

Illegal activities behind scavenging business in Tehran

Social Desk
EXCLUSIVE

In Tehran, the distressing sight of individuals clad in tattered garments, hunched over waste containers, with their heads concealed from view, has become a frighteningly commonplace occurrence. More often than not, citizens encounter with labor children among these scavengers and scrappers, a heart-breaking sight that could be used to negatively portray the face of Iran's capital.

A prevailing misconception among citizens, however, is the thought that poverty is the main reason behind scavenging, failing to realize that the immense profits generated by such extensive scavenging activities are being funneled into the coffers of a select few, commonly known in Iranian media as the "waste mafia."

Earlier this summer, Ali Salajegheh, head of Iran's Department of the Environment, told the media that "There is an economic mafia behind [scavenging] and

it exploits [labor] children," according to IRNA.

The environmental official further stated that the issue fuels the propaganda machine of Iran's enemies, calling for swift action to deal with the matter.

It should be noted that scavenging is not limited to Iran. Although practices differ, yet many countries are witnessing a rise in scavenging as a result of technological advances in recycling, which makes scrap metals and plastic bottles – among many other things – valuable, sought-after commodities.

"The recycling of scrap metal is a \$32 billion business in the United States, according to IBISWorld," reads Jake Halpern's 2019 article in New York Times.

A new article published by IRNA on September 18, 2023, takes a closer look at the scavenging business, and reveals that the scavengers operate under the supposition that their managers "own" the waste containers of the city.

"[One of the children] answered that everything has

an owner these days, even us," reads the report, going on to lament the fact that such young children should work on weekends in order to earn a living instead of enjoying leisure time.

"Waste mafia has turned into a serious issue these days. At 6 in the morning, a pickup truck drops off several children on certain streets and alleys, and they have to clean their containers of all recyclable materials."

At nightfall, the same pickup truck, or sometimes bigger ones, come back to recollect these children and the waste they have collected in order to take them to the market.

Not long ago, collecting waste and disposing of them was the municipalities' task, with no one signing up to competing with them. These days, though, everything is different.

The IRNA reports that "the statistical data show that more than 6,000 to 7,000 tons of waste is collected in Tehran every day, a significant part of which recyclable. In addition, more than



IRNA

12,000 people in the metropolis are responsible for collecting all the waste with municipal vehicles on 21 p.m.," which they later take to processing sites.

"Iran produces more than 20 million tons of garbage, one third of which is dry waste and about one quarter is processed," the report goes on.

These statistics show that about five million tons of valuable waste is produced

in Iran every year, which shows the high share of the "waste mafia" from the recycling industry.

Qanbar Adinehvand, director of supervision and evaluation of Tehran Municipality Waste Management Organization, called for citizens' extra attention to the matter, saying, "We ask the citizens not to dispose of their waste at random hours, but to stick with the 21 p.m. schedule."

The official believes that the "waste mafia" cannot be stopped and, as a result, the municipality has become a victim of the ugly and inappropriate behavior of the scavengers.

"But we have said many times that anyone who puts their head in the waste containers has nothing to do with Tehran Municipality, and is only connected with the [waste] mafia," Adinehvand said.

OPINION

Settling 'political' scores with national heroes



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

Iranian freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani, one of the most popular athletes of the country, is the latest non-political figure to fall victim to a malicious divide that is robbing Iran of its national heroes.

With Olympic and World Championship gold medals under his belt, certainly losing the Sunday night final to David Taylor, the American wrestler, is not the end of the world for Yazdani. He is still young and can achieve much more. However, just like the case of the Iranian national soccer team, the Iranian government's opposition and political opportunists tried to exploit yet another international stage in order to diminish the pride the nation takes in its athletes, thus robbing it of a much needed sense of solidarity.

Before and after the final, Yazdani was the target of so much hate speech and malicious content on social media, mostly from opposition figures living abroad. These figures have shown that they will stop at nothing to belittle Iran at every turn, often disguising their intent as being opposed to the policies of the established government. Yet, the majority of Iranians stand firm behind their beloved athletes and national heroes, supporting them all the way, taking pride in their victories and achievements, consoling them in case of defeat. For they all know that Iran will prevail, and each and every citizen of this country is part of its greatness.

Tens of thousands rallied in New York demanding end of fossil fuels

Tens of thousands of protesters on Sunday rallied to kick off a week where leaders will try once again to curb climate change primarily caused by coal, oil and natural gas.

But protesters say it's not going to be enough, Associated Press reported.

They aimed their wrath directly at US President Joe Biden, urging him to stop approving new oil and gas projects, phase out current ones and declare a climate emergency with larger executive powers.

"We hold the power of the

people, the power you need to win this election," said 17-year-old Emma Buretta of Brooklyn of the youth protest group Fridays for Future. "If you want to win in 2024, if you do not want the blood of my generation to be on your hands, end fossil fuels."

The March to End Fossil Fuels featured such politicians as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and actors Susan Sarandon, Ethan Hawke, and Edward Norton.

But the real action on Broadway was where

protesters crowded the street, pleading for a better but not-so-hot future. It was the opening salvo to New York's Climate Week, where world leaders in business, politics and the arts gather to try to save the planet, highlighted by a new special United Nations summit Wednesday. Many of the leaders of countries that cause the most heat-trapping carbon pollution will not be in attendance. And they won't speak at the summit organized by UN Secretary-General Antonio Gu-

terres in a way that only countries that promise new concrete action are invited to speak.

Organizers estimated 75,000 people marched Sunday.

"We have people all across the world in the streets, showing up, demanding a cessation of what is killing us," Ocasio-Cortez told a cheering crowd. "We have to send a message that some of us are going to be living on, on this planet 30, 40, 50 years from now. And we will not take no for an answer."



CAPTION: Climate activists yelling that the future and their lives depend on ending fossil fuels, in New York, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023.
AP PHOTO/BRYAN WOOLSTON

Downtown Tehran to receive public spaces boost

Social Desk

Anaraki Mohammadi, the mayor of Tehran's District 12, recently discussed the need for improved public services in the capital's underprivileged neighborhoods.

During a visit to various areas, including Pirnia and Keyhani houses, Mohammadi emphasized the

importance of revitalizing abandoned spaces and transforming them into green areas for the benefit of the local community, Fars News Agency reported.

Mohammadi expressed concern about the negative consequences of converting old structures into workshops or warehouses, as it can lead to the loss of

the neighborhood's identity. He acknowledged the public's dissatisfaction with the conversion of residential buildings into warehouses or their total abandonment.

To address this issue, the city management is fully prepared to support individuals interested in restoring historical structures and preserving the neighborhood's character. District 12 of Tehran is home to fourteen neighborhoods, which are considered the oldest in the city. They are also the busiest areas. The district boasts several attractions, including bazaar, various museums, embassies, and places of worship for different faiths.



FARS

First Announcement


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

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0240004

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	CASING 6-1/2 IN. API GRADE L-80 SEAMLESS, 20 PPF	2200 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 52,185/49 EURO or 20,943,397,542 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.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

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