate tensions and identify capacities for destabilization against the ruling authority.

Furthermore, it explicitly addresses security threats posed by the US and Israel against Iran, with an attempt to coerce Iran into backtracking from its positions. The International Crisis Group has issued a warning that if Iran and the global powers involved in the JCPOA revival negotiations do not make "significant progress" soon, the JCPOA could reach a "point of no return" and that the US and its allies may resort to "coercive diplomacy" or even "military actions" within a few weeks.

Earlier, during the visit of Israel's Foreign Minister to the US, Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, stated that if diplomatic efforts with Iran to prevent it from obtaining nuclear weapons fail, "we are prepared to take other (military) options, as the Israeli Foreign Minister has said."

FIFA U-17 World Cup:

Iran given Brazil,
England tasks
in group stage

Sports Desk

Iran will be facing a mammoth task in the FIFA U-17 World Cup later this year when taking on two age-group heavyweights in the group stage.

The draw for the event – starting November 10 in Indonesia – took place in the FIFA headquarters in Zurich on Friday, where Iran was drawn against Brazil and England, as well as Oceanian side New Caledonia in Group C.

Hossein Abdi's boys will begin their campaign against Brazil at the Jakarta International Stadium on Nov. 11, before squaring off against England three days later.

The final round of the group fixtures will see Iran play New Caledonia on November 17.

Brazil will head to Indonesia on the back of a 13th South American crown in April, looking for a record-equal-

ing fifth world trophy, and second in a row after defeating Mexico in the 2019 final. England, the under-17 World Cup champion in 2017, had a below-par run in May's European Championship – beaten by France in the quarterfinals – but still managed to bounce back with a 4-2 victory over the Switzerland to secure the continent's fifth berth for the competition. New Caledonia, meanwhile, made it to the final showpiece of the OFC U-17 Championship last January, before a 1-0 loss to New Zealand.

"We are in probably the toughest group at the World Cup," Iran head coach Abdi said after the draw, adding: "Brazil is the second most decorated team in the history of the competition, while England is also a top-quality side, but I don't have much information about New Caledonia."

Iran is one of the four Asian sides – alongside Japan,

South Korea, and Uzbekistan – to join host Indonesia in November's tournament, after reaching the last four of June's U17 Asian Cup in Thailand.

"We're still thrilled to be in this group as a top side of the continent as we only suffered a single defeat against Japan, which was among the top-seeded teams in the World Cup draw, in the Asian

Cup. We'll be looking to show our prowess against Brazil and England," added the Iranian coach.

Iran will hope to build on the previous World Cup participation in 2017, where

a brave run saw the Asian team beat Germany, Guinea, and Costa Rica to win the group and then come out victorious against Mexico in the knockout stage before falling to Spain in the quarterfinals.

Iranian players celebrate a goal during a 2-0 victory over South Korea at the 2023 AFC U17 Asian Cup in June.

● PFIRI

Djokovic propels Serbia into Davis Cup quarters

REUTERS – Novak Djokovic made a winning return to action following his U.S. Open triumph, as the world number one helped Serbia book their place in the quarter-finals of the Davis Cup on Friday with a group stage victory over hosts Spain. Playing just five days after lifting his 24th Grand Slam title in New York, Djokovic overcame the hot and humid conditions early on and recovered from 4-1 down in the second set to beat Alejandro Davidovich Foki-

na 6-3 6-4 in Valencia. The result secured an unassailable 2-0 lead for Serbia after Laslo Djere beat Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-4 6-4 in the first match of the Group C tie and secured a tie in the last eight in Malaga, which will take place in November. "I was on a high with the U.S. Open win and the celebration at home and leaving my family is never easy but coming to another family – my Serbian squad – gives me the greatest of joy," Djokovic said.



● REUTERS

Taremi off the mark to put Porto back in the winning ways

Sports Desk

Mehdi Taremi opened his account for the season as Porto walked away with a 1-0 victory over Estrela da Amadora in the Portuguese Primeira Liga. Having scored twice in the mid-week 4-0 win against Angola during the international break, the Iranian striker came off the bench to replace injured Evanilson with 15 minutes into the game and found the net on the half-hour mark at the Estádio José Gomes on Friday.

The prolific forward dribbled past home side center-back Miguel Lopes with a delicate touch before his side-footed effort from the edge of the box went in off the post.

This was a fourth victory in five top-flight games for the Dragons, who had been held to a 1-1 draw at home against Arouca last time out. Having finished as the leading marksman in the league last season, Taremi will hope the strike would end weeks of saga surrounding him, dominated by a likely move to Serie A giant Milan collapsing on the final of the transfer window, as well as hostile comments made by a Sporting TV pundit toward the Iranian for allegedly intending to convince the Portuguese match officials to blow in their whistles for a spot-kick.

Carlos Xavier's remarks, calling Taremi "a Muslim, who did not even know how to swim when he first arrived in Portugal, but is now a good diver", came after Porto's outing against Arouca, in which the referee pointed to the spot after a challenge on the Iranian in the box, only to see his decision overturned by the VAR.

The Iranian Football Federation hit back at the former Sporting CP player for his comments, describing them as "absurd and disgraceful", while Porto wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that his "xenophobic and racist" words were "too serious to go unharmed."

Mehdi Taremi celebrates after scoring the winner in Porto's 1-0 victory over Estrela in the Primeira Liga in Amadora, Portugal, on September 15, 2023.

● fcporto.pt



First Announcement


N.I.S.O.C
 NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
 AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0240001

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	POLYCRYSTALLIN DIAMOND COMPACT (PDC) DRILLING BIT 26 IN. (6 NO. BLADES, 9 NO. NOZZELES) I.A.D.C. 4.2.3 M	12 NO
02	NOZZLES FOR PDC BITS CONNECTION SIZE AS SPECIFIED FOR SIZE 17-1/2 TO 26 INCH 12/32 IN. & 13/32 IN. & 14/32 IN. & 16/32 IN. & 20/32 IN.	1080 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 50,318/60 EURO or 20,305,620,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material_procurement_management_tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
 Tel. No.: 061 34 12 3589
 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations

www.shana.ir | www.nisoc.ir | <http://lets.mporg.ir> | www.setadiran.ir

156642

First photos taken of Imam Reza Shrine

Arts & Culture Desk

The oldest photographs ever captured of the holy shrine of Imam Reza, the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims, are now preserved in the collections of Astan Quds Razavi and the National Library and Archives of Iran.

The first photographs of the Astan Quds Razavi were taken by two Italian military personnel who had traveled to Iran during the reign of Nasser al-Din Shah. One of them was Antonio Giovinnazzi, from Matera, and the other was Luigi Pesce, from Napoli. Little is known about the exact period of Luigi Pesce's presence in Mashhad, during which he earned the nickname "Photographer" from Nasser al-Din Shah. It is known that he was active between 1840 and 1860. He is recognized as one of

the earliest photographers who engaged in capturing images of Iranian buildings, historical landmarks, and ancient sites such as Persepolis and Pasargadae. According to historians, he recorded the oldest-known photograph of Tehran, as reported by ISNA.

However, detailed information is available about Giovinnazzi's photograph of the Imam Reza Shrine. He took photos from Imam Reza Shrine in 1858. Giovinnazzi was one of the six officers who came to Iran and became a teacher at Dar al-Fonoon, while also engaging in photography at various religious sites in Iran.

The origins of the oldest sections of this shrine date back to 610 AH (approximately 1230s CE). During the Timurid era, which coincided with extensive renovations of ancient structures in Khorasan

Province, significant attention was paid to this monument.

Throughout Iran's history, the shrine has received the attention of various ruling dynasties and has been renovated and expanded many times. The shrine's historical records are scarce, with the earliest mention of its existence dating back to before the Samanid era and only referencing a well-known spot called the Haruniyya, where Imam Reza was buried.

The central point of the shrine, where Imam Reza is buried, is renowned as the Rozeye Munavvareh (Holy Land). It occupies a rectangular space with approximate dimensions of 10 x 10 meters.

In the old courtyard of the Imam Reza Shrine, a flowing river existed until 1951, sourced from a spring in northern Mash-

had. After flowing through the city, this river entered the shrine's courtyard and continued its course outside the city to irrigate agricultural fields.

Around this area, there are numerous porticos, mosques, and courtyards, each belonging to distinct historical periods. The oldest and nearest structure connected to the Rozeye Munavvareh is the Balasar Mosque.

Many of the shrine's buildings, from the Safavid period, especially during the reign of Shah Tahmasp I, still exist. The shrine's footprint expanded significantly during these renovations, from 12,000 square meters to its current size of approximately one million square meters, making it one of the world's largest religious complexes.

The Goharshad Mosque, which was the first

Jame' (Grand) Mosque in Mashhad, is also located within the shrine's premises. In the Rozeye Munavvareh, a shrine made of silver and gold is present. Additionally, various porticos, courtyards, and schools surround the shrine, including the Dar al-Wilayah, Dar al-Hadaya, Dar al-Rahmah, and Dar al-Ijabah porticos, which were constructed during this period. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, a development plan for the shrine was initiated, resulting in significant expansion.



Iran's 'Motherless' wins at Wales Int'l Film Festival

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian film, 'Motherless', written and directed by Seyyed Morteza Fatemi, won the Best Foreign Language Film Award at the 7th Wales International Film Festival.

Making its fifth appearance at international festivals, 'Motherless' has previously received three best film awards at the Dhaka International Film Festival 2022, Crossing the Screen Film Festival in England 2023, and the Bengaluru International

Film Festival. It also secured the Best Director Award at the Rainbow London Film Festival, according to Tasnim news agency.

The seventh edition of the Wales International Film Festival 2023, with its unique multi-stage format spanning two months, took place at the Gwen Theater in the city of Nith in South Wales.

Produced by Mohammadreza Mesbah and Ali Owji, 'Motherless' is currently being screened in Iranian cinemas.

Peace exhibition in Iran features artists from 15 countries

Arts & Culture Desk

An international illustration exhibition, named 'Peace Should Be Learned in Childhood', is set to open on September 22 at Zemestan Gallery of Iran's Artists House in Tehran.

Organized by the Iranian Illustrators Society in collaboration with the Children's Book Council, this exhibition explores four main themes of peace: "Peace with Humans," "Peace with Nature," "Peace with Animals," and "Peace with the World", ISNA wrote.

The invited artists participating in this exhibition have been selected from the prestigious International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) 2020 Honours List which is released biennially and features children's book creators chosen by national branches and



introduced at the IBBY biennial congress.

The exhibition has drawn artists from 15 countries, including Russia, Switzerland, Sweden, New Zealand, Austria, Estonia, Australia, Denmark, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Slovakia, Peru, Chile, and Indonesia.

The exhibition's poster showcases an illustration by Dušan Kállay, an acclaimed Slovakian artist and recipient of the 1988

Hans Christian Andersen Award, with design contributions by Abbas Khangholi.

This annual exhibition coincides with the International Day of Peace on September 21 and invites artists from the IBBY Honours List (in even years) and selected artists from the Bratislava International Illustration Exhibition (in odd years).

The 5th edition of this exhibition will welcome visitors from September 25 to 29.

First Announcement

N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140023

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING 4-1/2", API GRADE CRA-110 SUPER 13% CR. PSL 2"VAM TOP". 18.9 PPF	2200 LE
2	COUPLING, TUBING, API GRADE CRA-110 SUPER 13%CR "VAM TOP" 4-1/2"	30 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 184,225/45 EURO or 74,647,232,893 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment

Forms can be accessed via: [www.nisoc.ir-material procurement management tab](http://www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab)
ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

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1568649

First Announcement

N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140022

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING 5". 18 PPF API GRADE CRA-110 SUPER, 13% CR. "VAM F.J."THREAD, RANGE 3 (MAX.LENGTH 40.5 FT)	1000 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 144,343 EURO or 58,248,319,680 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment

Forms can be accessed via: [www.nisoc.ir-material procurement management tab](http://www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab)
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1560790

Wiring unfrozen funds to Qatar to finish next week

IRNA - Qatari FM Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said that the process of wiring Iran's unfrozen funds in South Korea to bank accounts in Qatar under a prisoner exchange deal with the US will be completed next week.

Al Thani made the remarks in a phone conversation on Thursday with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Qatar has been a mediator in talks that led to a prisoner exchange deal between Iran and the United States that was made public on August 10.

Tehran to soon access another \$10b of its blocked funds



PRESS TV - A senior Iranian businessman has revealed that the country will soon have access to another chunk of its funds that have been blocked in banks in other countries because of US sanctions.

Majid Reza Hariri, who chairs the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, said that the funds that are going to be unfrozen will be worth \$10 billion. Hariri said in a post on the X platform that there are "rumors about the release of another \$10 billion" without elaborating on the country or countries where they are kept.

Iran, Cuba plan to establish joint tech center



TASNIM - Officials from Iran and Cuba weighed plans to set up a joint technology and innovation center to promote cooperation between the two countries' technological companies.

In a meeting held in Havana on Friday, Iran's Vice President for Science and Technology Rouhollah Dehqani, and Cuba's Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Elba Rosa Perez Montoya stressed the need to develop mutual cooperation in the field of technology.

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China's independent refiners stocking up on Iran's crude despite US sanctions



● SHANA

Economy Desk

The latest figures show that the demand for Iranian crude is growing in Chi-

na, the world's biggest oil importer, after the extension of supply cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia and as Tehran is stepping up its oil

output and exports under-terred by US sanctions. Iran's crude exports of about 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) stand at

their highest in more than four years, with more than 80% shipped to China, data from consultancies FGE and Vortexa show, according to Press TV.

Iran Nasser, managing director of FGE, noted that imports of Iranian crude by China's independent refiners could rise another 200,000 bpd to 300,000 bpd, from 1.2 million bpd to 1.3 million bpd now, if prices stay low, although volumes could be capped by buyers' risk appetite and payment constraints.

A senior State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that the United States continues to enforce the sanctions on Iran's oil and petrochemical industries. Beijing has long said it opposes Washington's "long-arm" jurisdiction, and has urged that sanctions on Iran be dropped.

Iran is exporting about two million bpd of crude oil, as well as condensate and products, as Tehran

has boosted production to nearly 3.6 million bpd, say people familiar with the matter, or near its maximum of about four million bpd. In China, traders and analysts say, Iranian oil is bought by independent refineries concentrated in the coastal province of Shandong.

According to figures by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Iran continued to increase its oil production in August, to reach a milestone figure of three million barrels per day.

OPEC data cited in reports published in local Iranian media on September 13 showed that Iran's oil output had increased by 143,000 bpd, or five percent, last month, compared to production figures reported in July.

The figures showed that Iran had regained its position as the third largest oil producer in OPEC in August, behind Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Economy Desk

Astana and Tehran are studying ways to boost the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) cooperation with an eye on Iranian northern and southern ports, said Kazakh Ambassador to Iran Askhat Orazbay.

Speaking at a press conference on the comprehensive economic reforms in a state-of-the-nation address of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the envoy noted the Kazakh leader has plans to establish the Central Asian country as a major transit hub in Eurasia, focusing on key routes like the Trans-Caspian corridor and the INSTC.

Kazakhstan, Iran studying ways to boost INSTC cooperation: Envoy

The Kazakh diplomat emphasized that the capacities of the INSTC should be used more, and added that logistics transportation between Iran and Kazakhstan is a big program, as Iran will connect Kazakhstan to third

countries through the Persian Gulf. Referring to the state-of-the-nation address by Tokayev, the ambassador said the Kazakh leader has acknowledged several significant achievements in

the past few years, including the doubling of salaries for teachers since 2020, significant salary increases for doctors, and the implementation of initiatives like the "National Fund for Children," and the construction

of over 300 health care facilities in rural areas.

Tokayev also has indicated an ambitious vision for Kazakhstan to become an IT-focused country, as he stated, "We are among the world leaders in the e-gov-

ernment and fintech development index."

The Kazakh president directed the government to increase the export of IT services to \$1 billion by 2026, saying that this will be facilitated by partnerships with major foreign IT companies. The address also focused on developing the agricultural sector, gasification, addressing water security, Orazbay said.

Pointing to the rising trend of Tehran-Astana relations, the ambassador announced the official invitation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi to visit Astana, saying, "The invitation has been accepted by the Iranian side, but the time has not been determined yet."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
 Cartoonist



IranPlast among biggest polymer expositions in Mideast: NPC

Iran's International Exhibition of Plastics, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment is one of the biggest polymer expositions in the Middle East, said the National Petrochemical Company investment manager on Friday. Reza Nekouei added the upcoming 17th edition of the expo, commonly known as IranPlast International Exhibition, is the most important event of supplementary and midstream industries of Iran's petrochemical sector, Shana reported. The expo, which has been highly welcomed by domes-

tic and foreign companies, will help promote cooperation between different sections of domestic polymer industry, he mentioned. The NPC investment manager called for Iranian participants to explore ways of completing value chain and offering products having higher added value and identifying investment capacities through exchanging views with other experts. Nekouei added the industrialists' presence in the exhibition will also help Iran achieve its target: 19-million-ton polymer production

capacity in 2027. According to him, foreign investors, mainly from neighboring states, managers of international companies, ambassadors, and economic consultants from different states will visit the expo and hold talks with their Iranian counterparts. Earlier, the exhibition director, Farid Dousti, announced that 560 domestic and 210 foreign companies will participate in the expo, which will be held at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds, from September 17-20.