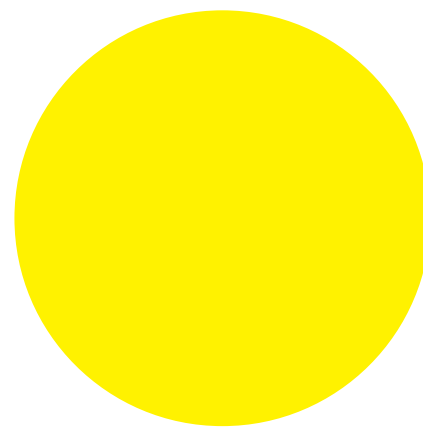


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By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

IRAN DAILY: If Iran's existence is threatened, Kharrazi has stated that Iran's nuclear strategy may shift toward building an atomic bomb. Is this stance justifiable within the context of international relations and international law?

AQAEI: Indeed, such a stance does have a defensible framework. When facing threats, all countries naturally seek to utilize their capabilities to counteract or respond to them. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has continually faced foreign threats, particularly from Israel and the United States, with the latter occasionally implying military force as an option, keeping "all options on the table." This statement conveys a threat to the Islamic Republic of Iran, indicating a willingness to resort to military force, if deemed necessary, against Iran.

While Iran has repeatedly emphasized that nuclear bombs do not factor into its defense strategy, the reality remains that countries resort to their full arsenal of power when their existence is threatened.

Should Kharrazi's statement be interpreted as a shift in Iran's nuclear strategy?

No, this statement does not inherently signify a change in Iran's nuclear strategy. Technically, Tehran possesses the capability to obtain a nuclear bomb, as Mr. Kharrazi had previously indicated. Countries with nuclear facilities can potentially acquire nuclear weapons once they reach 60% or more enrichment levels. Iran holds such technical capacity, but it appears Mr. Kharrazi's announcement serves more as a response to threats against Tehran rather than an official declaration of a strategy change or a move toward building a nuclear bomb.

In the same interview, Mr. Kharrazi himself emphasized that does not intend to build a nuclear bomb. His remarks should be understood as a warning or tactic against Israeli and American threats, asserting that Iran's hands are not tied against external pressure. Furthermore, it is natural for any country, including Iran, to employ all available defense and deterrence capabilities when faced with serious threats to its existence.

Following Grossi's visit to Iran, does this represent a declaration of Iran's stance on the potential revival of nuclear negotiations? **Page 7** >

Iran Might Make Nukes If Faces Existential Threat

> Kharrazi's nuclear stance a diplomatic message

In a recent interview with Al Jazeera, Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, alluded to the possibility of a shift in Iran's nuclear strategy. While the Islamic Republic maintains that it does intend to make a nuclear bomb, Kharrazi highlighted Iran's capability in this regard, suggesting a potential change in strategy should Iran's existence be under threat. To gain further insight into Iran's stance, Iran Daily had an interview with Professor Davoud Aqaei of Tehran University's international relations department.



Persian Gulf Pro League: Alekisir double sends Persepolis top **6** >



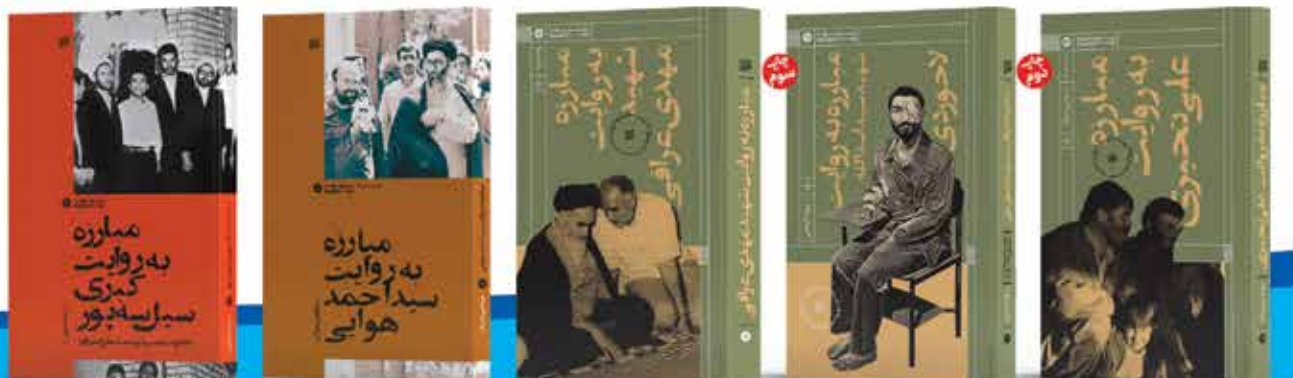
'Journey through the Embers' by Munir Shafiq unveiled **8** >



To learn more and buy this book, visit the Iran Publications website at <https://ketab.inn.ir> or reach out to them by calling +982188941810.

Oral history is a vital aspect of the cultural heritage of any community. The significance of safeguarding this valuable asset becomes more pronounced when it is at risk of fading away. This is particularly critical in the context of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, as numerous prominent figures are no longer alive, making it doubly important to understand what has shaped "our present."

Iran's Cultural and Press Institute has published numerous books to safeguard the oral history of the Islamic Revolution. Among them, five notable works stand out in "Struggle as Narrated," featuring prominent figures such as Martyr Haj Mahdi Eraqi, Martyr Seyyed Asadollah Lajvardi, Kobra Sil Sipour, the wife of Martyr Seyyed Ali Andarzgu, the late Seyyed Ahmad Havaei, and Commander Ali Tahayori. The narrative of Martyr Eraqi consists of memories shared among students in Novfeloushato in the second half of 1979, meticulously transcribed with necessary annotations. Martyr Lajvardi's account, recorded in 1980, has evolved into an engaging book with research-based explanations, earning itself the "Martyr Andarzgu Award." Therefore, the significance of proximity to the events in these two books surpasses that of many oral history books of the Islamic Revolution.



Explore Iran Publications at the Tehran International Book Fair by visiting booth 506, located in corridor 21 of the main hall.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Transit of gas to Europe through Turkey possible: Official

Turkey is interested in buying more gas from Iran, said the director general of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe department of the Foreign Ministry, adding that transit of Iranian gas to Eastern Europe through Turkey is possible.

Mahmoud Heydari noted that in addition to providing important services for the country to ensure energy security, the oil and gas industry also plays a special role in Iran's foreign relations in economic terms.

He pointed out that sanctions have created restrictions and noted that oil and gas can potentially play an important role in Iran's relations with Turkey.

Stating that the countries of Eastern Europe are gas consumers, the official added: "Iran is one of the main countries with oil and gas reserves which can supply the gas needed by these countries. First, the issues related to sanctions should be resolved with the political will of these countries."

The most important advantage of Iran in the economy is its huge oil and gas capacities, which also plays a special role in the country's foreign relations, Heydari concluded.

Capacity of power stations up by 183MW

The deputy head of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) for projects development said the country's nominal power generation capacity has increased by 183 megawatts.

This was achieved after the 2nd gas unit of the Rashed combined cycle power plant in Torbat Heydarieh, east of Iran, was connected to the nationwide power grid and entered the electric energy production cycle with a total investment of €70 million, Mohammad Ramzani stated.

Iran becomes second producer of liquid fuel in OPEC

Overtaking Iraq, Iran has become the second producer of the liquid fuel in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The US Department of Energy revealed that Iran's production of liquid fuel increased by 110,000 barrels in the first quarter of the current year (January to March), reported Tasnim News Agency. It introduced Iran as the largest producer of this

product in OPEC after Saudi Arabia. The Energy Information Administration, affiliated to the US Department of Energy, in its latest report entitled World Short-Term Energy Outlook, said Iran produced 3.230 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) in the first quarter of 2024. Iran's production of crude oil in this period increased by 50,000 barrels per day compared to last year's cor-

responding period.

The report added that Iran produced over 2.870 million barrels of oil per day in 2023 on average and it is expected that the average production of crude oil in Iran will exceed three million barrels per day in 2024.

The department has put the total production volume of Iran's liquid fuel, including crude oil and condensates, at 4.42 million barrels per day in the first quarter of 2024.



Annual exports of saffron tops 220 tons

The director general of the market development affairs of the Iran Rural Cooperatives Organization said the country's saffron export grew last year (ended March 19, 2024), adding that Iran exported saffron to 55 countries in this period. Rouhollah Latifi said 221 tons of saffron, valued at more than \$207

million, were exported from the country between March 21, 2023 and March 19, 2024, reported Tasnim News Agency. The saffron was exported overseas in different 10- and 30-gram packages, Latifi noted, adding that the United Arab Emirates, China, Spain, Afghanistan, Qatar, Italy, Kuwait, Oman,

Bahrain and France were Iran's first to 10 export target markets. The United Arab Emirates imported more than 67,000 kilograms of saffron from Iran last year, he maintained. The official also stated that exports of saffron from Iran to Afghanistan registered about 198 percent growth last year.

Measures taken to set up east-to-west corridor

Creating a specialized container terminal and international barter trade center in Sarakhs Special Economic Zone

The chief financial officer of Sarakhs Special Economic Zone stated that to simplify and speed up the initiation of the east-to-west corridor, the construction of an international logistics center has been added to their agenda, with which a container terminal with a capacity of 10 million tons per year, an international barter trade center, and an industrial park would be launched.

On the sidelines of the visit of reporters and members of the media to the "Future's Heritage" exhibition - an exhibition introducing Sarakhs Special Economic Zone's history, achievements, capacity, and outlook, which is currently being held at the Astan Quds Razavi exhibition and conference center - Ehsan Jalayer said regarding the capacities, outlooks, and formation of Sarakhs SEZ that the idea for the Sarakhs Special Economic Zone began in 1993, and was launched in April 1996 at the same time as the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway, and in the presence of high ranking government positions and representatives of over 70 different countries.

Variety in railroad and road logistics services

As he pointed out some of the advantages of this zone, Jalayer stated that its variety of services offered in the field of railroad and road logistics, its connection to the Astan Quds Razavi organization and dedicated employees, a capacity to offer 24/7 logistics and production services, road and railroad connectivity to point zero border lines,

as well as proximity to CIS countries, are all mentionable advantages of the zone. Sarakhs Special Economic Zone's CFO said that one of the important achievements of the zone is the utilization of the first phase of its sulfur park while adding that the park was built on a 9-acre block of land, with an investment of 910 billion rials, and a foreign currency investment exceeding 60 million euros.

Developing capacities in the field of railroad transportation

He also added that signing an agreement with MFA - a large transportation company in Turkey - was another important step taken by Sarakhs SEZ, and stated that this company was one of 4 in possession of a transit permit allowing passage through Iran.

Jalayer continued by stating that MFA has performed various joint collaborations from the year 2021 onward in the field of transit goods transportation from central Asia and Russia to Turkey and Europe, supplying the necessary wagons and creating the competitive advantage of transport via Sarakhs in the east to west and north to south corridor. He also mentioned that in the year 2021 another agreement was signed with the Iranian Trade Center in Russia to benefit from Sarakhs SEZ's capacities in transportation and the transit of goods, as well as supplying Russia's needs for the province's goods, and developing transportation relations based on a priority of transit with this zone. **Constructing a liquid gas transshipment site** In regards to Sarakhs SEZ's liquid gas transshipment site, Jalayer added that this site is under construction



with an investment of 1000 billion rials and with an annual transit of 600 thousand tons, which, once performance begins, will result in a direct income of 60 million dollars and an indirect income of 175 thousand dollars, as well as an annual income of 1.5 million dollars for the Sarakhs SEZ. He continued by saying that another feature of the specialized transshipment site is the capability of creating an oil derivatives transit value chain from Turkmenistan to Mirjaveh and Bandar Abbas.

Creating a Sarakhs border logistics village

On the subject of the logistics village in the zone, Sarakhs SEZ's chief financial officer mentioned that the construction of the village had been initiated to attract foreign investment in the field of transportation from the countries China, Russia, Afghanistan, Emirates, and Turkmenistan. Sarakhs Zone's international Logistics center was built upon 35 acres of land with the capacity of unloading, docking, and loading 500 containers daily, and 660 thousand TEU per year. Jalayer stated that the development of a container terminal with an annual capacity of 10 million tons, the international barter trade center, industrial parks, and the speeding up and simplifying of the initialization of an east-to-west corridor, were some of the features of the international logistics center of Sarakhs Special Economic Zone.

International Tender

No.: 03.T/858



Security Printing and Minting Organization (SPMO) of Central Bank of I.R. of IRAN, intends to purchase one unit of Five-color Offset Printing Press with Coating System and its respective spare parts adequate for five years of use and consumables for three years, as well as installation and training at the site through a public tender from eligible companies, according to the specifications and conditions stated in the tender documents.

Required documents:

1- Bid Bond Guarantee will be issued by participants, according to the received documents in favor of SPMO, marked as Tender Guarantee.

2- The bidders are requested to submit their company profile,

articles of association, turn over including list of supplied goods, client list, etc. for the last 3 years.

3- It should be noted that the priority for bidders is given to the domestic participants in equal conditions.

The tender documents consisting of technical specifications, requirements, price and packing conditions, required guarantees, terms of payment, shipment, delivery, installation and training are available on demand. For receiving them, please contact us via the following address, fax or E-mail until 2024/05/26:

Commercial Director
Security Printing and Minting Organization
No. 191, Pasdaran Ave., Tehran, I.R. of IRAN

P.O. Box: 1664647111

Fax: +98 21 22842033 – +98 21 22840053

Tel: +98 21 23733210 – +98 21 23733215

E-mail: spmo@cbi.ir

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Lar village, a nature lover's paradise in Zanzan Province



Iranica Desk

Zanzan Province is one of the provinces of Iran located in the northwest of the country. It is known for its unique and cool climate, making it a popular destination for nature enthusiasts, particularly during the summer months.

Lar is a village situated in the central part of the provincial capital city Zanzan. A 20-kilometer side road branching off from the 35-kilometer Zanzan to Tarom Road traverses through picturesque and unspoiled landscapes, eventually leading to the Lar village. This route passes through Imam and Yahya Abad villages. The river in Lar village is fed by natural springs and mineral water, ensuring it does not run

dry even in times of drought. The banks of the river are lined with orchards bearing hazelnuts, walnuts, grapes, pears, and apples, creating a welcoming environment for visitors who may safely spend a few nights in this charming locale. The river also offers spots for swimming and public enjoyment. This verdant village is home to one of the most renowned waterfalls in the province. Hashtarkhan waterfall is a stunning natural attraction located in the pristine surroundings of Lar village, within an area known as Hasht Cheshmeh. Cascading from a height of approximately 30 meters, the waterfall gives rise to the Hashtarkhan River and is nestled in the scenic Hashtarkhan Valley. The region derives its

name from its location within a vast plain. The Hashtarkhan Valley is home to breathtaking waterfalls known for their unparalleled beauty and grandeur. This region is particularly stunning in the first half of the year and early autumn, although access to Lar waterfall can be challenging in winter due to the cold weather and difficult terrain. The rocky walls surrounding this waterfall are covered with lush grasses, forming a small pool at the base that eventually feeds the river. The massive rocks and boulders near the waterfall and along the river's path are truly mesmerizing. Tall, verdant trees and various wild plants enhance the surrounding landscape, making

it exceptionally beautiful and unique. This village is a treasure trove of tourism potential, attracting visitors with its fertile and picturesque lands. The ancient trees and pleasant climate make this area highly attractive for tourism. Throughout the region, you will come across numerous tall and sky-reaching trees, including hazelnut, olive, jujube, walnut trees, and mulberry bushes. The hazelnut tree forest along the way adds a special charm to the area, and the overall view of the Ghezel Ozan River and beautiful olive groves along the Zanzan to Tarom road, is very appealing and worth seeing. The interesting elevations of the region have created these unique landscapes for passing

travelers.

The agricultural products of this area, especially rice and olives, are well-known for their quality. Livestock breeding, tree cultivation, horticulture, carpet-weaving, *jajim*-weaving, kilim-weaving, and traditional handicrafts are the main occupations of the women in the village of Lar. Agriculture and animal husbandry are the primary occupations of the men in this village. Every year, many travelers and tourists choose to visit this waterfall for leisure and to experience a moment of life with nature during the warm seasons. The coexistence of trees in these surroundings with clear springs tells a historical story of friendship between plane trees and springs.



Ilkhanid textiles in Vienna's museums

A systematic and scholarly approach towards the study of the arts from the Islamic world developed in the 19th century. This is made clear by the comparison of the reception of two Ilkhanid textiles present in Vienna. The earliest surviving object from Iran known to have arrived in Vienna is the Ilkhanid burial shroud of Duke Rudolf IV the Founder (ruled from 1358-65), a 14th-century textile from Iran.

Made of silk with gold threads, this lampas is one of the most splendid Ilkhanid textiles to survive. Another Ilkhanid fragment, once part of the ecclesiastical vestments in Regensburg, found its way to Vienna's Museum für Kunst und Industrie in the 19th century as part of the important collection. The Museum für Kunst und Industrie included a large collection of samples of all types of textile patterns and objects that could be used as models by artists and technicians working for the Austrian industry.

In the case of the two Ilkhanid textiles, it is clear that the appreciation of similar Persian items had changed over a time span of six centuries. The Duke's splendor was enhanced by his burial in one of the most exclusive textiles



Flying Carpets, Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna

available. The second Ilkhanid textile was also originally used in a European sacred context. During the late Middle Ages, the chasuble out of which this fragment was cut was part of the Christian liturgy, itself endowed with divine magnificence.

In the 19th century a fragment of the same chasuble was collected by the Museum of Applied Arts (MAK) to inspire Austrian textile production. In both cases the textile was admired, but in very different ways. The ancient conception of the sacredness of tex-

tiles met the entrepreneurial spirit of the 19th century. These are of course not the only Persian textiles in Vienna. Documentation in the respective institutions shows that during the late 19th century the MAK, the Orientalische Museum and what is now the Museum für Völkerkunde acquired a considerable number of textile samples, pieces of costume, carpets and the like from different periods of Persian art. Another important group of Persian objects in Vienna constitute high quality weapons that came to Vienna from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Precious daggers and sabres were especially sought after by princely collectors. Often diplomatic gifts, many of them were delicately crafted pieces of jewelry, decorated with precious stones and niello work, occasionally inscribed with Persian poetry. Some of them were part of the imperial private Rüst-kammer or the Kunstkammer, demonstrating the high regard for these objects.

During the later nineteenth century, they were integrated into the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien (KHM), where they are now part of one of the

most famous weapons collections worldwide, the Rüst-kammer.

Valuable weapons also continued to be appreciated as diplomatic gifts in the 19th century. Persian jade objects were also transferred from the imperial collections to the public museums in the later 19th century. The KHM houses, among other objects from the Persian world, some splendid stone nephrite objects from the Timurid, Safavid and Mughal periods. These were formerly part of what was left of the imperial Kunst- und Wunderkammern and were integrated into the KHM upon its creation. Large pieces of jewelry like these were used as highly esteemed diplomatic gifts during the late 16th century. For instance, a set of ancient Persian stone-carved tableware was presented by the Ottoman ambassador to Emperor Ferdinand I in 1562. Objects like these found their way into the Kunstkammern, which were accessible at times to the court artists of Rudolf II (ruled from 1576-1612) in Prague. Given the emperor's fondness for vessels made of precious stones, these might have served as models for court artists, such as the Italian Miseroni family.

EXCLUSIVE

Tehran is a large and bustling city that does not leave much room for its residents to relax with its crowds and noise. However, this vast city with many attractions can be a very enjoyable and interesting place.

One of the most captivating museums in Tehran is the International Dolls Museum which houses various types of dolls and is a beautiful and tranquil place to watch them. The museum offers a delightful journey into the realm of dolls and toys, appealing to individuals of all ages, particularly children and teenagers, by acquainting them with the diverse cultures, stories, myths, attire, and traditions of various countries. Fortunately, the museum provides an avenue for such cultural exploration. As its name implies, the museum goes beyond Iranian dolls, curating a diverse collection of dolls and narratives from various nations for visitors to enjoy and learn from.

Located in the heart of Tehran, this local museum showcases a myriad of dolls from across the globe. Alongside local and overlooked Iranian dolls, the museum features a collection of dolls from Europe, America, and Asia. The museum's activities extend beyond merely exhibiting dolls for children, as each doll is accompanied by its own unique story and historical background.

Dolls have historically emerged from myths and tales, with individuals crafting dolls of their heroes as a display of admiration. Consequently, dolls serve as cultural emissaries, embodying the customs and ideologies of different societies. Exploring the dolls of different nations can be an enjoyable and straightforward method to delve into various cultures. For instance, if you are considering traveling or relocating, particularly to Asian countries, familiarity with their cultural expressions can foster a sense of closeness and warmth among locals. Dolls often represent a significant aspect of a country's cultural heritage, offering a starting point for conversations and facilitating connections with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

This museum showcases over 2,500 cultural dolls from 84 countries worldwide, displayed in various sections categorized by continent. Visitors can explore rituals, customs, arts, clothing, music, handicrafts, and natural heritage from Iran and around the globe. Through educational workshops, regular exhibitions, and mobile museum services, this museum offers enthusiasts the opportunity to deepen their understanding of global cultures and dolls.



Take a journey through cultures in International Dolls Museum



Years ago, Ali Golshani, Masoud Naseri Daryai, and Farideh Naseri Daryai collected dolls from various parts of the world and established the International Dolls Museum, which has since expanded its activities. The museum has thrived with the support of various groups since 2016, and in the subsequent year, it was honored with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Award.

Having moved from its original location, the museum now resides in the Darvazeh Dolat neighborhood of Tehran, operating with official approval from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism. The museum initially began its journey with 700 dolls.

At first glance, the museum showcases dolls crafted from wood, fabric, and even materials like bamboo and wheat. However, these dolls carry within them stories and imagination. It is intriguing to note that in ancient times, each doll had specific roles and responsibilities. Each doll, akin to a traveler from distant lands, brings with it a wealth of experiences and memories to the museum. The International Dolls Museum is divided into three sections:

First floor

The initial section of this museum which is known as the Museum of International Dolls is located on the first floor.

Among the collection are Afghan, Chinese, Arabic, and Indian god dolls, as well as faceless Tajik, Austrian, and Armenian dolls. The assortment encompasses handmade, factory-made, and display dolls.

Second floor

The subsequent section of this museum on the second floor, named the Museum of Dolls and Iranian Culture, presents the tribes, costumes, stories, and myths of Iran. This exhibit features dolls crafted by Iranian ethnic groups, dolls from historical dynasties of Iran,

dolls created by Iranian literary figures and contributors to children's literature, and a series of doll sculptures depicting women from various regions of Iran, each adorned in the traditional attire of their respective regions.

Basement

In the basement section, visitors not only become acquainted with a diverse array of toys but also gain insight into their historical origins. This area hosts toy tours, children's tours, as well as a variety of doll and toy-making workshops.

The iconic Lajkonik doll, symbolizing the hero of Poland, the Matryoshka doll representing unity in Russia, the Nutcracker doll gifted by American soldiers, the Worry doll symbolizing the sorrow of the people of Guatemala, the blessed and prosperous Iranian dolls, the Daruma doll from Japan symbolizing wishes are among the most renowned dolls in the International Dolls Museum.

The Museum of International Dolls also offers supplementary activities aimed at educating both children and adults.

These activities include:

- Cultural nights designed to introduce enthusiasts to the rich culture of Iranian ethnic groups.
- Doll-making workshops that encourage the crafting of both traditional and global dolls.
- Establishment of a mobile museum to engage educational and cultural institutions in Tehran and other cities.
- Coordination of group tours catering to children, teenagers, and mother-child groups, as well as specialized tours tailored for students, researchers, and both Iranian and international tourists.
- Sale of products aligned with the museum's mission, such as dolls, toys, and educational, cultural, and artistic packages.

Collection of priceless works by renowned artists in heart of Tehran

Iran has a rich history in culture and art. This characteristic has led to the establishment of numerous museums in cities across the country. The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts is one of the unique and fascinating attractions, hosting a large number of domestic and foreign visitors every day. This museum holds the most comprehensive and important collections of modern art from post-World War II to the late 1980s outside of Europe and North America, including significant works from abstract expressionism, pop art, minimalism, conceptual art, and photorealism. Concurrent with the rise of modern architecture in Europe and America, Iranian architects also began to think about bringing about a transformation in this field. The building of the museum stands as a successful example of modern architecture in Iran shaped by a combination of traditional Iranian architectural elements and philosophical concepts. Since the establishment of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in 1977, valuable works of visual arts from Iran and around the world have been placed in the museum's collection, causing its value to increase over time.

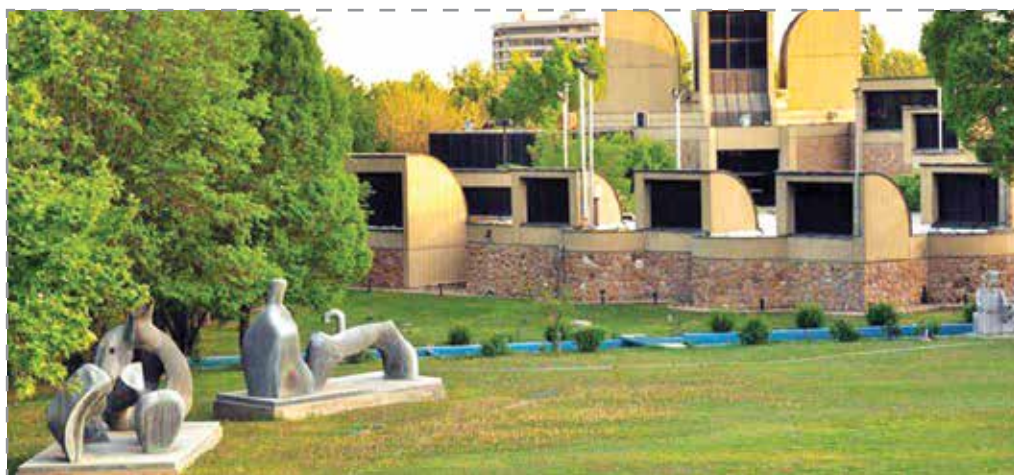
The museum's permanent collection boasts over 4,000 invaluable works by esteemed visual artists from Iran and worldwide, with nearly 400 deemed exceptionally valuable. Valued at approximately \$2.5 billion, the museum's collection features notable pieces by renowned artists such as Van Gogh, Renoir, Picasso, Magritte, Ernst, Pollock, Warhol, Lichtenstein, and Giacometti. Additionally, the museum houses a significant collection of contemporary Iranian art, including works by artists like Sohrab Sepehri.

The museum has nine galleries, with three galleries dedicated to preserving valuable works of mentioned artists and six temporary galleries strategically placed along the visitor's path, making it easy and delightful for those visiting the museum. The museum's grounds also feature works and sculptures from artists of various countries worldwide. One of the most famous pieces is the sculpture 'The Healer' by René Magritte, a Belgian painter.

In 2008, during a visit to the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Professor Mahmoud Farshchian, an Iranian painter and educator, donated his collection of works, which had been published at the same time and included 100 selected works from the 1970s onwards, to Mahmoud Shalouei, who was the director of the museum at the time.



'The Healer' by René Magritte
itto.org



Architecture

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, located in the central district of the capital, on the northern part of Kargar Street and the western part of Laleh Park, is considered one of the examples of modern architecture in Iran. In this structure, elements of traditional Iranian architecture and philosophical concepts have been combined with modern ones.

The museum building is constructed of stone and concrete and has a total area of 8,500 square meters. The total length of its walls is 2,500 square meters. The museum itself has an area of over 5,000 square meters and took nine years to construct. The museum has two entrances, one in Laleh Park and the other which is the main one in Kargar Street. The exterior of the building is inspired by the wind towers (*badgirs* in Persian) of the desert regions of Iran.

Interior design

The museum building comprises two main parts: Enclosed spaces and an inner courtyard. Inside the building and in the enclosed spaces, a spiral path has been designed in a circular manner, guiding visitors down. This internal spiral path, in contrast to the exterior, has a completely modern character. The spiral path connects visitors to seven main galleries within the museum.

The first space is the main entrance hall, known as Gallery 1, which is connected to the next gallery, leading the visitor underground. The galleries in the complex have somewhat similar designs, but galleries 1 and 5, which form the main axis of the museum building, are different from the others.

Each gallery is connected to the next one through gentle slop-

ing ramps that are in complete harmony with the galleries. The main hall is an octagonal semi-regular space with a tall arch and a large skylight with four wind towers above it. In the design of this hall, great importance has been given to the central part and its connection to the entrance space and the other galleries, as well as the bookstore and restaurant. Within the octagonal space, visitors can find modern artwork by the Japanese artist Noriyuki Hara-guchi. Titled 'Matter and Mind,' the piece is a combination of oil and steel.

The design of the enclosed spaces is such that Gallery 1, or the main hall, is the starting and ending point for the visitor. Despite facing challenges and being impacted by historical and political events, the museum has consistently showcased artworks by both Iranian and foreign artists. Therefore, being present in this museum and circulating through the gallery spaces conveys a good feeling to the visitors.

Library

In addition to the permanent parts of the museum with valuable and unique works by elite visual artists from Iran and around the world as well as Tandis Garden, photo archive, and the cinematheque, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art has a library located at the end of the spiral walkway leading to the administrative and artistic sections.

It contains nearly 5,000 Persian and non-Persian books covering various artistic topics such as architecture, painting, design, visual communication, photography, cinema, and more which only the members can access. Membership in this library is specifically for students and researchers in the field of art.

Persian Gulf Pro League: Alekasir double sends Persepolis top



Persepolis striker Issa Alekasir (red) scores the first of his two goals in a 2-0 victory over Havadar in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Shahid Dastgerdi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on May 11, 2024.

● MOHAMMADREZA ALIMADADI/IRNA

Sports Desk

Issa Alekasir scored in each half as Persepolis defeated Havadar 2-0 to go top of the Persian Gulf Pro League table with 59 points.

The Tehran Reds – two points clear of Esteghlal – could still fall back to second when their city rivals welcome relegation-threatened Foolad Khuzestan to the capital's Azadi Stadium today.

Persepolis skipper Omid Alishah, who became the first player to make 200 Pro League appearances in the Reds shirt, celebrated the milestone by adding yet another assist to his

name as he found Alekasir with an inch-perfect pass in the box before his strike went into an empty net in the 14th minute.

The striker could have added a couple of goals in the first period, only to send his efforts wide in one-on-one with goalkeeper Alireza Haqiqi, while Persepolis's in-form winger Oston Urunov was denied by Iranian under-17 international Arsha Shakouri, who replaced injured Haqiqi, in similar position.

Chasing a seventh top-flight crown in eight seasons, Persepolis had to ride its luck to avoid an equalizer in the second half before Alekasir bagged

the all-important second goal with 15 minutes left on the clock, tapping Daniel Esmailifar's low cross into the roof of the net as Masoud Shojaei's Havadar suffered a first league defeat in seven games since the home loss to Esteghlal in mid-March.

"We were not good in tactical terms but should have still put the game to bed before the break, while Havadar and its coach deserve credit for the way they played today," Persepolis head coach Osmar Loss said after the match.

When asked about his future, the Brazilian caretaker – who is yet to have his contract extended beyond

the end of the campaign – said: "All I'm thinking of is the remaining three games in the next 20 days and then we'll see what happens for the next season."

Persepolis will play Esteghlal Khuzestan and Mes Rafsanjan at home either side of a visit to Shams Azar. Elsewhere on Saturday, Mohammad Papi's fifth-minute header saw Shams Azar defeat Malavan FC 1-0 at home. In Tabriz, first-half goals by Gustavo Vagenin and Rahman Ja'fari – the second coming from the spot – helped Tractor beat Golgozar Sirjan 2-0 to close the gap on third-placed Sepahan to a single point and remain on

course for an AFC Champions League spot.

Sepahan, facing club legend Moharram Navidkia as the opposition coach, shared the spoils with Mes Rafsanjan in a 1-1 draw, which meant the Isfahan-based club is now officially out of the title race and the five-time champion's top-flight drought will extend beyond nine seasons.

Kaveh Rezaei gave Sepahan a ninth-minute lead, only to see his goal canceled out by Jaleddin Alimohammadi's header on the hour mark.

Iralco and San'at Naft Abadanb – rock bottom in the table – played to a 1-1 stalemate in Arak.

Wrestling World OG Qualifier: Sarлак undone as Iran fails to seal full freestyle squad for Paris



● UJWW

Sports Desk

Iran's hopes of sending a full six-man squad to the freestyle wrestling competitions in September's Paris Olympics were dashed on Saturday after Alireza Sarlak fell short in the world qualification event in Istanbul.

Representing the country in the 57kg contests, the 2021 world silver medalist came out on top against Italy's Simone Vincenzo Piroddu (4-2) and Georgian Roberti Dingashvili (9-3) but suffered a 7-2 loss to Rakhat Kalzhan in the quarterfinals and saw his campaign come to an end following the Kazakhstani wrestler's last-four defeat. The top three across the six weight classes secured their place in the

French capital.

Iran will have five freestyle wrestlers in Paris, courtesy of top-five finishes for Rahman Amouzad (65kg), Hassan Yazdani (86kg), and Amirhossein Zare' (125kg) in last year's World Championships, as well as successful campaigns by Younes Emami (74kg) and Amir-Ali Azarpira (97kg) in April's Asian qualifiers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Amouzad, reigning world champion Zare', and Emami have been handed the Paris ticket by the Iranian coaching staff, while young prodigy Azarpira is all but guaranteed a place in the Games thanks to impressive performances in recent months – including a final victory over American great Kyle Snyder in the Zagreb Open

in January.

However, the Iranian 86kg slot remains hanging in the balance as Yazdani, sidelined since last October with a shoulder surgery, only made his long-awaited return to training two weeks ago and will have his fitness assessed by the coaching staff when he competes in the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial tournament – starting June 6 in Budapest.

Alireza Dabir, the chairman of the Iranian Wrestling Federation, said this week that two-time world 92kg champion Kamran Qassempour – also considered for the country's 97kg berth – remains "a plan B", should Yazdani fail to fully recover from the shoulder problem.

Celtics restore lead over Cavs in NBA play-off tie

BBC – The Boston Celtics regained the lead in their NBA Eastern Conference semi-final against the Cleveland Cavaliers with a 106-93 victory on the road.

Top-seeded Boston, who were stunned by the Cavaliers at home in game two, edged the first quarter by two points and never relinquished their lead.

The Celtics now take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series into game four in Cleveland tonight.

Jayson Tatum hit 33 points for the Celtics, while Jaylen Brown added 28.

"We just wanted to bounce back," said Tatum. "Our back was against the wall, so it was a good test for us to see how we respond - we were up for the challenge."

Donovan Mitchell top scored for Cleveland, with 33 points. Elsewhere, the Dallas Mavericks took a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference semi-final with a 105-101 win at home over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

PJ Washington led the Mavs with 27 points, while star guard Luka Doncic added 22.

Historic medals for Iranian duo in Asian trampoline event

Sports Desk

Iranian duo Arya Mam Abdollah and Sajjad Kargar made history by winning maiden medals for the country at the 6th Trampoline Asian Championships in Hong Kong.

Representing the country in the age group competition, Abdollah tallied

54.860 points to walk away with the ultimate prize in the 17-21 age class, with Kargar taking the silver with 52.690 points.

Kazakhstan's Ruslan Izmailov had to settle for a third-place finish behind the Iranian pair with 52.300 points in the routine 1 final.

Individual trampoline, Age group competition Final, Routine 1			
1.		MAM ABDOLLAH A.	54.860
2.		KARGAR MAZRAEHMOLA S.	52.690
3.		IZMAILOV R.	52.300
4.		SATYGA R.	51.720
5.		MUMINOV A.	49.910
6.		ILANO J.	48.750
7.		LEUNG H.	41.870
8.		CHAN L.	9.580

● IRNA

Pro-Palestinian protests held across world



erlands and Switzerland called for a cease-fire in Gaza and a halt to arms supplies to the Israeli regime. In Spain's capital, Madrid, around 4,000 protesters gathered in the center of the city to condemn the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Palestinians have been "crammed" in southern Gaza and "now they are displaced again from one place to another while there are no more safe places", said 57-year-old Jaldia Abubakra, referring to Israeli evacuation orders in the southern city of Rafah. Demonstrators demanded that their government and the international community take "urgent, concrete and effective measures against Israel, to stop arms trade with Israel and to boycott

A woman wrapped in a Palestinian flag and wearing a keffiyeh takes part in a demonstration in support of the Palestinian people in Madrid on May 11, 2024. **PIERRE-PHILIPPE MARCOU/ AFP**

campus of the University of Lisbon to show solidarity with Gaza. Hundreds also rallied in Athens to show solidarity with Palestinians and denounce the relentless Israeli attacks on Gaza, which has killed nearly 35,000 civilians – mostly women and children. In the Netherlands' capital, Amsterdam, approximately 15,000 people took part in anti-Israel's protests. Nearly 3,000 people in Germany's capital Berlin filled the streets of the city, calling for a halt to Germany's arms supply to Israel. Demonstrators demanded an end to the genocide in Gaza, chanting slogans such as "Israel is a terrorist state", "Germany finances, Israel bombs", "Freedom for Palestine" and "Long live Palestine." Speeches stressed that Germany is complicit in Israel's war crimes by supplying weapons to the regime. Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters also filled the streets of cities in several Italian cities as well as France's capital, Paris. Demonstrations were also held in Japan, South Korea and the US where students have been also staging protests against Israel's genocide for weeks.

Iran ready to send aid to flood-hit Afghanistan

International Desk

Iran extended condolences to Afghanistan's officials and people over deadly flash flooding that ravaged the country, saying that it is ready to send rescue teams and humanitarian aid to the neighboring country. In a message issued on Sunday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said that the Iranian government and nation were deeply saddened by the natural disaster that has killed at least 300 Afghans and displaced thousands in recent days. Iran's special envoy to Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi also said that Iran is ready to send humanitarian aid to the flood-stricken people in Afghanistan. Heavy seasonal rains have set off flash floods in Afghanistan's Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan, western Ghor and Herat provinces. The World Food Program said the flooding has killed more than 300 people and destroyed over 1,000 houses.

International Desk

Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters once again took to the streets across the

world to show their anger at the Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Many European countries have been the scene of an-

ti-Israel protests since the beginning of the regime's brutal strikes on the Palestinian territory in response to the Hamas's October 7

operation inside the occupied territories. On Saturday, protesters in Spain, Portugal, Greece, Germany, Italy, France, the Neth-

Israeli companies involved in the massacre. In the Portuguese capital of Lisbon, pro-Palestinian students camped out on the

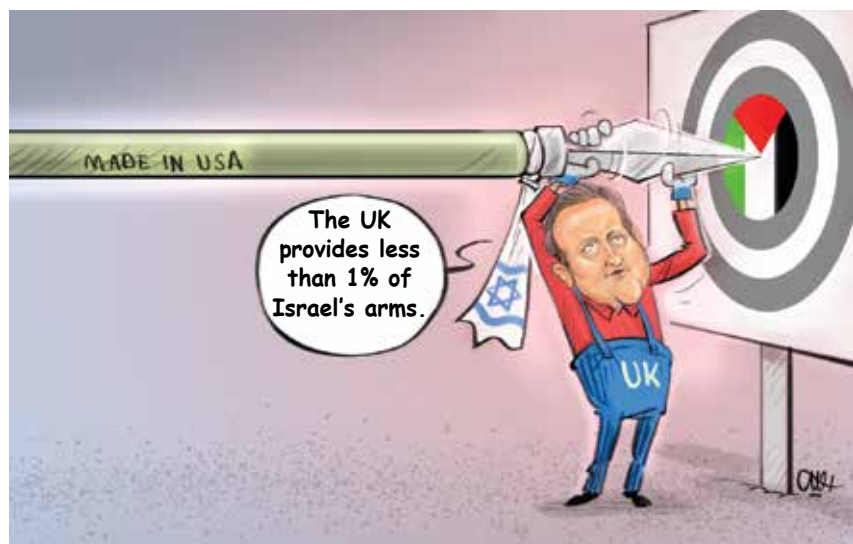
Iran might make ...

Iran initially engaged in negotiations with Western counterparts under the framework of the Leader's "heroic flexibility" policy, culminating in the signing of the nuclear deal. This agreement, known as the JCPOA, could set a precedent for other nations, conveying that even the most challenging disputes can be addressed diplomatically. However, the US withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018, yet Iran persisted in upholding its commitments, refraining from abandoning the pact. Regrettably, during the past three years, as new administrations took office in the US and Iran, the required willpower to revitalizing the JCPOA appeared lacking. Currently, as the US avoids escalating tensions with Iran and the Iranian government seeks economic opportunities, resuming negotiations could prove beneficial for both parties.

Nevertheless, no definitive signals indicate such intentions, particularly from the US, amidst a looming presidential election. The Democrats aim to dodge criticism from Republican opponents on this matter. In this context, Mr. Kharrazi's recent statement about altering nuclear strategy serves as a reminder of the significance of diplomacy and dialogue over threats. Kharrazi's message warns that if "maximum pressure" policy persists and encroaches on military aspects, Iran remains prepared for resistance and defense. Such an outcome might prove detrimental for all involved, stressing the superiority of diplomatic efforts. In response to Kharrazi's stance, the US State Department spokesperson reiterated their opposition to Iran acquiring nuclear weapons and that all options were on the table, emphasizing that diplomacy serves as the preferred solution.

Given the current state of the international system and the ineffectiveness of international organizations in alleviating tensions, as witnessed during the Gaza war, is it reasonable for governments to bolster their defense capabilities? It is indeed a common practice for governments to seek ways to enhance their national power, with defense capabilities serving as a vital component. Recent conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza underscore the growing instability in the global order, heightening tensions and driving nations to bolster their defense capabilities. These events have demonstrated that countries with stronger defense capacities often gain the upper hand. Consequently, governments increasingly prioritize strengthening their defense power. However, whether this focus ultimately translates into the development of nuclear weapons is another matter.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



First Announcement

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

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140007

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING 3-1/2 IN" API GRAE L-80 SEAMLESS VAM FLUSH JOINT THREAD RANGE 2, 9.3 PPF	4,000 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 112,647/00 EURO or 45,000,000,000 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.

NOTE: Based on enactment notified by Nisoc's Tender committee, foreign companies must submit a Bid Bond Guarantee amounting to aforementioned (paragraph 2) Euro amount. Otherwise, their quotations will not be considered.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644
Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS
www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://lets.mporg.ir> 1714589

First Announcement

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

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0140008

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING 2-7/8 IN" API GRAE L-80 SEAMLESS "HYDRIL CS" THREAD RANGE 2, PSL: 2, 6.5 PPF	1,000 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 19,143/26 EURO or 8,250,000,000 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.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://lets.mporg.ir> 1714591



Official: Iran, Yemen enjoy rich cultural ties

Abdurrahman Murad, head of Yemen's Book Organization, highlighted the strong cultural ties between Iran and Yemen. He emphasized the historical development of their relationship and the significant presence of Yemeni publishers at the fair, IRNA wrote. Regarding the Yemeni books presented in this exhibition, he said that

these books are in the fields of history, literature, religion, and resistance. The 35th Tehran International Book Fair began on May 8, featuring a wide range of literary works from local and international publishers. This year's event, held under the motto "Let's Read, Create," provides a platform for over 2,600 publishers to showcase their work and facilitates cultural exchange between nations. The fair features sub-

jects, including history, literature, religion, and resistance, giving visitors an opportunity to engage with diverse literary content. With approximately 100 foreign publishers from 25 countries participating, the Tehran International Book Fair promotes the importance of reading and literary creation while fostering global connections. The ten-day event runs until May 18 and is expected to attract over 400,000 visitors daily. In addition, book enthusiasts worldwide can participate virtually, ensuring that the fair remains accessible to a broader audience.

'Journey through the Embers' by Munir Shafiq unveiled

Arts & Culture Desk

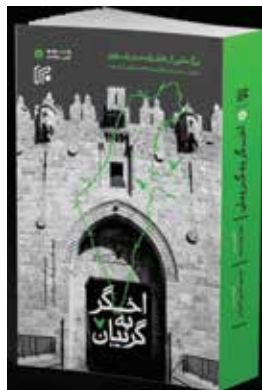
The unveiling ceremony of the book 'Journey through the Embers,' written by Munir Shafiq, a Palestinian intellectual and strategist, took place on May 12 at the Iran Cultural & Press Institute.

According to the cultural reporter of Iran Online, the book features excerpts from the memoirs of Munir Shafiq, with the presence of Munir Shafiq, prominent Palestinian thinker and strategist, Hossein Jaber Ansari, the translator of the book and Iranian politician and diplomat, Abbas Khomeh Yar, an expert on Middle Eastern issues, Meysam Nili, the head of the Palestine Book Awards, Ehsan Salehi, the caretaker of the



Iran Cultural & Press Institute, and several other prominent figures both domestically and internationally. The book summarizes the reflections of a life full of struggles by Hossein Jaber Ansari, the translator of this book and an Iranian politician and diplomat. He mentioned that honoring Shafiq is an honor for Palestine. Salehi emphasized that honoring Shafiq is honoring Palestine. Shafiq has fulfilled his duty in struggles and recounting his motivations which are inspiring for the Islamic world towards Palestine. At the end of the program, he recalled that after the Black September events in Jordan in 1970 and the expulsion of the Palestinian movement from Jordan to Beirut, he formed a closed political circle

within the Fatah movement. They focused on the main goal of fighting against a compromising mindset. Shafiq stressed that that no part of the land of Palestine shall be compromised. He highlighted that their guiding principle was to deny compromise and focus solely on their goal and work. Shafiq mentioned that their circle was guided by Imam Khomeini's teachings during those years of struggle. They adhered to Imam Khomeini's principles that the US is the Great Satan and Zionists are a cancerous entity that must be uprooted. The book previously published by Persian-language Iran Newspaper, offers a touching narrative of various periods in Shafiq's life and experiences.



Iranian animation wins in Russia

An Iranian animated film, 'A Passenger from Ganora,' won the Best Animated Feature prize at the 5th Tsiolkovsky International Space Film Festival (Tsiolkovsky ISFF) in Russia. Produced by Iran's Soureh

Animation Center and directed by Ahmad Alamdari, the film follows an alien's quest for peace on Earth, aided by a disabled boy and his friends, IRNA wrote. The Tsiolkovsky ISFF, held

annually in Kaluga, focuses on space-themed films and the intersection of science, culture, and art with space. The jury includes professional filmmakers, astronauts, and scientists.

Michael Haneke lauds Kiarostami's unsurpassed simplicity in filmmaking

Renowned Austrian filmmaker Michael Haneke praised Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami for his unique ability to achieve "a simplicity that's so difficult to attain" during an interview with The Other Journal. Haneke, known for his unflinching and often provocative cinematic work, acknowledged Kiarostami's poetic style and influential contributions to international cinema. Kiarostami earned admiration from industry luminaries such as Akira Kurosawa and Martin Scorsese for his nuanced approach to storytelling. In his interview, Haneke cited Kiarostami's ability to blend minimalism with the complexities of the human condition. Despite Kiarostami's minimalist tendencies, he saw his work as simply cutting away the unnecessary elements to highlight the essential components of his narratives. In the decades since he made his feature-length directorial debut on 1989's 'The Seventh Continent,' the filmmaker has become

known for his unflinching, uncompromising, and often unsentimental work, shining a light on the stark realities of the human condition, regularly injecting his work with lashings of graphic violence and disturbing imagery to enhance the thematic undertones. His deliberately-paced, engrossing, and immersive approach to cinema, layered in authenticity and ambiguity, have become hallmarks of his aesthetic, meaning simplicity is rarely a term attributed to his films. However, that's precisely the reason why he views Abbas Kiarostami as one of the true greats, with the pioneering Iranian managing to achieve "a simplicity that's so difficult to attain". A figurehead of the 'Iranian New Wave', Kiarostami's poetic style and distinctive compositions earned him a legion of admirers, with his prolific output maintaining a balance between quantity and quality. Between his first feature in 1973 to his last in 2012, he helmed dozens upon dozens of pro-

ductions that melded fact with fiction, documentary with reality, and external simplicity with internal complexities. Those are just a handful of the reasons why Haneke holds Kiarostami in such high regard, and when he was asked to cast his eye across the landscape of contemporary cinema, there was only one answer when he was pressed to name the one whose work he cherished most of all. "He is still unsurpassed," Haneke said of Kiarostami in The Other Journal. "As Brecht put it, 'simplicity is the hardest thing to achieve'. Everyone dreams of doing things simply and still impregnating them with the fullness of the world. Only the best ones achieve this. Kiarostami has, and so has Bresson." Invoking the name of playwright Bertolt Brecht and the legendary Robert Bresson as points of comparison illustrates just how Haneke views Kiarostami as a monolithic presence in the world of modern cine-

ma. It's a view that's been espoused by many, including the equally-illustrious Akira Kurosawa and Martin Scorsese. The latter of which hails his unrivaled "purity". That perceived simplicity, which Haneke remarked was an incredibly difficult thing to create, was made to look effortless by Kiarostami throughout his entire career. Although there were many minimalist elements prevalent throughout his back catalogue, the filmmaker wasn't entirely accepting of his output being broadly described as such. He did admit that "my films have been progressing towards a certain kind of minimalism," but from his point of view he was only trimming the fat. "Elements that can be eliminated have been eliminated, some elements are highlighted while others are obscured or even pushed back into the dark." There wasn't a wasted second in a Kiarostami film, and he made something his peers struggled to achieve look like the most natural thing in the world.