

Wildlife rehabilitation clinic at the heart of Tehran



Social Desk

In the past, animals in distress or seized from smugglers in Iran were often condemned to death. However, the Pardisan Park Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic now provides a sanctuary where these animals receive better care and are prepared for their return to the wild. This clinic serves as a special facility for treating and rehabilitating sick animals

from all over Iran. It houses creatures rescued from smugglers or brought in by individuals. As these animals are not yet ready for release, they are kept in various-sized cages to improve their condition. Different species are released back into nature during specific seasons and under controlled circumstances. Birds of prey, foxes, bears, swans, eagles, and partridges are among the animals that have found

refuge in this clinic, undergoing necessary treatment. After a period of time, these animals either find new homes in zoos or are released into the wild. Mahyar Mar'ashi, a veterinarian specializing in wildlife diseases, explained that the Pardisan Quarantine Center takes in injured or sick animals found in the wild or brought in by people. The animals undergo quarantine and treatment. If they are deemed fit for

release, they are returned to their original habitat. Those unable to be released are sent to authorized animal care centers or zoos. Mar'ashi emphasized the importance of not separating young animals, such as lambs and chicks, from their mothers in nature. People often mistake the absence of a mother as abandonment and mistakenly take these animals. However, the mother may

have temporarily left to find food and will return. Separating the young from their mothers can hinder their ability to survive and reintegrate into the wild. Regarding keeping wild animals as pets, Mar'ashi strongly advised against it. Wild animals should remain in their natural habitats to preserve Iran's wildlife, which is a valuable national asset. Only a few ornamental animals with specific conditions can be

kept as pets. Unfortunately, during certain times, such as New Year's Norouz, there is an illegal trade of species like the Lorestan salamander, non-native snakes, and turtles that harm Iran's ecosystem. It is crucial that we prioritize the well-being of our country's wildlife and fulfill our responsibility to protect them. Wild animals should never be kept in homes, apartments, or gardens.

● FARS

Give a child the life of a child



By Reza Gerami

Children's rights activist

OPINION

The world celebrated International Children's Day on October 8, and I am compelled to draw attention to a group of young individuals who often go unnoticed – the children who sell flowers or clean car windshields at the intersections in Iranian cities.

These children, who sacrifice their childhood for a meager wage, are deprived of their basic rights. They should be dreaming, not working! They should be enjoying their innocence, not toiling away on the streets. These children of labor are not from another planet; they could easily be our own, given they have been robbed of their rightful place in society.

Like our own children, they dream of wearing new clothes on New Year's Eve, going to school, learning to read and write, and playing with their toys at night.

Yet, there are reportedly over two million working children in the country, 60% of whom are Iranian. 45% of them fall between the ages of 10 and 14, and 34% have dropped out of school. Even more concerning, 24% of these kids have never had the opportunity to go to school.

Upon examining the relevant laws, it becomes evident that Iran lacks comprehensive legislation against child labor. While Article 79 of the Labor Law prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15, except for chores and personal work, the provision falls short in protecting these kids. Consequently, the work these children undertake on the streets is deemed a crime, leading to their arrest or mistreatment.

Let us not forget the shocking reports that surfaced about the exploitation of children in recycling centers, revealing the dire conditions endured by those scavenging in the garbage. These children face the risk of contracting diseases, with some even meeting their untimely end within these waste separation facilities.

The prevailing economic conditions in Iran, rising prices, and misguided policies have contributed to an increase in the number of working children. These circumstances have also enabled illegal gangs to exploit them further. Relevant authorities should reconsider their approach. Instead of adopting ineffective and burdensome measures that only inconvenience these children, they must address the root cause of child labor.

The focus should be on providing better living conditions for these children and their families, rather than making unproductive efforts to clean the face of the cities at any cost. Only through fundamental change can we truly make a difference in the lives of these children and ensure a brighter future for them.

Over 2000 dead in Afghanistan earthquake IRCS rescue & relief teams in Herat



● AP

The death toll from powerful earthquakes in western Afghanistan has crossed 2,000, a senior Taliban leader said, adding the number might rise further in one of the deadliest quakes to hit the country in two decades. Suhail Shaheen, the Taliban spokesperson based in Qatar, announced that many people were missing and rescue operations were under way to save people trapped under the rubble in the wake of a magnitude 6.3 earthquake in Herat province, according to Al Jazeera. Shaheen said there was an urgent need for tents, medical and food items in the areas hit by the disaster, as he appealed to local businessmen and NGOs to come forward to help people in need.

In response to the natural disaster in the neighboring country of Afghanistan, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has sent 10 operational rescue and relief teams to the quake-stricken Herat from Razavi, South and North Khorasan provinces, ILNA reported.

In addition, a relief cargo, including 500 relief tents, 1,000 carpets, 4,000 blankets, 500 sets of dishes, 500 ten-day food packages, along with search and rescue equipment, was sent to Afghanistan.

"Besides the 2,060 dead, 1,240 people are injured and 1,320 houses are completely destroyed," said Abdul Wahid Rayan, spokesperson at the Ministry of Information and Culture. About six villages have been destroyed and hundreds of civilians have been buried under the debris, he said, calling for urgent help.

The magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit 40km northwest of the city of Herat at about 11 am on Saturday (06:30 GMT), according to the US Geological Survey (USGS).

Six artificial islands to be built in Mazandaran

Social Desk

Deputy Governor of Mazandaran province has announced plans to construct six artificial islands as part of the province's comprehensive development initiatives. These islands, which will be built off the coast, are set to accelerate the region's construction projects and contribute to the balanced growth of various sectors.

Ahmad Tavakoli highlighted the government's commitment to supporting the development of the province. He emphasized that the construction projects in Mazandaran have gained momentum under Raisi administration, with a focus on achieving balanced and comprehensive growth across all sectors, IRNA reported. One of the noteworthy projects approved by the government is the construction of the Chalus-Tonekabon-Ramsar freeway. Spanning 90 kilometers, this freeway is expected to enhance transportation infrastructure while taking into consideration environmental concerns. Additionally, the construction of six artificial islands stands out as another significant undertaking that will further help Mazandaran's development.

The construction of artificial islands is a well-known phenomenon globally, with countries like the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands leading the way. These man-made islands have proven to be successful in promoting tourism, creating new real estate opportunities, and expanding economic activities.



DoE, industries to cooperate to combat Persian Gulf pollution



Social Desk

The Director General of the Marine Pollution Investigation and Counteraction Office of Iran's Department of the Environment (DoE) has announced a collaborative effort between the environmental and industrial sectors to combat pollution stemming from petrochemical and oil activities in the southern regions of the country, including the Persian Gulf.

Omid Sediqi highlighted the two main sources of pollution in marine waters. The first source comprises land-based pollutants that originate from various manufacturing industries located in coastal areas, such as refineries, petrochemical plants, and steel mills. These industries discharge their wastewater into the sea, including those in the Persian Gulf watershed, which release their wastewater into underground waters or rivers, ISNA reported.

Sediqi further explained that important areas like Asaluyeh and Bandar Imam, which house extensive petrochemical complexes, contribute to both air pollution caused by flares and torches, as well as water pollution due to effluents. The Marine Pollution Investigation and Counteraction Office is actively collaborating with these complexes, urging them to complete their sewage treatment systems.

He further emphasized that their work with petrochemical industries, particularly in Asaluyeh and Bandar Imam, is underway. "We have requested these industries to recycle their wastewater, and the process has already commenced," Sediqi said, adding, "However, it is crucial for the treatment plants of these facilities to be completed first, as some were previously incomplete. Once the industrial wastewater is effectively treated, it can be reused."