

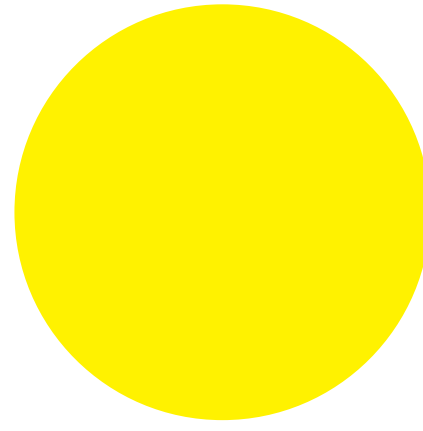


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# Iran Daily



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## Guterres' bold confession



By **Nozar Shafiei**  
Tehran University professor

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has once again owned up to the shortcomings of the global organization in carrying out its responsibilities of maintaining peace and stability. Guterres explicitly has pointed out that the lack of unity within the UN Security Council during the Ukraine and Gaza conflicts has undermined the council's authority and the overall effectiveness of the United Nations. Guterres sees the upcoming UN General Assembly meeting in September as a chance to put forward reforms within the world body.

The call for restructuring the United Nations has been ongoing since the end of the Cold War. The fundamental question raised back then was whether the challenges of the post-Cold War era would mirror past challenges or introduce new threats. Former secretary general Kofi Annan appointed a high-level panel to delve into the issue, and its findings highlighted the urgent need for UN reforms tailored to address contemporary and future global challenges. Key concerns emphasized by the panel included climate change, terrorism, civil conflicts, and human rights abuses.

Despite numerous proposals for reforms, progress has been hindered due to the requirement for approval by the UN Security Council as per the UN Charter. The veto power wielded by the permanent members of the Security Council has been a major obstacle to implementing these reforms.

The same powers that resisted UN reforms now pose significant threats to the international community through their acts. Russia's involvement in the Ukraine conflict and NATO's support led by the United States have escalated tensions. These major Western powers backing Israel in the Gaza war have effectively obstructed UN interventions and cease-fire initiatives.

The world operates within a framework where state-centric relations are predominant, with great powers dictating global dynamics. Issues such as identity, human rights, and gender have become contentious due to the state-centric nature of international relations, sidelining the role of nations and non-governmental bodies.

To effectively address emerging global challenges and threats, reforms within the United Nations are imperative. Guterres stands out as a courageous secretary general, challenging the dominance of major powers and rallying global public opinion toward reform efforts. The United Nations itself must prioritize the urgency of reforms and actively include it on the agenda. Guterres and reform advocates have until September to underscore the necessity of reforms, engaging public opinion and non-governmental entities. Any resistance from major powers against reforms may provoke public backlash. Therefore, Guterres' candid acknowledgment of the UN's shortcomings and the call for reforms should be seen as a positive sign, paving the way for a revamped structure in line with current global realities to ensure peace and security worldwide.

# Iranian FM: World Facing Most 'Shameful Moral' Crisis in Gaza

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Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) shakes hands with the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on February 26, 2024. [mfa.gov.ir](http://mfa.gov.ir)



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## Iranians, Senegalese keen on working in aquaculture, veterinary medicine

An aquaculture and animal husbandry delegation from Senegal has traveled to Iran to participate in training courses and learn about experiences and achievements of Iran in the fields of fisheries and veterinary medicine. Iran's Veterinary Organization (IVO) hosted the 15-member Senegalese delegation in line with collaborations to developing the management skills of African countries. Head of Iran Veterinary Organization Mojtaba Norouzi said his organization is ready to share its experiences with the visiting Senegalese delegation in the fields of aquaculture and veterinary medicine. The deputy minister of agriculture hoped that the training courses would be fruitful for the Senegalese officials.

## Iran ranks first in AI among Islamic states: *Official*



The head of Islamic World Science & Technology Monitoring and Citation Institute (ISC) said the Islamic Republic of Iran stood in first place among Islamic countries in terms of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

Ahmad Fazelzadeh explained on the outstanding scientific status of Iran in the fourth generation (4-G) technologies of the industry and also the rate of science production in these areas, reported Tasnim News Agency.

The fourth media industrial revolution can be regarded as one of the salient achievements in recent decades that can have many benefits for businesses, industries and people in society, he emphasized.

This industrial revolution is based on intelligence, the official said, adding that smart equipment and technologies such as the AI, Internet of Things (IoT), 3-D printing, communication technologies of the new generation (5-G, robotics, block-chains and drone technology) take the lead in the industrial revolution.

The fourth media industrial revolution is an emerging reality that would be the source of many changes and developments in the fields of economic, social and educational structures, he added.

# Owji: Daily gasoline distribution surpasses 132m liters during cold spell

Gasoline distribution across Iran exceeded 132 million liters per day as temperatures dropped sharply in recent days, said Oil Minister Javad Owji on Monday.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to the Monitoring Center of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), he added the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) has supplied fuel to all 4,200 gas stations and power plants incessantly during the cold weather, Shana reported.

The minister said the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil industry are fully prepared and no pressure drop has been reported in any part of the country.

According to Owji, the country is producing 30 million cubic meters (mcm)

more gas this year, as Phase 11 and Phase 14 of the South Pars Gas Field account for the highest offshore and onshore production, respectively.

More than 1.07 billion cubic meters (bcm) of raw gas are currently produced per day, out of which over 850 mcm of sweet gas are injected into the national gas grid per day.

Shifting to Israel's recent terrorist attacks on Iran's gas transmission pipelines, the oil minister said the damaged parts were fixed in the shortest possible time.

On February 14, two explosions struck the gas transmission pipelines at around 1 a.m. local time (2130 GMT), hitting the lines in Borujen, western province of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, and Safa-Shahr, southern province of Fars.



## IMF upgrades Iran's 2023 growth rate to 5.4%, citing oil output surge

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised up its previous economic growth projection for Iran in 2023, attributing it to a higher-than-expected increase in the country's oil production.

Releasing its latest quarterly report, known as World Economic Outlook, the IMF said Iran's economy grew 5.4 percent in 2023, showing a remarkable boost compared to the preceding year. The international agency had previously predicted a three-percent growth for the country's economy in that year, Press TV wrote.

The IMF also forecast a 3.7 percent economic growth for Iran in 2024, while its previous projection in October 2023 had put the figure at 2.5 percent.

The world body attributed the hike in Iran's growth rate to a surge in the country's oil output, which it said has surpassed 2.7 million barrels per day so far in 2024. IMF's figures confirm reports by the Iranian government agencies suggesting that the country is on a path to control inflation and restore economic growth to levels seen before 2018, when the United States withdrew from an international deal on Iran's nuclear program and re-imposed sanctions on the country.

The sanctions initially affected Iran's oil revenues and led to periods of negative economic growth in the country. However, Iran started to recoup the losses in the second half of 2022, after it implemented a series of economic reform programs to offset the impact of sanctions. Experts believe the US sanctions on Iran gave the country an opportunity to diversify its economy away from oil revenues and rely more on domestic resources.



## Iran's non-oil exports to Russia top \$2b in 2023: *Envoy*

Iran's ambassador to Russia said the country's exports of non-oil products to the Russian Federation topped \$2 billion in 2023.

Russia's exports of non-oil products to Iran, meanwhile, decreased last year, Kazem Jalali added, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Turning to the banking and monetary exchanges between Tehran and Moscow, he noted that banking transactions between the two countries will be carried out in a more facilitated way in the next Iranian year (to start March 20, 2024).

The officials of the two countries are determined to boost cooperation in the monetary and banking fields, he noted. Jalali pointed to the signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and five member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) late in 2023, and termed it a great achievement for the two sides.

After signing this agreement, the governments of Iran and the five EAEU member states (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) will submit it to their respective parliaments for final approval.

Once the agreement is put into effect, the customs tariff of over 90 percent of the goods will be minimized to zero, he said, expressing hope that this agreement will be approved by the parliaments of the countries as soon as possible because launching the FTA would play a leading role in boosting bilateral trade.

Once the FTA is put into operation, Iran's exports of products to the member states of the union will significantly increase, he added.

The free trade agreement between the EAEU and Iran was signed during the EAEU summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, on De-



## Iran manufactures over 1.2m cars in 11 months

The head of the Auto Industries Department of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade said about 1.23 million cars were manufactured in the country in the 11 months of the current Iranian year (started March 21, 2023). Mehrdad Khosravi put the number of passenger cars produced in the country from March 21, 2022, to February 22, 2023, at 980,000, reported Tasnim News Agency. He pointed out that 152,000 pickup trucks were manufactured during the period, reg-

istering a 34 percent growth compared to the same period last year. About 34,000 different types of heavy vehicles (trucks, mini-trucks and tractor-trailers) were manufactured in the first 11 months of the current Iranian year, showing a 10 percent hike compared to last year's corresponding period, Khosravi added. The official noted that about 280,000 vehicles were manufactured by the private sector. The International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (known

as OICA) has ranked Iran sixth in the world in terms of car manufacturing growth in 2022. According to the OICA data, car manufacturing in Iran increased by 19 percent in 2022, as the country manufactured 1.064 million vehicles in the mentioned year, while the figure was 894,000 in 2021. The international organization in its annual report released in mid-March, had ranked Iran as the world's 16th largest automaker in 2022. According to the OICA report, Iran's position

among the world's top automakers has improved by three places in 2022 compared to the previous year making the country stand above industrial countries like the UK, Russia, and the Czech Republic. The Islamic Republic was ranked 19th in the OICA list of the world's top automakers in 2021. Based on the report, Iranian automakers managed to manufacture 1,064,298 vehicles in 2022 to register a 19-percent growth compared to the previous year.

According to the OICA data, in 2022, more than 85 million cars were produced worldwide, indicating a six percent growth compared to 2021. Also, European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), in its annual report released in late February, ranked Iran as the world's 11th largest automaker in 2022. According to the ACEA report, Iran's position among the world's top automakers has improved by eight places in 2022 compared to the previous year. The Islamic Repub-

lic was ranked 19th in the ACEA list of the world's top automakers in 2021. Based on the mentioned report, Iranian automakers managed to manufacture 1,085,859 vehicles in 2022 to register a 10.8-percent growth compared to 979,969 cars in 2021. According to the ACEA data, in 2022, more than 68 million cars were produced worldwide, indicating a 7.9 percent growth compared to 2021. About 63,200,000 cars were produced in the world in 2021.



# Adobe structures of Fahadan neighborhood symbolize ancient Iranian architecture



## Iranica Desk

Situated in the historic center of Yazd lies the enchanting district of Fahadan. This neighborhood boasts a well-preserved collection of traditional Persian homes, mansions, bazaars, mosques, and *baadgirs* (wind catchers). Constructed mainly in the 18th and 19th centuries, these adobe structures showcase intricate designs and decorations that epitomize ancient Iranian architecture.

Fahadan offers a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of elite Yazdis of the past. These exquisite homes blend influences from pre- and post-Islamic eras, incorporating traits from the Sassanid, Safavid, and Qajar periods. The fusion of luxurious styles tailored to Yazd's hot, arid climate is a testa-

ment to Iran's rich artistic and architectural heritage, wrote amazingiran.com.

The use of adobe in Fahadan not only defines its aesthetic appeal but also enhances its functionality. The mud brick dwellings harmonize with the desert landscape, providing excellent thermal insulation in extreme temperatures. The adobe bricks, made of clay and straw, form thick walls up to a meter in width, painted with white lime plaster to reflect sunlight. Small windows help trap cooling

air inside.

Despite being susceptible to water damage, adobe structures endure Yazd's dry climate. Repairing cracked or collapsed walls involves adding new bricks, with old clay returning to the earth, completing the material lifecycle. The meticulous handcrafting of uniform bricks and intricate brick-laying patterns by skilled craftsmen over generations seamlessly integrates these monolithic earthen structures into the desert environment.

Fahadan homes embody ancient Iranian innovations in passive cooling essential for Yazd's scorching summers. The strategic placement of *baadgirs*, courtyards, and basements facilitates ventilation within the interiors. *Baadgirs*, wind tower structures atop roofs, capture breezes with shaft openings facing



hameghlim.com

different directions to ensure a continuous flow of cool air into the homes. Some towers even feature ice boxes to further cool the air.

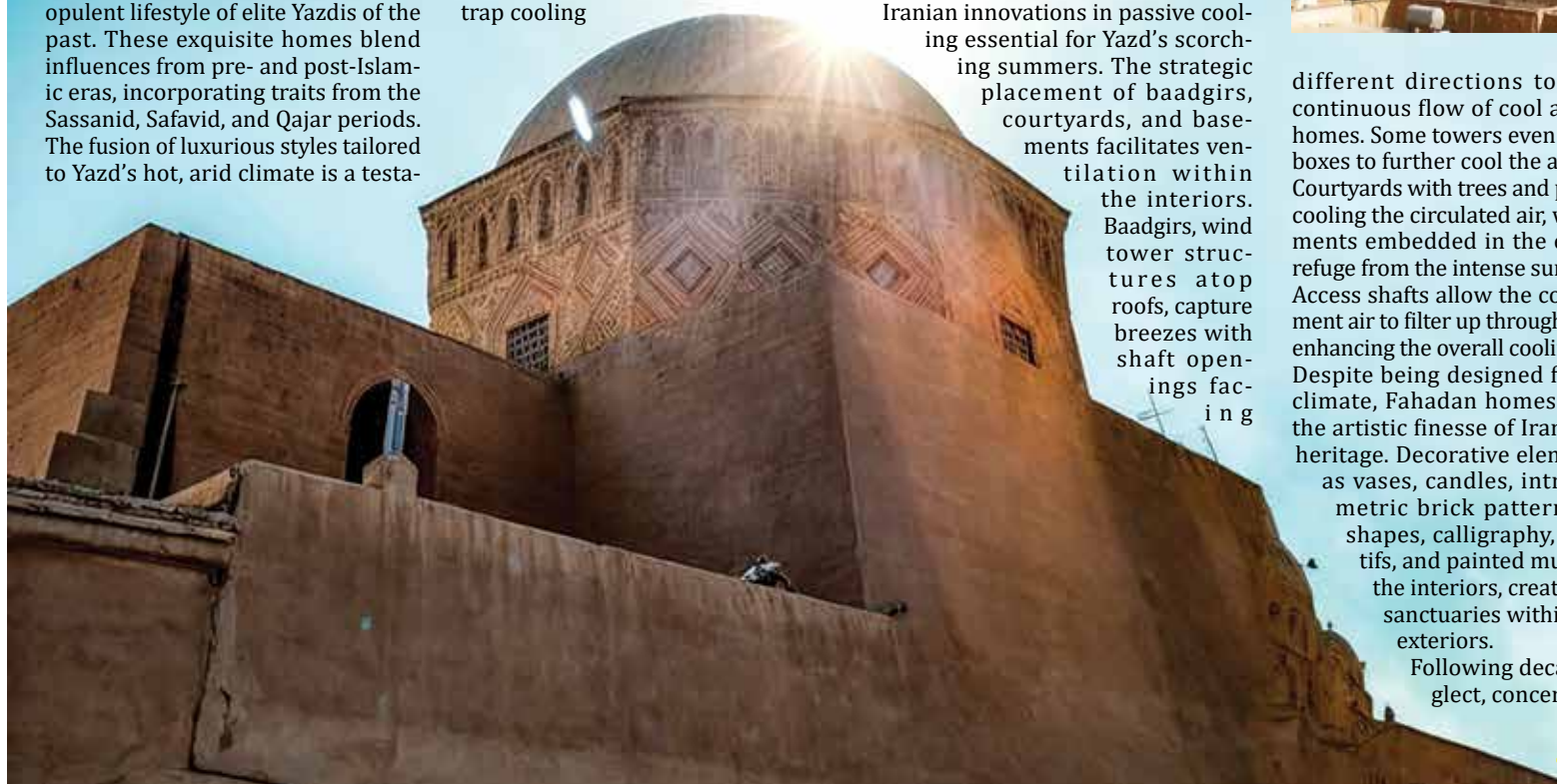
Courtyards with trees and pools aid in cooling the circulated air, while basements embedded in the earth offer refuge from the intense summer heat. Access shafts allow the cooled basement air to filter up through the house, enhancing the overall cooling effect.

Despite being designed for a harsh climate, Fahadan homes showcase the artistic finesse of Iran's cultural heritage. Decorative elements such as vases, candles, intricate geometric brick patterns, arched shapes, calligraphy, floral motifs, and painted murals adorn the interiors, creating elegant sanctuaries within the plain exteriors.

Following decades of neglect, concerted efforts

have rescued Fahadan's mansions from decay. Government-led restoration projects in the 1990s repurposed these homes into libraries, kindergartens, and craft workshops, ensuring that strict guidelines maintain the original architectural integrity. Ongoing maintenance efforts combat erosion, preserving this architectural gem for future generations.

Strolling through the labyrinthine alleys of Fahadan offers a journey through Iran's rich history. The towering thick earthen walls, elaborate wooden doorways, and intricate tilework transport visitors back in time, evoking a sense of grandeur and history that is truly captivating. Stepping into the mud brick time capsule of Fahadan allows one to immerse oneself in Iran's cultural heritage, experiencing a world of elegance and ingenuity that stands as a testament to ancient architecture at its finest.



yjc.ir

## Visit stunning Jashak Salt Dome in Bushehr Province

Kuh-e Namak of Jashak, also known as Jashak Salt Dome, stands as a national natural monument nestled in Bushehr Province, in the southwest of Iran. Its breathtaking beauty is attributed to the presence of table salt that adorns its landscape.

Dating back an impressive 600 million years, Jashak Salt Dome finds its home within the Jashak Mountains, spanning 12 kilometers in length and 4.5 kilometers in width. Encompassing an area of 3,666 hectares, the dome boasts a summit reaching an elevation of 1,350 meters above sea level.

This geological wonder features a central salt core, formed by extensive underground salt layers. The dynamic interplay of sudden tremors and movements within these layers gives rise to ground disruptions, shaping the distinctive salt domes in various sizes and forms, hipersia.com wrote.

### Key features

**Colorful salts:** Contrary to the common perception of salt being solely white, Jashak Salt Dome surprises visitors with a vibrant array of minerals and crystals. These elements imbue the salt dome with hues of red, brown, yellow, black, and orange, creating a visually captivating spectacle.

**Salt glacier:** Witness the awe-inspiring salt glaciers on the northwest side of Jashak Salt Dome. Formed through the movement of salt masses along the earth's slope, these structures resemble traditional glaciers but possess the unique ability to retain heat.

**Salt water flow:** During dry seasons, the evaporation of water gives rise to exquisite salt crystals following the direction of water flow within Jashak Salt Dome, adding an elegant touch to its natural allure.

**Salt caves:** Explore the enchanting salt caves within Jashak Salt Dome, adorned

with an abundance of salt crystals resembling stalagmites and stalactites, showcasing a diverse array of shapes reminiscent of grape clusters.

**Effects of erosion:** While the salt dome remains active, the ongoing process of erosion, driven by water and wind, contributes to its gradual transformation. This erosion engenders a delicate equilibrium in nature, accentuated by the emergence of unique attractions within the dome.

**Takht-e Div:** Marvel at the striking Takht-e Div, colloquially known as the Demon's

Throne, a captivating eroding phenomenon within the salt dome. These columnar formations, varying in height from ten centimeters to over ten meters, stand as enduring sentinels guarding the dome's integrity.

**Salt springs:** Discover the mesmerizing salt springs that cascade saltwater from deep underground, sustaining the vitality of the surrounding ecosystem. The uninterrupted flow of these springs is vital to preserving the splendor of Jashak Salt Dome and its intricate stalagmites.

**Golkalam Valley:** Immerse yourself in the rare beauty of Golkalam Valley (Cauliflower valley), adorned with distinctive orange and white salt formations resembling cauliflower. When illuminated by sunlight, these crystalline structures exude an otherworldly charm, accentuating the dome's natural wonders.

**Flora and fauna:** Despite the saline environment, pockets of vegetation thrive within Jashak Salt Dome, featuring species like Milkvetch, Zygo-phylum, jujube, Bryophyllum, wild almonds, and polka dot

plants. The diverse wildlife includes wild goats, foxes, jackals, hyenas, a variety of birds, and an assortment of reptiles, enriching the ecosystem's biodiversity.

### Ideal time to visit

Given its location in a region characterized by intense heat, the prime season to explore Jashak Salt Dome is from mid-November to early April. Be sure to check the weather forecast beforehand, especially considering the dome's susceptibility to heavy rainfall along its prominent sites.



mrbilt.com



IRNA



# My African Dream



By Soheila Amiri  
Guest contributor

EXCLUSIVE

Africa, living in a part of the beautiful, unexplored and surprise-filled continent may be among the last choices of immigration destination for Iranians, or it may not have a place in their migration list at all.

I am not an exception; even when I went on a two-week tourist trip to Kenya, a beautiful country in East Africa, and visited the cities of Nairobi, Mombasa and Nakuru Wildlife Park in 2005, I still had no idea of immigrating to this continent.

But everything changed when I went to Africa again as a tourist, this time to Tanzania, and I was impressed by the beauty of nature and the peaceful spirit of the people of East Africa. Tanzania became the destination of my migration and at the same time, in 2011, "my African dream" was formed.



## Why the African dream?

The idea was formed in my mind mostly in a kind of confrontation with the dominant mentality of the people of Iran and the people of the world. When everyone is talking about the "American dream," I thought why shouldn't Africa be a destination for me or many immigrants to realize their dreams?

A place that has the potential to refresh people's souls away from the hustle and bustle of the modern world, to challenge their capabil-

ities to accept a simple life alongside nature as well as an indigenous and largely unknown culture.

A place that can reduce desires based on capital and money in today's world, leading people to peace and tranquility.

This is a common point of view among many foreign people living in Tanzania, who say that they have found a deep and beautiful peace with themselves there.

## Swahili language

Swahili is the language of more than five countries in East Africa, including Tanzania. A language based on native words and sounds; many Persian words are also used in it. Persian words that are still interesting and exciting to me after hearing them from a Tanzanian, such as *Kaka*, *Dada*, *Bas*, *Rangi* (*Rang*), *Babu* (*grandpa*), *Bibi* (*grandma*), *Daftar* (*daftar*), *Bozi* (*Boz*), *Qalamou*, *Barfou*, *Dabbeh*, *Zama* (*Zaman*), *Omri* (*Omr*) and *Nafasi* (*Nafas*).

About the influence of Persian words in the Swahili language, it is said that people from Shiraz and merchants from the south of Iran traveled to this continent, especially to Zanzibar Island in Tanzania.

Courageous people from Iran who, hundreds of years ago, went to explore this beautiful continent by ship and spread the culture, language and art of Iranians in a part of the continent.

## Mumbo Jumbo

Saying a simple "Mumbo Jumbo" is the key to your way into a Tanzanian's heart, which is like "Hello, how are you?"

Tanzanian people are kind and friendly, so you will never feel uneasy with them.

In all the years I lived in Tanzania, I never felt homesick, I missed my homeland and visiting my loved ones, but I never felt homesick, because people everywhere welcome you with open arms, they outshine you with a smile.

## Interwoven with Persian ancestry along East Africa

A study has revealed the existence of interwoven African and Persian ancestry along the Swahili coast in Eastern Africa.

Published in the journal *Science Advances* in April 2023, the research analyzed ancient DNA samples from individuals who lived in the region over the past 1,400 years.

According to lead author Ondrej Hlinka, a post-doctoral researcher in anthropology at Rice University, "The East African coast has a long and complex history of population movement and cultural exchange. Our findings provide a glimpse into the genetic diversity and interconnectedness of the region."

The study found evidence of individuals with Persian ancestry living in the region dating back to the 7th century. The researchers also discovered that the mixing of African and Persian ancestry occurred more frequently than previously thought, with some individuals having up to 50% Persian ancestry.

"Entwined African and Asian genetic roots of medieval peoples of the Swahili coast" was published in *Nature* magazine. It examines genetic ancestry and cultural influences in eastern Africa by using DNA from the skeletal remains of 80 individuals who were buried in six medieval and early modern coastal towns in Kenya and Tanzania, dating to the years 1250-1800, and an inland town in Kenya, dating to after 1650.







## What are we doing in Tanzania?

The idea of launching an Iranian restaurant in Tanzania was implemented a year after my moving to the country. Without any restaurant experience, of course, I was a journalist in Iran, and my husband was dealing in woodwork and sales.

I learned the first skills from YouTube training videos for cooking different types of Iranian kebabs, thanks to the kind people who had shared their experiences on this platform, and then it was just continuous effort, learning and gaining experience.

Due to the dispersion of Iranian immigrants almost all over the world, there is a good knowledge of Iranian cuisine.

Currently, the customers of our Irani-

an restaurant named "Chattanooga" in the beautiful port city of Dar es Salaam are a variety of Europeans and Americans, Indians and Arabs, and some local people. While they love to eat Chelo-Kebab and Qormeh-Sabzi with cucumber-yogurt and Shirazi salad with Dough, they also enjoy being in a place that reminds them of Iran, which is decorated with Iranian carpets and handicrafts.

We chose the name "Chattanooga" just to evoke the memory of the first modern restaurant in Iran that started working with the same name in 1966 in Tehran, and, of course, its phonetic proximity to the Swahili word of "Chakula," which means food and eating.



## Attractions of traveling to Tanzania

There is no shortage of beautiful sights in Tanzania. First of all, being in a continent with people of different skin color but a kind and different lifestyle is attractive to tourists.

But what makes the trip to the country most memorable and different is seeing the local culture in the Maasai villages, visiting the wildlife parks, which are among the largest of their kind in the world, and giving tourists the opportunity to see the big five animals – hippos, elephants, lions, rhinos and giraffes.

Visiting the spice gardens, enjoying

the white sand beaches of Zanzibar and Bongoyo islands, as well as tasting the local foods and fruits, along with visiting handicraft markets are among other attractions.

But for most tourists and most of us Iranians, it is also interesting to visit Shirazi city.

Bagamoyo, a city 70 kilometers from Dar es Salaam, has a tourist area called Shirazi city, where tourists can see the remains of the first city built by Shirazi immigrants in Tanzania about a thousand years ago. An honor for all Iranians.

## Africa Art Center in Tehran

Since its inauguration in 2021, Africa Art Center has been the permanent exhibition of African art, culture, lifestyle, products and traditions of Tanzania.

At the center, cultural enthusiasts can purchase authentic sculptures, colorful fabrics and original paintings from famous African artists that show the simple yet intriguing life of Africans, as well as Masaai decorations.

Culinary enthusiasts can look forward

to the large selection of organic spices from Zanzibar's spice gardens such as paprika, cinnamon, turmeric, black pepper, coffee, pure cocoa powder and cashew nuts.

Spoil yourself and your loved ones with a variety of organic oils such as coconut, moringa, avocado and shea butter from the beautiful land of Tanzania. You will always come back to AAC for more flavors, colors and aromas of Africa.

# Frontier market of Tanzania up for grabs for Iranian business ventures



By Reza  
Abesh Ahmadlou  
Staff writer

As Western markets reach a saturation point, developing nations have become the new field for global economic supremacy. Within this landscape lies Tanzania, an expanding market of over 68 million in East Africa that is ripe with opportunities for expansion, particularly for Iranian state-run and private sector companies looking to extend their global footprint.

Tanzania boasts one of the most stable political climates in Africa, paired with a consistently growing economy, making it a beacon for foreign investors. The country's strategic geographical location, sharing borders with eight countries and with access to the Indian Ocean, positions it as a central trade hub in the region. With sustained GDP growth averaging over six percent per year, Tanzania is enticing for businesses seeking new growth markets.

Iranian companies should note Tanzania's potential, with sectors such as construction, agriculture, oil and gas, as well as mining showing particular promise. Considering Iran's strengths in engineering, non-oil exports, and technology development, there could be a significant synergy between the two countries' economic landscapes.

Tanzania has aimed for a robust infrastructure network supporting a middle-income economy. With numerous projects underway, including road, rail, and airport, the demand for construction and engineering services is high. Iranian companies with expertise in large-scale construction and infrastructure development can capitalize on these openings, contributing to Tanzania's growth and establishing long-term ties within the country.

Approximately two-thirds of Tanzania's population is employed in the agriculture sector. However, the industry has not reached its full potential due to a lack of technology and modern practices. Iranian agribusinesses, with a wealth of experience in arid climates and agriculture technology, could find Tanzania's vast arable land an excellent opportunity for investment. Engaging in crop processing, extraterritorial cultivation and agricultural technology transfer would not only be profitable but would also foster goodwill through enhancing food security. Tanzania holds sizeable natural gas reserves in Sub-Saharan

Africa, alongside significant deposits of minerals like gold and diamonds. Despite sanctions limiting its oil and gas industry, Iran possesses extensive experience in these sectors. Collaborating or investing in Tanzania's extraction industries could open new revenue streams for Iranian companies and contribute to the local economy's diversification.

Iran also has made considerable headway in renewable energy, primarily in hydroelectric, wind, and solar power. Tanzanian renewable energy efforts are still in the embryonic stages, representing an untapped market for Iranian energy firms. By investing in Tanzania's renewable energy sector, Iranian companies could not only enjoy first-mover advantages but also aid in reducing the country's carbon footprint.

Creating operational alliances with local businesses and understanding the cultural nuances of the Tanzanian market is critical for success. Joint ventures can offer Iranian enterprises valuable insights and ease their market entry while providing Tanzanian firms with technical expertise and investment. Additionally, Iran's experiences with sanctions have forced it to be innovative and self-reliant, an approach that could greatly benefit Tanzanian industries.

To fully exploit the mutual benefits of Iranian and Tanzanian business cooperation, both nations need to cultivate a supportive environment for investors. It includes refining trade agreements, easing investment laws, and fostering direct diplomatic engagements to ensure a smooth cultural and business integration.

Iran's outreach to Tanzania aligns with its broader strategic goals for economic diversification beyond oil. As Tanzania continues to seek investment to fuel its development plans, the synergies between the two become more evident. This provides a backdrop for Iranian state-run and private

sector companies to forge a presence in a dynamic and expanding market.

Investments need not be restricted to natural resources and infrastructure. Iran's strengths in educational services and healthcare provision can address significant gaps in Tanzania's public services, improving human capital and the quality of life.

East Africa's market is not just a land of opportunities; it's the threshold of a new collaborative era for Iranian ventures. The prospects for growth in Tanzania are exponential and ready to be harnessed by those willing to take the first step. For Iran's public and private sectors, Tanzania represents not just a market, but a gateway to the African continent and a symbol of the global outreach that Iranian enterprises are more than capable of achieving.

As markets evolve and integrate further, the entrepreneurial spirit of Iranian companies, coupled with Tanzania's welcoming business climate, could set the stage for a flourishing partnership that stands the test of time.

As a positive sign, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held a phone conversation with his Tanzanian counterpart January Yusuf Makamba in September to exchange views on bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

During the phone call, he emphasized that Iran is ready to reinforce bilateral ties, especially for economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

For his part, Makamba expressed his country's readiness to develop its bilateral ties with Iran.

The Tanzania foreign minister reiterated that his country's president has invited Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to visit Dodoma.

During the talks, both sides touched on the recent meeting of the presidents of the two countries on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in South Africa, and agreed to hold a joint commission between the two countries.





Beach Soccer World Cup:

# Iran leaves with heads held high

## Sports Desk

A third-spot finish was the least Iran deserved at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup but the Asian champion was still thrilled to emulate an all-time high in the sport's flagship international event by hammering Belarus on the final day.

Twenty-four hours after surrendering a two-goal lead against Brazil to suffer a last-four heartbreak right at the death, Ali Naderi's men bounced back in style to defeat Belarus 6-1 and leave Dubai with a second World Cup bronze since 2017 in the Bahamas, where the Asian powerhouse had last appeared at the competition.

Iran started right on the front foot at the Dubai Design District Stadium and found the net twice early on, when Amirhossein Akbari's overhead kick was diverted home by Ali Mirshekari before Movahed Mohammadpour sent his own acrobat effort flying into the net.

Further goals by Mohammad Moradi, Reza Amiri – who went on to pick up the Player-of-the-Match award – and Mohammad Ma'soumi in the second period put the tie beyond the Belaru-

sians' reach, before Mohammad Mokhtari added a sixth in the third period, which saw him win the Bronze Scorer prize with seven strikes.

Mikita Chaikouski pulled one back with less than three minutes left on the clock but it proved too little too late for the European side, which also headed home with a best-ever finish in the event.

"We wanted to win this tournament. We're upset that we didn't, but gave it our all to finish third today. We had a good knowledge of this Belarus team, which helped us win the match," Ma'soumi said afterwards.

The scoreline saw Iran register the largest margin in a World Cup third-place contest since Portugal beat Uruguay 14-7, also in Dubai, 15 years ago.

The tournament was surely one to remember for the Iranian goalkeepers Hamid Behzadpour and Seyed Mahdi Mirjalili, who made a handful of stunning saves throughout the six outings, while contributing to nine goals between them.

In an event which saw 38 goals scored from bicycle-kicks, Iran led the way with 10 spectacular finishes.



Iran's Mohammad Moradi (5) makes an overhead effort during a 6-1 victory over Belarus at the Beach Soccer World Cup in Dubai, UAE, on February 25, 2024.  
● FFIRI

## Record-extending crown

Later on Sunday, Brazil lifted a record-extending sixth trophy, thanks to a 6-4 victory over Italy.

Rodrigo stole the show for the Brazilians with a hat-trick, with Bruno Xavier and Brendo finding the net either side of a Gianmarco Genovali's own goal. Genovali also bagged a brace for the Italians, coupled with a Tommaso Fazzini's

double, as the Azzurri settled for a third runner-up place in the history of the competition.

Italian Josep Jr. Gentilin still had something to cheer about in the awarding ceremony as he was named the Golden Ball winner – followed by Mauricinho of Brazil and Belarusian Ihar Bryshtsel, who added the Bronze Ball to his

Golden Scorer award after scoring a remarkable 12 goals across the 11 days in Dubai.

Portuguese Leo Martins took home the Silver Scorer prize with seven goals, despite his campaign coming to an end in the quarterfinals, while Brazilian shot stopper Tiago Bobo was named the Golden Glove winner.

## Iran's Olfati wins silver at Artistic Gymnastics World Cup

## Sports Desk

Iran's Mahdi Olfati grabbed the men's vault silver at the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Cup series in Cottbus, Germany.

Having finished fifth at the season-opening series in Cairo earlier in February, the Iranian scored a remarkable 14.9 points in the final for the runner-up spot.

With the event serving as part of the qualification for Paris Olympics in the summer, the result comes as a massive step for Olfati in his pursuit of berth in the French capital in August.

The Iranian will continue his quest for the Olympic quota when returning to the Apparatus World Cup action in early March.

The final series of the event will take place in Doha in mid-April.

Olfati wrote his name into history books of the Iranian sport last September, when he snatched a maiden gymnastics medal for the country at the Asian Games, claiming a precious silver in the men's vault competition.



● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

Persian Gulf Pro League preview:

## Esteghlal looking to continue perfect home run, Sepahan seeking consolation

## Sports Desk

Esteghlal will be looking to maintain its 100-percent record in Tehran's Azadi Stadium when taking on Sepahan in a highly-anticipated Persian Gulf Pro League encounter today.

A victory will see the capital Blues extend the gap on archrival Persepolis to six points on top of the table before the Reds play away to Zob Ahan on Wednesday.

Sepahan, meanwhile, is desperate to snap a five-game losing streak across all competitions – including back-to-back 3-1 defeats against Saudi giant Al Hilal in the AFC Champions League last 16.

The Isfahan-based club is the only team to have inflicted a loss on Javad Nekounam's men in the Iranian top flight this season and a repeat of the 1-0 triumph in last August's reverse fixture will be enough for Sepahan to leapfrog Persepolis into second spot with a game in hand.

Elsewhere, Golgozar will host Nassaji Mazandaran in Sirjan – in head coach Saket Elhami's first game on return to the visiting side's bench – with Foolad Khuzestan and fourth-place Malavan squaring off in Ahvaz's Foolad Arena.

On Wednesday, Tractor will be hoping to bounce back from last Wednesday's 2-0 setback at Persepolis when welcoming in-form Esteghlal Khuzestan, which steps into the contest on

the back of a massive comeback victory over Iralco in a five-goal thriller last week.

Shams Azar will face Moharram Navidkia's resurgent Mes Rafsanjan in Qazvin, while Paykan and San'at Naft Abadan go head-to-head in Tehran.

Former Iranian international midfielder Masoud Shojaei will be looking to continue the impressive start to his managerial career when his Havadar team visits Iralco in Arak.



● RASOUL SHOJAEI/IRNA





## Iranian FM: World facing most 'shameful moral' crisis in Gaza

Security Council inaction on Gaza, Ukraine could 'fatally' hurt its authority: UN chief

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian described Israel's atrocities in the Gaza Strip as the most shameful moral and humanitarian crisis in history, saying that the regime should be held accountable for its crimes. Addressing the 55th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in the Swiss city of Geneva on Monday, he said the realization of the human rights goals in the international arena is facing serious challenges, including systematic and widespread killing of humans by the world's only apartheid regime, Israel. Amir-Abdollahian said the world is facing the most shameful moral and humanitarian crisis that is because of 75 years of support and negligence towards the colonial occupation and the continu-

ous violation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. The Iranian diplomat said that during the past 140 days, more than 100,000 people have been killed, injured, or buried under the rubble due to Israel's strikes on Gaza, and those who are still alive are at risk of imminent death from hunger and infectious diseases in Gaza and the West Bank. Amir-Abdollahian underlined that the world should not let genocide and committing heinous crimes become a matter of routine. He added that, today, the world is witnessing the unwavering support of the US and its allies for the regime. Amir-Abdollahian said that the UN Human Rights Council must hold Israel and its allies accountable for the regime's crimes against humanity.

The Iranian diplomat also held a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines on the conference.

### Famine in Gaza

Amir-Abdollahian pointed to the humanitarian crisis in the north of the Gaza Strip, saying that the Israeli regime has killed thousands of Palestinians with bombs, and now wants to kill the remaining Palestinians by starvation. The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini on Sunday warned that famine is stalking Gaza as aid agencies struggle to deliver food to the north of the territory. Aid agencies say that Israel has been delaying deliveries. Israel also plans to launch a ground invasion on Gaza's southern city of Rafah, where 1.4 mil-

lion Palestinians live in crowded shelters near the Egyptian border. Speaking before the UN Human Rights Council, Guterres said that Rafah is "the core of the humanitarian aid operation" in besieged Gaza. A full-scale Israeli military operation in Rafah would deliver a death blow to aid programs in Gaza, the UN chief warned.

### Deadlock in UNSC on wars

The UN chief also warned Monday that deadlock in the organization's Security Council on the wars in Gaza and Ukraine risked "fatally" undermining its authority, stressing the need for "serious reform". In another shock impact of the almost five-month-old war, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh in the occupied West Bank handed in his govern-



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian delivers a speech at the opening of the 55th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on February 26, 2024.

● GABRIEL MONNET/AFP

ment's resignation to the head of the Palestinian Authority, President Mahmoud Abbas. Shtayyeh cited "developments related to the aggression against the Gaza Strip and the escalation in the West Bank and Jerusalem [Al-Quds]" where deadly violence has surged amid the Gaza war. Shtayyeh in brief comments cited "the new reality in the Gaza Strip" and urged inter-Palestinian consensus and the "extension of the Authority's rule over the entire land of Palestine". Israel's war on Gaza has so far killed at least 29,692 people, mostly women and children.

## Heavy snowfall hits most Iranian provinces

### National Desk

Heavy snowfall has blanketed many cities across Iran, leading to the closure of schools, cancellation of flights, and shortage of gas in several cities. Government closed its offices in several provinces including Gilan and North Khorasan due to severe cold weather and insufficient gas supplies. The governor of the northern province of Gilan, Assadollah Abba-

si, reported more than one meter of snowfall in the mountainous areas. He said that efforts are underway to open roads that have been closed due to the snowfall. Gilan airport announced the cancellation of six flights to the capital Tehran, northeastern city of Mashhad and Kish Island in the Persian Gulf due to snowfall on Monday. Meanwhile, two flights from Tehran to Kerman were forced to return due to poor

visibility. In Tehran, especially in its northern areas, snow has covered everything. There are also reports of disruption in gas supply in several areas in the capital, as cold weather has increased gas consumption in the country. Temperatures dived to minus 14°C in the northwestern city of Heris, in East Azarbaijan Province, making it the coldest Iranian city on Monday.

## Arab states tell ICJ Israeli occupation is 'affront to justice'

The League of Arab States on Monday called Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories an "affront to international justice", saying failure to end it amounted to "genocide". The International Court of Justice entered its last day of week-long hearings after a request from the United Nations, with an unprecedented 52 countries giving their views on Israel's occupation, according to AFP.

"This prolonged occupation is an affront to international justice," the 22 Arab-country bloc's representative told judges in The Hague. "The failure to bring it to an end has led to the current horrors perpetrated against the Palestinian people, amounting to genocide," Abdel Hakim El-Rifai said, reading a written statement. Most speakers during the hearings have demanded that Israel end its occupation, which came after a six-day Arab-Israeli war in 1967. But last week the United States said Israel should not be legally obliged to withdraw without taking its "very real security needs" into account. Speakers on Monday warned a prolonged occu-



● AFP

pation posed an "extreme danger" to stability in the Middle East and beyond. "If left unchecked, it runs the risk of not only threatening regional, but also global peace and security," Turkey's representative Ahmet Yildiz said. Zambia's representative however told judges that both sides had a duty to negotiate a peaceful settlement. "Both Israel and Palestine have a duty to respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law," Marshal Mubambe Muchende said. The UN has asked the ICJ to hand down an "advisory opinion" on the "legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem [Al-Quds]". The court will probably de-

liver its opinion before the end of the year but it is not binding on anyone. Israel is not taking part in the oral hearings. It submitted a written contribution, in which it described the questions the court had been asked as "prejudicial" and "tendentious". The hearings began a week ago with three hours of testimony from Palestinian officials, who accused the Israeli occupiers of running a system of "colonialism and apartheid". The case before the court is separate from one brought by South Africa against Israel for genocide during its current offensive in Gaza. In that case, the ICJ ruled that Israel should do everything in its power to prevent genocidal acts in Gaza and allow in humanitarian aid.

## Hezbollah fires rockets at Israeli military base

Hezbollah fired on Monday a volley of rockets at an Israeli military base, the Lebanese group said after Israel's first strikes on Lebanon's east in months of hostilities linked to the Gaza war.

Two Hezbollah members were killed in the Israeli strikes in the eastern Baalbek areak, AFP reported. "In response to the Zionist aggression near the city of Baalbek," fighters targeted an army base in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights "with 60 Katyusha rockets", Hezbollah said in a statement. The Israeli army told AFP that "dozens of rockets" had been launched from Lebanon. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The military had said the strikes near Baalbek targeted Hezbollah air defense systems in retaliation for the group downing one of its drones in south Lebanon earlier on Monday. One of the Lebanese security sources said Israeli strikes hit a building used by Hezbollah in a Baalbek suburb, and a warehouse near Baalbek belonging to the group. Hezbollah later announced two of its fighters had been killed by Israeli fire. Israeli attack was the first Israeli attack on Hezbollah outside Lebanon's south since war erupted on October 7 between Israel and Palestinian Hamas resistance group Hamas.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Raisi: Some int'l legal cases need offensive approach



### National Desk

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said it is necessary to take an offensive approach in defending the rights of the Iranian nation in some legal cases.

He made the remarks in a meeting with the officials of the Presidential Department for Legal Affairs on Monday. "So far, the dominant approach in the country's international legal cases has been a defensive approach, while in some cases, it is necessary to take an offensive approach in defending the rights of the Iranian nation and facing aggressive countries in order to assert our rights," he said. Raisi also thanked the department's officials for following up Iran's legal cases in international courts, including the US assassination of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# Artists call for Israel to be excluded from Venice Biennale

A newly formed activist group known as the Art Not Genocide Alliance (ANGA) has published a petition calling for Israel to be excluded from participating in this year's 60th Venice Biennale. "No Genocide Pavilion at the Venice Biennale," the online open letter demands. So far, it has over 6,500 signatories. ANGA describes itself as an international group of artists, curators, writers, and cultural workers.

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott (PACBI), which endorsed the letter, said: "Any official representation of Israel on the international cultural stage is an endorsement of its policies and of the genocide in Gaza."

PACBI argued that there were precedents for such a move: The Biennale banned apartheid South Africa from 1968 onwards, and in 2022 it banned Russian artists connected to the country's government, aljazeera.com reported.

The letter outlines the politics surrounding the Israel-Hamas conflict as well as the huge loss of human life in Gaza, with the number of deaths recently estimated to be as high as 250 Palestinians per day. It also notes that apartheid South Africa was banned from exhibiting at the Biennale from 1968 until 1993, when apartheid rule was abolished.



"Art does not happen in a vacuum and cannot transcend reality," the letter reads. "While Israel's curatorial team plans their so-called 'Fertility Pavilion' reflecting on contemporary motherhood, Israel has murdered more than

12,000 children and destroyed access to reproductive care and medical facilities. As a result, Palestinian women have C-sections without anesthetic and give birth in the street." "Any work that officially represents the

state of Israel is an endorsement of its genocidal policies," the letter concludes. Among the letter's signatories are Adam Broomberg, a Berlin-based South African photographer who is representing the Palestinian organization Artists and

Allies of Hebron in an official collateral event. Others include American artist Nan Goldin, Moroccan artist Yto Barrada, British artist and writer Hannah Black, Basel-based performance artist Sophie Jung, the Italian curatorial platform LOCALES Project, and Karachi Biennale CEO Nilofur Farrukh.

The letter has also been signed by the Palestine Museum U.S., which had its proposal for "Foreigners in their Homeland," an exhibition showcasing work by 24 Palestinian artists, rejected by the Biennale as an official collateral event. The show will go ahead at Venice's Palazzo Mora as an unofficial collateral event, opening on April 20.

"We think that they should allow "Foreigners in their Homeland" into the exhibit because it meets all the qualifications they were looking for," said the museum's director Faisal Saleh. He also noted that Palestine does not have a national pavilion because Italy does not recognize Palestine as a sovereign state. Of Israel's planned exhibition for the biennial, Saleh said: "This is not just an exhibition by Israeli individuals. It's the State of Israel that's making the exhibition. That is unacceptable when Israel is perpetrating a fully-fledged genocide against the people of Gaza."

The Biennale did not immediately respond to a request for comment on ANGA's petition.

## Iranian artists taking part in Malaysia's Qur'an exhibition

An exhibition of Qur'anic arts is underway in Putrajaya, Malaysia, with the participation of representatives from a number of Muslim countries including Iran. According to Iran's Cultural Attaché in Malaysia Habib Reza Arazni, a number of Iranian artists have showcased their works at the expo, IQNA wrote.

Other participating countries include Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Nigeria, he said.

The Qur'anic arts exhibition is a major Qur'anic event in Malaysia that was inaugurated by the country's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, he stated.

Arzani noted that the Asmaul Husna Tasaweeh group from Iran, headed by Seyed Mohammad Qassem, had a performance at the opening ceremony of the exhibition, which drew praise from the audience.

He said the Iranian artworks on display at the exhibition are in such fields as calligraphy, *tazhib* (illumination), *minakari* (painting and coloring surfaces of metals and ceramic tiles), and *qalamzani* (a type of Iranian metalwork art).

He added that the Malaysian prime minister visited Iran's pavilion at the expo and was gifted a silk-woven rug with his photo on it.

He referred to the calligraphy of Qur'anic verses by the participating artists from different Muslim countries and said Iran's Khodabakhsh Chaman, for example, beautifully calligraphed verses from Surah Al-Balad.

The exhibition was launched on February 23 and will run through March 3.



## Iran ready to facilitate health tourism with Qatar: Minister

Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi expressed Iran's readiness to facilitate health tourism with Qatar.

During a meeting at the Middle East Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare in Doha, Einollahi highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in combating diseases, emphasizing

Iran's capability to assist various countries in the region, particularly in infectious disease management. In addition, Einollahi underscored the readiness of Iranian universities and medical science faculties to engage in scientific, research, and educational partnerships with Qatar, reported IRNA. He proposed enhancing

cooperation in health tourism, exchanging professors and students, implementing health measures, and jointly addressing health challenges.

In response, Qatari Health Minister Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari expressed Qatar's eagerness to strengthen regional and collaborative ties with Iran in the health sector.

Al Kuwari emphasized that the exchange of professors in medical sciences between the two countries would contribute to advancing public health and medical knowledge.

Furthermore, she advocated for facilitating health tourism initiatives, demonstrating a mutual commitment to expanding cooperation in the health domain.

## Iran, Afghan artisans to display works in Tehran



Arts & Culture Desk

A group exhibition of *tazhib*, which is an art of illuminated manuscripts, titled 'Daughters of Shahmama,' featuring 40 artworks by Iranian and Afghan artists, will be held at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center. Supervised by Shakila Alemi and supported by the Art Credit Fund, the third *tazhib* exhibition will take place at Niavaran Cultural Center from March 2, ISNA wrote.

Nineteen Iranian and Afghan girls will showcase 40 artworks, aiming to motivate and boost the self-confidence of female artists. The group also seeks to promote the growth and elevation of the art of *tazhib* while fostering cultural cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan. *Tazhib*, an ancient art, has long history in Afghanistan.

The opening ceremony, scheduled for February 29, will be attended by Saad Khan, the head of the ECO Cultural Institute, among others. Art enthusiasts can visit the exhibition from March 2 to 8.

## India picked special guest for 35th TIBF



India will be the special guest at the 35th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) to be held from May 8 to 18, announced the head of the TIBF. Iran's Deputy Culture Minister for Cultural Affairs Yaser Ahmadvand said that the cultural agreement, focusing on books, was signed between

the officials of the TIBF and the New Delhi World Book Fair. This cultural exchange is expected to foster dialogue between the cultures of Iran and India. In return, Iran will be the special guest at the New Delhi World Book Fair in 2025, as outlined in the agreement.