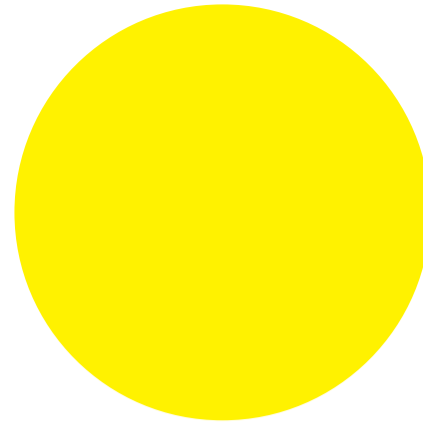


Raeisi, Putin outline Iran's full participation in BRICS activities

2 >



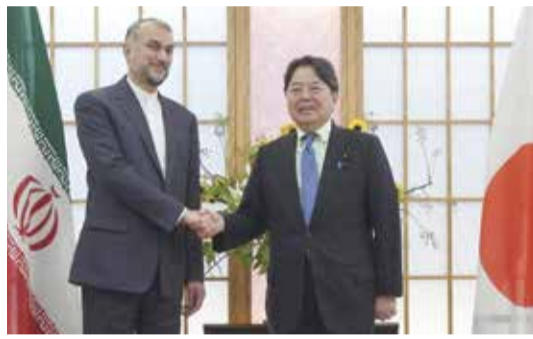
Iran Daily



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir

Vol. 7394 • Wednesday, September 27, 2023 • Mehr 5, 1402 • Rabi' al-Awwal 11, 1445 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

Japan proposes initiative to revive JCPOA



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (l) and his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi shake hands in Tokyo, Japan, on August 7, 2023. AP

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says Japan has proposed an initiative to revive a stalled nuclear deal struck in 2015 with Iran and six major powers including the United States. Amir-Abdollahian told Kyodo News that any initiative from Japan that aligns with "Iran's interests" would be viewed positively by Tehran. He stated, "We support the constructive role of Japan in reviving the nuclear deal." The Iranian foreign minister did not detail the initiative. He said he received the proposal from the Japanese government when he visited Tokyo in August and met Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and then foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi. The nuclear agreement was reached by Iran and six nations — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States — to curb its nuclear program in exchange for lifting economic sanctions. Negotiations over the deal have been at a stalemate since then-president Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the accord in 2018, the year following his inauguration. In 2021, the United States, now under President Joe Biden's administration, along with the other parties to the 2015 deal, resumed negotiations with the objective of facilitating Washington's re-entry into the agreement. Amir-Abdollahian said, however, "excessive demands" by the United States, Britain, France, and Germany regarding the nuclear deal have delayed the talk's progress. He also attributed the delay to what he described as "interference" by the countries in domestic issues of Iran.

Three Iranian films win at Indian festival

8 >



Mohammad-Mehdi Farvardin, the head of the Sports Fraction in the Iranian Parliament:

Human talent vs underground resources

EXCLUSIVE

6 >



Evolutionary path of Iran's missile systems

Tactical Sayyad

A Major Advancement In Iran's Air Defense Capabilities

The development of Tactical Sayyad (Hunter) air defense missile system marks a significant achievement in Iran's defense industry. This system stands as the first indigenous defense system capable of simultaneously deploying multiple missiles from its launcher. The air defense system was featured alongside a range of indigenous military systems and weaponry at the International Military Forum ARMY-2023 held in Russia in August. It was for the first time that the Iranian Defense Ministry showcased a replica of its Tactical Sayyad air defense system in a foreign exhibition, indicating its successful testing and operational readiness.

4-5 >



Iran to reclaim 17,000 more tablets from US

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami announced on Tuesday that an additional 17,000 Achaemenid tablets will be returned to Iran from the United States.



8 >

'Meeting in Fakkeh' by Saeed Alamian review

Sacred Defense's shooting star



EXCLUSIVE

8 >



INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

Iran, US come to third way to manage tensions

7 >



Iran plastic expo key factor in boosting exports to Pakistan

2 >



Timeless charm of the historical bazaar of Urmia

3 >



Djibouti, a strategic partner on the Horn of Africa

7 >

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran-Iraq
annual trade
can reach
\$40b:

PMO chief

IRNA - Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (PMO) said that the level of trade between Iran and Iraq has increased significantly, adding that the two countries can hit a target of \$30-40 billion in annual trade. Speaking after a second joint business committee of Iran and Iraq in Tehran on Monday, Mehdi Zeighami said that the committee had reviewed programs, infrastructure, and solutions for the two neighboring countries, to reach \$20 billion in annual trade in the near future. Zeighami said, however, that bilateral annual trade can reach \$40 billion in the long run.

China slams
US sanctions
over Iran
aircraft
programme

AFP - Beijing said on Tuesday it "firmly opposes" American sanctions on Chinese companies and individuals the US Treasury Department says have connections to Iran's drone and military aircraft development. Washington last week slapped sanctions on "seven individuals and four entities" based in Iran, China, Russia, and Turkey that it said had facilitated shipments and financial transactions involving Tehran's military hardware programme. "China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests," a commerce ministry spokesman told state broadcaster CCTV.

Road
transit via Iran
up 18% in
March-
September

TASNIM - Road transit from Iranian territory increased by 18 percent in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) compared to the same period last year. Over five million tons of goods were transited via Iranian soil by nearly 270,000 domestic and foreign transport fleets during the period, said the director general of the International Transport and Transit Office of Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization.

Raeisi, Putin outline Iran's
full participation in BRICS activities

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi (R) and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation on September 26, 2023.
● president.ir

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed steps to ensure that Tehran fully takes part in BRICS activities as well as the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh and the normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations. The Kremlin announced on Tuesday that the Russian and Iranian presidents held a telephone conversation on Tuesday at the initiative

of the Iranian side, IFP reported. Ebrahim Raeisi expressed his gratitude for Putin's "support of the Iranian application to join BRICS." Moreover, "steps were discussed to ensure that Iran smoothly joins the full-fledged activities of this association, taking into account the chairmanship of Russia in 2024," the Kremlin said. The presidents also

stressed their intention to strengthen trade and economic ties as well as to promote joint energy and transport projects, it added. Calling Iran a "strategic partner," Vladimir Putin expressed hope that by launching the Rasht-Ashtara railway and linking the railways of Russia, Iran, and Azerbaijan, the trade between the two countries would significantly increase. Putin and Raeisi

also expressed interest in intensifying the work of the 3+3 regional consultative platform [Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, plus Russia, Iran, Turkey]. The Kremlin also announced that Putin and Raeisi had a detailed exchange of views on the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh and the normalization of Yerevan-Baku relations. Putin also briefed Raeisi

about the work of Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh, including the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians and the protection of the rights and security of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh. The two presidents also stressed the importance of resolving all issues on Nagorno-Karabakh only by peaceful, political, and diplomatic means.

Iran plastic expo key factor in boosting exports to Pakistan



By Syed Ali Hassan
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The 17th IranPlast International Exhibition recently held in Tehran has played a crucial role in introducing Iran's plastic industry to countries in the region. According to businesspeople from around the world and neighboring countries, Iran's plastic industry has made significant progress in the last years in terms of raw material production. Setting up a plastic production industry in Iran is seen as a profitable investment. As Iran produces various raw materials for the plastic industry, Iranian policymakers have restricted the export of raw materials but are encouraging the export of value-added products. Any mechanism adopted

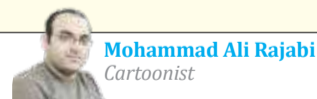
to remove barriers to imports and exports in dollar terms, due to Western sanctions against Iran, will increase the value of commodities. Therefore, Iranian authorities should consider removing the restrictions on the export of raw materials to neighboring countries. Under the leadership of Syed Ali Hassan, director of Artman Atlas Group of Companies, the participation of Pakistani businessmen in the IranPlast expo has opened avenues for mutual trade. According to Imran Chenyuti, a reliable Pakistani businessman in Iran, if the Iranian government lifts restrictions on the export of raw materials, the exports of plastic-related raw materials from Iran to Pakistan alone may increase to \$2 billion. Farid Ahmed Bengali, a leading investor associat-

ed with Pakistan's plastic industry, highlights that the industry, along with other sectors, is declining in Pakistan. This is primarily due to the significant increase in electricity and petroleum prices, as well as the non-supply of raw materials. The lack of open letters of credit in Pakistan for the past 18 months has resulted in a shortage of dollars in the country. The controlled value of the dollar has artificially affected the economy over the last 12 years. If general elections are held and the elected government takes appropriate policies while military intervention is halted, Pakistan's economy is likely to recover in 20 years. Farid Ahmed Bengali believes that by relocating his factory to Iran, he can benefit both nations. He has chosen Iran's Chaba-



har Free Zone, which is only eight hours away from Pakistan's most populous commercial and port city of Karachi. To successfully move the factory, the Iranian government is requested to provide concessions such as a credit line for raw materials and construction support. Similarly, another manufacturer participating in the Iran plastic fair, Mohammad Khalid, also expresses interest in setting up industries in Chabahar. In a joint meeting with investors from Iran's private

sector and Iranian exhibition hosts, a consensus was reached regarding investment in Iran's free zones, and a memorandum of understanding is expected to be drafted soon. Imran Chenyuti, a reliable businessman from Pakistan, mentions that he already imports plastic products from Iran. However, due to the absence of a direct purchasing system from plastic product factories in Iran, the prices of valuable raw materials increase, which leads to higher export prices.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iraq-Iran railway link ready in 18
months: Iraqi adviser

Iraq hopes to complete its first railway link with neighbouring Iran within 18 months, largely to help facilitate the transport of millions of pilgrims that visit Shia Muslim shrines in Iraq each year, a senior transport adviser said. The roughly 30-kilometre (18.64 miles) line will run between Iraq's southern city of Basra and the Iranian border town of Shalamja, linking nations with ties that have deepened since the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, after which pro-Teh-

ran Shia Muslim parties enhanced their influence in Baghdad, Reuters wrote. "We should see the trains moving in about 18 months because it's a small distance," Nasser Al-Asadi, transport adviser to the Iraqi prime minister, told Reuters. Asadi said work was underway to clear the area before ground work could begin on the rail link. Regularly, the world's largest annual religious gathering of up to 20 million mostly Shia Muslims takes part in the 'Arbaeen' pil-

grimage to Iraq's holy city of Karbala to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Many pilgrims walk hundreds of kilometres from the Iran-Iraq border to Karbala or drive there in overcrowded cars and buses, and deadly accidents have been frequent. Asadi said the rail link would reduce the risk of such accidents and allow Iraq to benefit financially from ticket sales.



● shahbazhouse.com

Keshit waterfall: An oasis in Kerman's scorching desert

Iranica Desk

Prepare to be astounded the longer you stay in Kerman Province, which is a treasure trove of awe-inspiring sights at every turn. Kerman unveils striking vistas that will leave an indelible mark on your memory. We want to invite you to discover a magnificent waterfall nestled in the heart of the scorching Lut Desert — Keshit waterfall. Situated in the city of Golbaf, this natural wonder is a must-see tourist attraction in Kerman Province.

An oasis in the desert

Keshit waterfall is a unique marvel amidst a desert landscape, offering sights reminiscent of paradise. With a height of 12 meters, this waterfall is surrounded by lush valleys, majestic palm groves, and numerous other waterfalls originating in Keshit. The result is a picturesque panorama that fills visitors with sheer amazement.

The presence of this geographical marvel creates an environment conducive to the growth of trees and crops. Grape trees, figs, walnuts, as well as wheat and barley thrive in this unexpected oasis.

Flowing throughout the year, Keshit waterfall impressively covers an area of 600 square meters and features natural pools. Among these pools is a well-known one called "Darya," which literally means 'sea'. Locals frequently take dips in this splendid pond, while tourists are also welcome to partake in the thrilling experience of swimming in its inviting waters.

This natural marvel stands as the sole waterfall in the vicinity of Lut, making it one of the region's many stunning wonders. Keshit village itself boasts a rich

historical texture, antique structures, and ancient castles that should not be missed. Satellite images reveal that Keshit village and its waterfall bear a striking resemblance to the roots of a tree. Continue reading to delve deeper into the beauty of this heavenly natural destination.

Activities

The presence of a pond at the foot of this unique waterfall gives fearless and adventurous tourists the opportunity to dive from its heights. However, caution must be exercised due to the varying depths of the natural pool. Before taking the plunge, make sure to assess the depth of your intended diving spot.

Swimming is another delightful activity to indulge in. There's nothing quite like immersing yourself in nature's embrace. If you are fond of this invigorating hobby, take the plunge and enjoy a refreshing swim in the pond of Keshit waterfall.

The pond also houses a particular species of therapeutic fish that feed on dry and dead skin, offering a unique spa-like experience. However, the sensation may not be pleasant for everyone, despite the therapeutic properties of these fish. Keep this in mind before venturing into the waters.

For photography enthusiasts, Keshit waterfall's pristine surroundings and captivating landscapes provide a treasure trove of beautiful and astonishing shots to enhance your photo album.

Facilities and considerations

Adjacent to Keshit waterfall, tourist amenities are scarce, which can be seen as both a fortunate and unfortunate circumstance. It is fortunate as the area has maintained its purity and remains

unspoiled, a haven for nature lovers. However, the lack of facilities emphasizes the need for visitors to come prepared with essential equipment when journeying to this pristine natural haven. To access more amenities, travelers can visit Keshit village, which is conveniently located near the waterfall. For overnight stays, Keshit village offers traditional hostels or the opportunity to camp under the stars, depending on personal preference.

Best time to visit

Given the arid climate of the desert, the best time to visit the waterfall and the village is from early autumn to mid-spring.

Important tips

Due to the absence of mobile reception, the risk of falling from precipices, the presence of poisonous insects and nocturnal animals, it is advisable to leave the area before sunset.

While camping in the area is not highly recommended, if you do plan to spend the night, it is essential to travel in a group and have a guide accompanying you in this pristine and enchanting location.

Keep in mind that the road leading to Keshit waterfall is a bumpy and uneven desert path, which may pose challenges during the drive. Therefore, ensure you have adequate and secure equipment before embarking on the journey.

Previously plagued by smugglers and drug dealers, this area is now safe enough for tourists, offering peace of mind while exploring the surrounds.

If you have set your sights on visiting Keshit waterfall, make sure to pass by the nearby Keshit Castle during your journey. It is an opportunity not to be



● touristo.ir



● IRNA

missed, as it promises to be a worthwhile visit.

Nature has much to offer us, but it is crucial to approach it with caution. Once again, we urge you to heed the provided tips and prioritize your safety.

Timeless charm of the historical bazaar of Urmia

Iranica Desk

The traditional bazaar of Urmia, the capital of the northwestern province of Urmia, with a rich history spanning several centuries and bearing witness to numerous events, holds the distinction of being one of the country's historical and significant markets.

This bazaar, located in the old section of the city, has its origins in the Safavid era. It exhibits a charming blend of simplicity and elegance in its architectural

style. It proudly displays a multitude of arches and domes, creating a visually captivating atmosphere. Within this bustling market, you will discover historical gems such as caravanserais, bathhouses, splendid mansions, and exquisite mosques dating back to the Zand and Qajar eras.

This old bazaar, spanning five hectares, encompasses over 1,000 shops. It also features seven covered lanes and grand caravanserais, along with five ancient bathhouses and a majestic mosque.

The Urmia Bazaar boasts multiple caravanserais (*saras*), including the famous Haj Ibrahim's Sara, and a caravanserai situated north of the majestic Jaame (Grand) Mosque. Another prominent establishment is the Shuja' al-Dawlah Sara, which serves as a vital source for various essential materials in different trades.

The bazaar also has several *rastehs* (covered alleys with shops and workshops of a particular trade) including knife makers, goldsmiths, carpet sell-

ers, seed vendors, crystal merchants, cobblers, and herbalists.

These alleys, which help preserve the traditional form of the bazaar, are connected to each other through several intersections. This not only enhances the visual beauty of the market but also makes it easier for visitors to move around and explore different sections. As mentioned earlier, one of the captivating aspects of this remarkable complex is its architectural simplicity, which adds a touch of elegance and au-

thenticity. Each pathway and section of the bazaar follows a distinctive style and form, representative of its respective period. The remaining remnants vividly showcase the architectural preferences of the people who lived in this lush region during various periods.

In fact, despite the diverse arches and domes, the market complex shines with its unique simplicity. The corridors and intersections are primarily constructed with bricks, mostly without intricate gypsum embellishments.



● FARS/ALI ARSALANI



● FARS/ALI ARSALANI



● JAZEBEHA.COM

Evolutionary path of Iran's missile systems

Tactical Sayyyad

A major advancement in Iran's air defense capabilities

The development of Tactical Sayyyad (Hunter) air defense missile system marks a significant achievement in Iran's defense industry. This system stands as the first indigenous defense system capable of simultaneously deploying multiple missiles from its launcher.

The air defense system was featured alongside a range of indigenous military systems and weaponry at the International Military Forum ARMY-2023 held in Russia in August. It was for the first time that the Iranian Defense Ministry showcased a replica of its Tactical Sayyyad air defense system in a foreign exhibition, indicating its successful testing and operational readiness.

Iran categorizes its missile systems by speed classes: Subsonic, supersonic (with speeds ranging from 1.2 to 5 Mach), and hypersonic (exceeding 5 Mach), with maneuverability during the terminal phase being crucial for effectiveness.

The Tactical Sayyyad system can intercept aerial targets at distances exceeding a hundred kilometers and offers unique advantages over other similar systems. It also has short-range self-protection capabilities compared to Khordad-3 and Khordad-15 systems.

Over the past decade, the country has made substantial improvements in the precision and accuracy of its missile systems, including the Sayyyad, making

the Armed Forces self-sufficient. Iranian officials have made clear that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense. The Tactical Sayyyad system, developed in collaboration with the Iranian Defense Ministry and the Air Defense Force of the Iranian Army, introduces several new features that position it as a primary choice for Iran's air defense needs. The air defense system is part of a broader effort to modernize and enhance the country's indigenous missile systems. The report has covered the specifications and features of the Tactical Sayyyad system, as well as the evolutionary process of the defense systems.

Indigenous missile batteries at a glance

Iran's history of indigenous air defense systems dates back several decades, including the development of short-range and medium-range missile systems like Shahab-e Saqeb, Sayyyad-1, and later, the Sayyyad-2, which saw continuous upgrades and enhancements. In 2000s, the country produced short-range "Shahab-e Saqeb" and medium-range "Sayyyad-1" missiles. Notably, the Sayyyad-1 missile was entirely Iranian-made, while other components were sourced externally. Measuring approximately 11 meters in length, with a weight exceeding 2,300 kilograms, a speed of about four times the speed of sound (Mach 4), a range of 34 kilometers, and a flight altitude of 24 kilometers, it was launched singly from a fixed launcher.

In 2000s, recognizing that a significant portion of aerial threats falls within the medium-range category, Iran intensified efforts to develop the American medium-range surface-to-air Hawk missile system. Prior to that, various initiatives aimed at repairing and mobilizing the Hawk system within the self-sufficiency defense organization enhanced their understanding of this system.

In April 2009, the Shahin missile was introduced as a native version of the Hawk missile system, but equipped with advanced electronic systems and radar seekers.

In September 2010, Mersad defense system was unveiled as an indigenous version of the Hawk system, featuring radar for detection, tracking, and low-altitude search. It employed the "Shahin" missile.

In September 2011, the Shalamcheh missile, with modifications compared to the Shahin, was produced. These missiles were compatible with the Hawk system as well. Shahin and Shalamcheh missiles had ranges between 40 to 45 kilometers, target altitudes of 14 to 18 kilometers, body lengths of approximately 5 meters, a weight of around 637 kilograms, and a speed of less than 3 Mach.

In recent years, Iran has focused on improving and modernizing these systems, leading to the development of systems like "Mersad-2," "Mersad-21," and "Mersad-16," which utilize advanced radar and missile technology.

The Mersad-16, in particular, is noteworthy for its mobility and the ability to launch missiles from canisters, enhancing its versatility. The missile system utilizes the "Shalamcheh-2" missiles, which have a different wing design. It can also integrate advanced radar systems like "Hafez" and "Najm-804" for improved performance.



The Sayyyad-1 missile was entirely Iranian-made, while other components were sourced externally. Measuring approximately 11 meters in length, with a weight exceeding 2,300 kilograms, a speed of about four times the speed of sound (Mach 4), a range of 34 kilometers, and a flight altitude of 24 kilometers, it was launched singly from a fixed launcher.



Era of modern defense systems begins

Marking the continuation of the evolutionary path from the Sayyad 2 and Sayyad 3 missiles, the Khordad-15 air defense missile system was unveiled in 2019. Initially, these two missiles were deployed under the Talash missile system alongside the Russian S-200 air defense system, allowing them to engage one to two targets.

These missiles later gained independence from the S-200 system and ultimately became part of the Khordad-15 system, which offered significantly enhanced capabilities. The Sayyad-2 and -3 missiles have a length of 6.1 meters, a body diameter of 40 centimeters, a mass of approximately 1,000 kilograms, and respective ranges of 75 and 120 kilometers. The advanced solid fuel used in these missiles enables them to engage targets at altitudes of up to 27 kilometers, and they are launched from mobile launchers with canisters. However, in these systems, thanks to its advanced indigenous radar technology known as Najm-804, the capability for engaging up to 6 simultaneous targets was developed. These targets include aerodynamic objects such as aircraft, helicopters, drones, missiles, and certain types of ballistic missiles. This system can detect standard targets at distances exceeding 150 kilometers and hidden or stealthy targets within an 85-kilometer range. Due to its advanced design, it can be rapidly deployed from a stationary or motionless state, with readiness achieved in approximately 5 minutes.

Additionally, it can accommodate an added primary search radar and is integrated into a unified air defense network. With the incorporation of the Joushun radar, this system has gained further capabilities. The Khordad-15 system has been used in recent military exercises.

Today, the country is also pursuing the enhancement of its 2,000-km-range missiles, according to a senior official from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

"Today, we are pursuing to improve the quality and capabilities of our missiles within the range of 2,000 kilometers, like the recently-unveiled "Fattah" hypersonic missile," IRGC's Deputy Commander for Operations Abbas Nilforoushan has said recently. However, he emphasized that Iran has the technological capability to increase missile range, but such advancements are determined based on operational doctrines and threats.

The IRGC's Aerospace Force in June unveiled the Fattah hypersonic missile, which boasts an impressive range of 1,400 kilometers, attains speeds of Mach 13-15, and possesses the ability to penetrate and neutralize anti-missile defenses.



Tactical Sayyad air defense system can detect 24 targets at a distance of 180 kilometers and simultaneously engage 12 targets.



Evolutionary route leads to Tactical Sayyad

Once again, the valuable collective experience of the Ministry of Defense Aerospace Industries Organization and the Army's Air Defense Forces in the process of research, design, construction and testing of the Bavar-373 system was used to develop a medium-range system with concepts that meet the needs of modern battlefields. Furthermore, with new advancements in software, electronics, signal processing, and target detection, improvements were

achieved, ultimately resulting in the creation of a system known as Tactical Sayyad.

Iran unveiled Bavar-373 in August 2019. The long-range air defense system is capable of detecting up to 100 targets, tracking 60 of them, and engaging with six concurrently. In November this year, Iran's Defense Ministry also unveiled the upgraded version of the Bavar-373 (Belief-373) surface-to-air missile system.

Features of Tactical Sayyad

The Tactical Sayyad air defense system is a medium-range defense system developed by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, utilizing modern technologies. It was first unveiled in the Iranian Army Day parade on April 18, 2022.

The attendance of the defense system at Russia's International Military Forum ARMY-2023 has provided new information about the defense system. It is generally an operational system with medium and high-altitude capabilities, consisting of a minimum set of components, including a radar-equipped vehicle and three vertical missile launchers (TELAR: Transporter Erector Launcher and Radar).

The mentioned TELAR is mounted on an off-road capable transporter truck, enabling better mobility of the system in operational environments. The missiles, Sayyad-2 and Sayyad-3, have a range of 75 to 120 kilometers, with potential for upgrades to reach up to 150 kilometers. The TELAR's mobility allows for better maneuverability in operational environments, including off-road capabilities.

In addition to the main components of the system, there are mobile launchers without radar that can carry 6 vertical-launch missiles and can be connected to the system.

One of the distinguishing features of the Tactical Sayyad system is its advanced radar, believed to be an active phased-array radar from the Najm-804 family. This

radar enables the system to detect both conventional and stealthy targets at a range of over 150 kilometers and detect low-profile targets within an 85-kilometer range.

The system also benefits from vertical launch capabilities, which means it can respond rapidly to threats due to the variable angle of attack from the enemy. It can simultaneously engage multiple targets without needing adjustments to the launch platform.

Moreover, the Tactical Sayyad system includes a self-protection subsystem, with short-range defense capabilities to protect against low-altitude threats. This self-protection system distinguishes it from previous air defense systems like Khordad-3 and Khordad-15.

According to the Iranian deputy defense minister for research and industrial affairs, Tactical Sayyad air defense system can detect 24 targets at a distance of 180 kilometers and simultaneously engage 12 targets.

Afshin Naderi Sharif has recently said that "an advantage of the new missile system over the Khordad-3 and Khordad-15 air defense systems is its self-protection system".

The system's flexibility is enhanced by its ability to connect to a network of integrated air defense systems and its compatibility with various launchers, including those without radar.

Overall, the Tactical Sayyad air defense system represents a significant advancement in Iran's air defense capabilities, providing enhanced mobility, detection, and self-protection features. It is a crucial addition to the country's defense against a variety of airborne threats, including aircraft, helicopters, drones, and ballistic missiles.



Human talent vs underground resources



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

The rivalry between the Iranian clubs and the ones based in the Persian Gulf Arab states in the new season of the AFC Champions League has once again drawn the attention of football enthusiasts in the country towards the massive investment on football, on both club and international levels, in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The Iranian fans are, rightly so, concerned about the widening gap between the Saudi Pro League sides, which spent the summer buying the global stars of the game, and the Iranian teams struggling with the new so-called "budget cap" law, which kept them from spending more than a certain sum on new signings.

Add to that the stark contrast between Iran and other nations in the region when it comes to the sport infrastructure and facilities.

The 2022 World Cup took place in Qatar and Saudi Arabia will host December's Club World Cup, not to mention has made the bid to stage the World Cup in 2030, whereas Tehran's aged Azadi Stadium, having just been equipped with the VAR system, remains the only venue in the Iranian capital for the major national and continental contests.

Football, in a modern sense, has turned into a profitable business and, as we can see, the spending spree has lured the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar to the Saudi top-flight, helping the country pursue its football and non-football related goals.

It was only after the acquisition of these superstars that the somewhat unheralded Saudi and Qatari clubs stole the headlines in the Western media, leading to the league matches, which barely had spectators in the stadiums a few years back, attracting millions of viewers all around the world.

The image of Argentine captain Lionel Messi wearing a bisht when lifting the World Cup trophy in the most iconic moment of his career is still fresh in the minds of billions of football fans, or the scenes of Ronaldo and his Al Nassr teammate Sadio Mane celebrating a goal in an Arabian style recently make one wonder



Mohammad-Mehdi Farvardin, the head of the Sports Fraction in the Iranian Parliament
● MNA



Iran's Hosseinpour bags taekwondo silver in Asian Games

Sports Desk

Iran's Alireza Hosseinpour finished his campaign in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, with a silver medal in the taekwondo competitions.

The Iranian defeated opponents from Indonesia, Pakistan, South Korea, and Jordan in emphatic fashion to reach the men's -63kg final showpiece at Lin'an Sports Culture & Exhibition Centre, only to suffer a straight-round setback against Thailand's Banlung Tubtimdang - a silver winner in June's World Championships in Baku.

This was a fourth taekwondo medal for Iran in the Games.

Mahdi Hajimousaei had also settled for silver after a 2-0 defeat against South Korea's Jang Jun in the men's -58kg final.

Mobina Ne'matzadeh, meanwhile, won a fifth medal for Iranian women in Hangzhou by taking the -49kg bronze follow-

ing a last-four loss in straight rounds against home-favorite Guo Qing. Marjan Salahshouri had opened the account for Iran on Sunday, finishing third in the women's poomsae event.

how much the Saudi government and cultural system had to spend to present their traditions before the eyes of millions of people around the globe. However, speaking about the rivalry between the Iranian clubs and other teams in the region, Mohammad-Mehdi Farvardin, the head of the Sports Fraction in the Iranian Parliament, says: "It is the human talent in the Iranian teams versus the underground resources for their opponents in other Persian Gulf countries."

"Arab countries are incompetent at developing domestic players, which is why they reach out for international stars, but you can always see exceptional talents flourishing through the leagues in Iran, who are capable of playing on the highest level of game.

"Players like Mehdi Taremi, Sardar Azmoun, and Alireza Jahanbakhsh are currently among the best in their clubs in Europe, which makes us a top nation in Asia in sending players overseas," added the Iranian lawmaker.

The other question is if there is going to be return on investment for the Saudis' extravagant spending.

At first glance, these high-profile footballers have contributed to the standards and quality among Arab players and competitions in the region, so much so that their clubs claim to be in the same league with top European sides.

However, Farvardin has a different view, saying: "I believe we should make more investment on the infrastructure, as the major issue in the country, rather than bringing in top foreign players. If we could build four or five quality stadiums and invest more on football academies, then we might never need to buy players from other countries, while exporting our domestic products. To that end, we will have focus on the infrastructure, though it takes a nationwide determination."

"The Plan and Budget Organization and others responsible must have the necessary will to solve the problems in that regards. I'm not saying there is no such will now, but we need to speed up in this area and pay more attention to this issue," added the Iranian official.

On how the Iranian Football Federation's new budget cap law will avoid the extravagant investment as well as the influx of unidentified resources in the club football, Farvardin said: "We expect the Iranian teams, significantly those run privately, to comply with the new ruling. I hope they will be more dedicated to improving the youth level football and facilities rather than buying expensive foreign players, which could easily see them breach the budget cap law.

"On the other hand, we at the Parliament are duty-bound to make sure that the clubs will offer clear transparency when it comes to their financial affairs."



The image shows Persepolis (red) in action against Saudi club Al Nassr in the AFC Champions League at the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on September 19, 2023.
● PAYAM SANI/IRNA

First Announcement

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

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140019

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING 7 IN. API 5CT, P-110 "VAM TOP" THREAD, 35 PPF.	500 LE
2	COUPLING, CASING 7 IN. API 5CT "VAM TOP"	10 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 44,383/74 EURO or 18,084,112,325 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough 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
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management
Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site),
Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 24016
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations
www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://lets.mporg.ir> www.setadiran.ir 1573372

First Announcement

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

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140029

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING 7", 35 PPF API GRADE C-110 "VAM TOP" THREAD, RANGE 3 (MAX.LENGTH 40.5 FT)	2200 LE
2	COUPLING, CASING, API GRADE C-110, SEAMLESS, ALL WEIGHTS 7 IN., "VAM TOP"	100 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 131,764/58 EURO or 53,986,452,618 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough 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
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 1573331



Iran's Alireza Hosseinpour (blue) fights Pakistan's Muhammad Arbaz Khan in the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on September 26, 2023.
● hangzhou2022.cn

Europe's anti-Iran decision lacks legal justification

Iran, US come to third way to manage tensions

On October 18, as stipulated by the 2015 nuclear deal, part of Iran's arms embargo pertaining to missiles and drones will expire. However, the trio of European nations, consisting of Britain, Germany, and France, has declared their intention to uphold sanctions against Iran, going against the terms of the nuclear deal or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Iran Daily has discussed the matter with Reza Nasri, an international lawyer and an expert in international affairs. Nasri is of the opinion that Europe's action lacks a solid legal justification.



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

INTERVIEW

IRAN DAILY: On October 18, another part of Iran's sanctions on arms and missiles is set to expire, as per the JCPOA. The European Troika - Britain, Germany, and France - reportedly intend to uphold them. Can Europe, with the backing of the United States, prevent the lifting of these sanctions against Iran?

NASRI: Europe's latest decision will keep in place the sanctions imposed by the European Union in this specific area. However, it won't affect the lifting of international sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. This means that other UN member-states, who were previously called upon by the Security Council not to engage in missile-related cooperation with Iran, will no longer be bound by those restrictions as of October 18. To maintain these sanctions, the three European countries behind this decision (France, the UK and Germany) would have to incorporate the provisions of this Security Council resolution concerning Iran's

missile activities into their domestic legal order; and these domestic laws would naturally only be binding within their jurisdiction. These laws would have an extraterritorial effect only if, during the drafting process, these countries choose to add "secondary sanctions" into the mix, which is a highly improbable scenario.

From a legal standpoint, what will the Europeans and possibly Americans rely on to enforce their decision? Do their references have legal justification?

Europe's argument in this context lacks solid legal foundations. They assert that their action is a response to Iran's non-performance or blatant violation of the JCPOA. However, Iran's decision to resume its nuclear activities is actually consistent with "remedial measures" granted to Iran under JCPOA's Articles 26 and 36. Evidently, agreed-upon "remedial measures" cannot logically be construed as unlawful or outside the framework of the agreement, warranting Europeans to take countermeasures. Put simply, the JCPOA equips Iran with the option to suspend "in whole or in part" its commitments if the other party fails to fulfill its obliga-

tions in a significant manner. This mechanism was meant to provide Iran - currently the aggrieved party - the tool to "compel" a non-compliant counterpart to fulfill its side of the bargain.

Therefore, it is legally untenable for non-compliant parties to interpret the execution of these "remedial measures" as "significant non-performance" or a violation of the JCPOA, when Iran decides to resort to them. This mechanism is specifically meant to lead them to fulfill their obligations, not to use it as a pretext to violate them even further.

From a political perspective, it appears that Iran and the United States are currently adopting a strategy of managing tensions, and the recent agreement on prisoner exchange and the release of Iranian assets is seen as a positive sign for the resumption of nuclear negotiations. Given this context, what is the underlying message or implication of Europe's decision to maintain missile sanctions? Does this negatively affect the approach to contain tensions?

Politically, European authorities are grappling with concerns stemming from cam-

paigns and allegations that have circulated over the past two years regarding "Iran's military involvement in the Ukrainian conflict." They fear that lifting military sanctions on Iran could trigger a strong backlash in their domestic political scene and upset public opinion. So, there is a strong "domestic politics" component to their decision, which has little to do with "international security" or "non-proliferation," as they claim. In any case, past experience shows that engaging in a "tit-for-tat" cycle is never a good idea, as it always carries the risk of escalating tensions and potentially hampering negotiations and the conflict resolution process. So far, there is no clear indication - at least not publicly - that the showdown between Iran and Europe has had a serious effect on Tehran and Washington's bilateral efforts to manage tensions.

Of course, Iran's latest decision to revoke the authorization of certain European inspectors of the IAEA - seemingly in response to Europe's recent measures - could potentially, if not handled carefully, complicate the de-escalation process with the United States. So, it should be approached thoughtfully. We should bear in mind that

for every "tension" that arises in the course of a conflict-resolution process, there is always the possibility for parties to sway into a broader escalation and lose control. So, it's always wise to avoid disproportionate responses, and always foresee an off-ramp strategy if the genuine intention is indeed to peacefully resolve the underlying dispute.

What do you think will be the impact of Europe's resistance to implementing the terms of the JCPOA, specifically the lifting of some sanctions on October 18, on the future of nuclear talks? Are we likely to see a resumption of the nuclear talks, or are the parties considering new approaches beyond the JCPOA?

It seems that the parties involved have concluded that the revival of the JCPOA - in its current form - would not occur until after the upcoming US presidential elections. Iran is unwilling to settle for a lesser deal that does not deliver meaningful economic benefits, and President Biden seems unwilling to restore the JCPOA at the cost of having to endure considerable pressure from the Israeli lobby, Congress and his political rivals throughout the election season.

Now, assuming Mr. Biden is re-elected, the period spanning from the start of his second term (January 2025) until the expiration of Resolution 2231 (October 2025) is merely nine months, within which Iran will also hold its own presidential elections. This means that the practical window for reviving the JCPOA in its former configuration would be only about three or four months. At that time, it seems unlikely that the US administration would agree to revive an agreement whose main restrictions would sunset with the expiration of Resolution 2231 shortly thereafter.

As a result, it seems that the parties are exploring a third approach which involves engaging in piecemeal "mutual de-escalation measures" (away from legal formalities) in diverse areas of concern, in order to create the political foundation for a more comprehensive agreement after the US presidential elections. At least, this would be the logical solution, which recent developments - including the release of prisoners on both sides, the release of certain Iranian frozen assets, the reduction of military tensions in the region, and the deceleration of Iran's nuclear activities - seem to corroborate.

Djibouti, a strategic partner on the Horn of Africa



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahin (R) shakes hands with his Djiboutian counterpart Mahmoud Ali Youssouf in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

International Desk

PERSPECTIVE

Iran and Djibouti have recently announced their decision to resume diplomatic relations. On the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, Iranian and Djiboutian foreign ministers reached an agreement to forge friendly relations

between Iran and Djibouti anchored in mutual respect for sovereignty, equality, mutual benefits, and peaceful coexistence. Djibouti joined seven other nations in cutting ties with Tehran in support of Saudi Arabia in 2016, following demonstrations in Tehran and Mashhad protesting the killing of Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, which led to tensions between Tehran and Riyadh. Formerly known as French Somaliland and the French Territory of the Afars and Issas, the country took Djibouti as its name when it gained independence from France on June 27, 1977.

On the Horn of Africa, Djibouti is among the African countries with substantial potential in regional and subregional roles, holding a strategic and geopolitical position. It is situated on the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, which lies to the east and separates the Red Sea from the Gulf of Aden.

The Bab-el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean and international waters, making it a crucial point of connection between East and West. Therefore, Djibouti attracts the attention of many global and regional powers who seek to gain influence in Djibouti and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait through financial aid, military bases, or other means.

Possible gains of restoring ties

Its geographical and strategic position could potentially expand the operational scope of Iran's naval forces in combating piracy and ensuring security in the region's maritime waters. Thus, the importance of Djibouti lies in its ability to facilitate these efforts. Several regional and international powers, including the United States, France, Japan, Italy, and others, have military bases in Djibouti. China has also en-

gaged in negotiations with Djibouti in recent years to establish a military base, as Djibouti is part of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative. These foreign military bases underscore the significance of Djibouti's geographical location. Iran's foreign policy is also based on a balanced doctrine with three principles: Dignity, interests, and wisdom. Excessive trust in the West and neglect of the East have led to significant harm to Iran's national interests. A paradigm shift in foreign policy has occurred, aiming to rectify the shortcomings in relations with the East and utilize neglected capacities.

Now, with the resumption of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, regional countries are seeking to establish ties with Iran, and Djibouti has announced its intention to do so. Iran, with its capabilities, can work to ensure

that countries like Djibouti are less influenced by certain powers in their relations with Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahin's meeting with his Djiboutian counterpart, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, in New York marked the first diplomatic encounter after Djibouti's previous decision to sever ties with Iran. The Iranian foreign minister emphasized that his country has witnessed positive developments in its relations with Djibouti over the years. He expressed Iran's eagerness to see the natural progression of Iran-Djibouti relations.

He further emphasized that Iran regards Djibouti as a friendly and brotherly nation, saying, "We are keen to strengthen and consolidate relations with Djibouti as an important Muslim country in the Horn of Africa. We can establish strong relations

and expand cooperation in all areas."

The foreign minister of Djibouti also noted the solidarity among Islamic countries and said, "It is necessary to stand by each other in sensitive situations, and Djibouti welcomes the establishment of comprehensive relations with Iran."

Jafar Qannadhashi, a senior expert on African affairs, points out that Djibouti has significant geopolitical capabilities. He adds, "Djibouti has important ports, and our shipping requires ports in the vicinity and along the coasts of Africa. Djibouti can be one of these ports."

Iran, given its focus on economic issues as the centerpiece of its global policies, considers countries with strategic geographical positions like Djibouti to be important partners.

Mehr News Agency contributed to this report.

13th int'l tourism exhibition opens in Isfahan



IRNA - The 13th Specialized Exhibition of Handicrafts, Tourism and Hotel Management and Equipment opened at the Isfahan International Exhibition Center on September 26.

The exhibition will run through September 29. Tourism professionals at this exhibition, which aims to promote tourism and showcase the handicrafts of Isfahan Province, are presenting their latest services, capabilities, and artistic works for four days.

The exhibition, which began on the eve of World Tourism Day, highlights various sections and structures within Isfahan's tourism industry, including travel agencies, accommodation and tourism centers, as well as tourism investment companies and relevant educational institutions, occupying more than 4,000 square meters of exhibition space.

- License Holder: Managing Director
- Editor-in-chief
- Int'l & National Desk
- Economy Desk
- Sports Desk
- Iranica Desk
- Arts & Culture Desk
- Social Desk
- Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Ali Kakadezfuli
Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,
Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari
Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan
Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Leila Imeni
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
irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir
newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

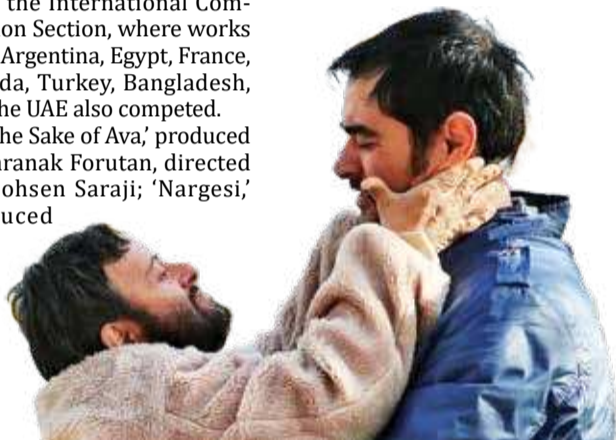
Vol. 7394 ● Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

Three Iranian films win at Indian festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Three Iranian films, 'For the Sake of Ava,' 'Nelumbo,' and 'Nargesi,' received awards at the International Film Festival of Shimla, held in India. As reported by Mehr news agency, the ninth edition of the International Film Festival of Shimla, featuring over 60 films, including short films, feature films, documentaries, and music videos, took place from September 22 to 24. Iranian filmmakers participated in the International Competition Section, where works from Argentina, Egypt, France, Canada, Turkey, Bangladesh, and the UAE also competed. 'For the Sake of Ava,' produced by Faranak Forutan, directed by Mohsen Saraji; 'Nargesi,' produced

by Shahab Hosseini, directed by Payam Eskandari were awarded in the International Competition Section, while 'Nelumbo,' directed by Abbas Khademalrasoul, won the top prize in the Short Film Section. 'For the Sake of Ava' falls under the children and youth genre and had previously been selected as the best in the children and family category at the IndieFEST Film Awards. 'Nargesi' focuses on the world of children with Down syndrome.



Iran to reclaim 17,000 more tablets from US

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, Ezzatollah Zarghami, announced on Tuesday that an additional 17,000 Achaemenid tablets will be returned to Iran from the United States.

According to Mehr news agency, Iranian experts are scheduled to travel to the United States next month to oversee the return of another batch of Achaemenid historical tablets.

Zarghami emphasized that the conditions for sending these tablets back to Iran will be established after verifying their authenticity. This development follows a recent announcement by Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi, as he declared the successful repatriation of 3,506 Achaemenid tablets from the United States after more than 85 years. Zarghami provided the historical context, stating, "The original collection of these tablets, numbering 30,000, was discovered in 1932 during the reign of Pahlavi



IRNA

I. They were subsequently sent to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago to be explored and studied. These tablets encompass a wide range of administrative, economic, social, and linguistic documents dating back 2,500 years, shedding light on the legal rights of ancient Iranians." The minister also detailed the process for the return of the remaining tablets, stating, "The groundwork has been laid for the return of the remaining tablets,

following an agreement reached with the Americans. Our experts will travel to the United States to authenticate and verify the remaining tablets, after which they will be gradually returned to Iran." Zarghami concluded by mentioning that the returned tablets have been safely transferred to the National Museum of Iran, with plans to put some of them on public display in the near future.

'Meeting in Fakkeh' by Saeed Alamian review

Sacred Defense's shooting star



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

During the Iraqi-imposed war, commonly known in Iran as the Sacred Defense, a war that went on for eight long years, a myriad of heroes emerged from the crucible of war. Although only one amongst so many, Hassan Baqeri resembled a unique shooting star, captivating all who came into contact with him. In 'Meeting in Fakkeh,' a well-researched biography of the Iranian martyr by Saeed Alamian, we encounter a self-made commander of war, whose far-seeing insistence on the importance of military intelligence and visionary methods of carrying out missions helped Iranian forces to successfully reclaim Iraq's gains during the early days of its surprise invasion. In its 22 chapters, the book chronicles the life and times of Hassan Baqeri, from his premature birth on March 16, 1956 in Khorasan Square in Tehran to his tragic martyrdom on January 29, 1983 in Fakkeh, Khuzestan. The narrative consists mainly of interviews with Baqeri's family and comrades, among whom we meet many high-ranking officers and martyred heroes.

'Meeting in Fakkeh' is not your run-of-the-mill biography wherein a profile is portrayed in a matter-of-fact way, but evokes a living figure through numerous interviews with people who knew and worked with Baqeri. Moreover, it quotes directly from his journals, adding depth to the narrative. The martyr's personal notes also act as a touchstone of the whole account. Although gathering so many firsthand accounts from Baqeri's family and friends has shaped up to be an excellent mode of animating his bedazzling character, so much of his life as an individual remains out of sight and unaccounted for.

The martyr's original name was Gholamhossein Afshordi, and he was later nicknamed Hassan Baqeri when he decided to work as an intelligence officer to serve the purpose of the Islamic Revolution of 1979. As fate would have it, the name that was meant to hide his true identity became the very identity with which he shall be eternally remembered. Baqeri was a religious, kind, and down-to-earth individual with a thirst for knowledge and information. He was an avid reader, always carrying books with him wherever he went, learning as much as he could about as many things as he could. Maybe he was born a genius, but surely this very habit of reading, as well as actively thinking about things and his power of deduction helped him to become the orchestrator of Iranian attacks on the enemy. "Hassan was courageous. He would come to the front for the operations to observe and investigate the situation to see what should and should not be done. [...] Hassan was not a headquarters-bound commander who directs his forces through the radio," martyr Mehdi Bakeri has said about Baqeri.

His analytic, strategic thinking mixed with his valor turned him into a "real operative commander," who was able

to play a great role during the early years of the Sacred Defense up until his martyrdom.

Baqeri led a simple life, avoiding unnecessary riches and luxuries. During the months leading to his martyrdom, he lived with his wife and newborn daughter in a humble abode in Dezful, Khuzestan. On the morning of the day of his martyrdom, he went to a shelter to have a meeting. "[He] turned to me and asked: 'Haji, do you have something to eat,'" remembered Mashallah Esmaeily, his friend and comrade. Since Mashallah couldn't find anything to eat, he decided to go to the kitchen to bring some food. But Baqeri stopped him. "There were some musty breads there. He took some, started to scrape off the mold with a knife and ate them." In an era when pure intentions to serve Iran and its people have given way to thirst for power and earthly riches, when doing things solely out of Islamic beliefs and for the sole purpose of satisfying Allah is no longer the case for so many, learning about a brave soldier who gave his all to defend our country and Islam, without asking anything for himself or his family in return, is a fresh change of pace. Hassan Baqeri could serve as the ultimate emblem of true revolutionaries whose end goal was not taking the positions of power, but getting rid of the tyranny once and for all - be it Mohammadreza Pahlavi, or Saddam Hussein. "[He] said: 'Mr. Nasser, we should go to meet our maker with hands full while there's still a war. Who knows what will happen to us when the war is over. Being martyred is the best fate we could ask for,'" quoted Ali Nasser, one of Baqeri's comrades. Baqeri's brilliant strategic thinking and his ability to lead Iranian forces to victory still remains unparalleled, and his martyrdom was a great loss for our country.

