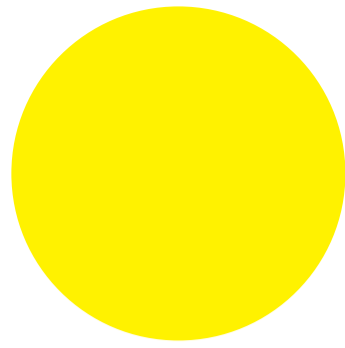


Iran's agricultural success stories under Raisi

SPECIAL ISSUE

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# Iran Daily

Vol. 7586 • Saturday, June 22, 2024 • Tir 2, 1403 • Dhu al-Hijjah 15, 1445 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



irandaily.ir

newspaper.irandaily.ir

IranDailyWeb

By Emad Abshenas  
Political analyst

Canada has gone ahead and listed Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps as a terrorist group, in breach of international law – a move that received the United States' support. First off, it's worth pointing out that the designation won't impact the IRGC's activities as this military force has no presence in Canada or the US, and it's unlikely they have bank accounts in these countries that could be frozen.

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## Terror lobby against IRGC

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# Iran Inaugurates Caspian Railway

Iran on Thursday inaugurated a major railway in the northern province of Gilan, which serves as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a transport route linking South Asia to North Europe.

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Iran's Caretaker President Mohammad Mokhber (L) is getting briefed about Rasht-Anzali railway project by Miad Salehi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways in the northern province of Gilan on June 20, 2024.

### Moscow, Tehran to enhance tourism ties through BRICS

EXCLUSIVE

The first BRICS Tourism Forum was held in the Russian capital, Moscow, on June 20-21. The forum was attended by delegations from all nine members states: Russia, Brazil, Egypt, India, Iran, China, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and the Republic of South Africa.

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## Minister calls for electricity swap among regional countries

Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian voiced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to export technical and engineering services, as well as supply equipment in the energy sector.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Kazakhstan, the minister pointed out that connecting the electricity grid of Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan and then Iran will enable the exchange of electricity for the countries of the region, especially during the peak consumption period of summer and winter, IRNA reported.

On Thursday, on the sidelines of the fourth meeting of the energy ministers of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Mehrabian in a meeting with Mahmoud Jurabek, the minister of energy of Uzbekistan, expressed his readiness to expand cooperation between the two countries, while thanking the president of that country for his efforts in bilateral cooperation in the field of energy.

He voiced the readiness of Iran to develop cooperation, especially in the field of exporting technical and engineering services, as well as supplying energy field equipment to Uzbekistan. Stating that Uzbekistan has a growing economy, the Mehrabian mentioned energy as the most important issue of development in this country.

Referring to the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the production, transmission and distribution of electricity, Mehrabian pointed out that factories manufacturing equipment in the Islamic Republic of Iran are ready to cooperate with Uzbekistan at a competitive price.

"If Uzbekistan's electricity grid is connected to Turkmenistan's electricity grid, it will be possible to exchange electricity with Uzbekistan and manage peak consumption in summer and winter," he added.

Iran has a nominal power generation capacity of more than 90 GW which is mostly supplied from thermal power plants that burn natural gas or gas oil to produce electricity.

That comes as the country has introduced extensive plans to develop its renewable energy sector in recent years.

According to a report by the Energy Ministry, a total of 12 renewable power plants, including 11 solar farms and one wind power plant, are planned to be inaugurated in seven provinces across Iran in the very near future.

The report said the new power plants will increase the renewables capacity in Iran by 70 megawatts to a total of just more than 1.262 GW.

# Iran inaugurates Caspian railway

Iran on Thursday inaugurated a major railway in the northern province of Gilan, which serves as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a transport route linking South Asia to North Europe. The inauguration ceremony of the railway, which connects the provincial capital Rasht to the Caspian port city of Bandar Anzali, was attended by Iran's Caretaker President Mohammad Mokhber and Roads and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, among others, IRNA reported.

According to the report, the passenger and cargo transfer capacities of the 37 km-long railway, whose construction started in 2006, are expected to finally reach 600,000 and seven million tons, respectively.

The project helps prepare the ground for the connection of Iran's southern ports and the northern ones, as well as facilitates cargo transit for regional countries through Iran, said the report.

The report hailed the railway as an important step towards the full implementation of the INSTC and expansion of cooperation between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states, adding the railway will also boost the development of relations between the EAEU member states and Arab coun-



tries in West Asia. Speaking in the inaugural ceremony, Bazrpash said the transit of goods from the country increased 55 percent in the first three months of the current Iranian year compared to the same period

last year. He added that the administration of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi made round-the-clock efforts for the completion of the Rasht-Caspian Rail project.

The roads minister pointed to

the economic opportunities of Iran in the region and world and said the administration of Raisi enhanced Iran's diplomacy in the region and the world considerably.

He went on to say that 5.5 mil-

lion tons of goods were transited via Iranian land and territory in the first three months of the current year, expandable to 20 million tons of transit of goods by the end of the current year (to end March 20, 2025).

## WSA: Iranian five-month crude steel production up 9%

By Reza Abesh Ahmadlou  
Staff writer

Iranian steelmakers churned out 14 million tons of crude steel in the first five months of 2024, up 9.1% compared to corresponding figure of preceding year, according to statistics released by the World Steel Association (WSA) on Friday, indicating that the country stands at ninth place among steel producing countries.

The country's steel ingot production for May 2024 registered a 2.1-percent increase compared to the figure for May 2023.

World crude steel production for the 71 countries reporting to the association was 165.1 million tons in May 2024, a 1.5-percent rise compared to May 2023.

China produced 92.9 million tons in May 2024, up 2.7% over May 2023, while India produced 12.2 million tons of steel ingots last month, up 3.5% compared to the figure for last year, as Japan produced 7.2 million tons, down 6.3% compared to the same month last year.

The United States produced 6.9 million tons of crude steel in May, down 1.5%. Russia is estimated to have produced 6.3 million tons, down 0.9%.



South Korea produced 5.2 million tons, down 10.9%.

The World Steel Association is one of the largest and most dynamic industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing

country. The WSA represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Members represent around 85 percent of global steel production.

## Five month trade with China nears \$6b



China's Customs Office put the trade exchanges between Iran and China in the first five months of the current year (January to May 2024) at about \$6 billion.

It said the trade exchanges between the two countries in the first five

months of the current year reached \$5.9 billion, showing a nine percent decline compared to last year's corresponding period, reported Tasnim News Agency.

The trade exchanges between Iran and China from January to May 2023

had been \$6.5 billion, the report added.

China imported \$1.8 billion of products from Iran in the first five months of 2024, showing a five percent decline compared to last year's corresponding period, it stated.

China had imported \$1.9 billion of products from Iran between January and May 2023.

Also, China exported \$4.1 billion of products to Iran from January to May 2024, showing a 10 percent down compared to last year's corresponding period. China had exported \$4.6 billion of products to Iran from January to May 2023.

China imported \$245 million of products from Iran in May 2024 while exporting \$594 million of products to Iran in this period, the report went on to say.

## Lahore hosts meeting to explore avenues for boosting Tehran-Islamabad trade

The Pakistani city of Lahore hosted a meeting to explore the opportunities to increase trade volume between Iran and Pakistan to \$10 billion, a target that was agreed upon during the last visit of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi to the neighboring country.

The Thursday meeting was attended by ambassadors of Iran and Pakistan, as well as officials from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), to explore opportunities to increase trade volume between the two countries to the \$10 billion, IRNA reported.

At the sidelines of the meeting, Pakistani of-

ficials and traders discussed the obstacles hampering business activities between the two nations. These included the lack of banking channels, the necessity of building a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan, the implementation of a barter mechanism, the need to expedite the finalization of a free trade agreement, and the importance of holding specialized exhibitions of Pakistani goods similar to the Iranian initiative in organizing Iran Expo.

Iranian Ambassador to Islamabad, Reza Amiri Moghadam, highlighted the significant capacity of the Chabahar port, suggesting that

Pakistani economic players and traders can leverage this port to access the Iranian market and transfer their goods to Western Asian and European markets.

On the other hand, Pakistani Ambassador to Iran, Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, pointed to the important tourism and economic capacities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing the need for the Pakistani government and private sector to utilize these opportunities. Zaki Aijaz, the regional head of the FPCCI, stated that the two countries need to boost joint efforts to increase bilateral trade to the \$10 billion target.



# Serene beauty of Fandoqlu Forest in Ardebil Province

## Iranica Desk

Fandoqlu Forest is considered one of the most beautiful attractions in Ardebil Province for nature enthusiasts. If you long for the fresh air of a valley teeming with flowers such as chamomile and a pristine, untouched forest, to immerse yourself in this beauty with the freshness and purity of the air, and to revitalize your weary body and soul, a visit to this enchanting and pristine natural wonder is a must.

Fandoqlu Forest is situated in the south of Namin, covering an area of approximately 16,000 hectares. Given its vast expanse, the tourist offerings of Fandoqlu are incredibly diverse, with some of the finest nature hiking trails in Iran found within this forest.

The abundance of hazelnut trees in this forest has earned it the name Fandoqlu Forest (Fandoqlu means hazelnut in Persian).

**Meshe Sui Hot Spring:** Located in the heart of the forest at an altitude of 630 meters, near the villages of Aladizgeh and

Gildeh, Meshe Sui Hot Spring is renowned for its therapeutic properties.

**Chamomile Flowers Valley:** Fandoqlu Forest transforms into a stunning carpet of chamomile flowers from spring through early summer. The annual Chamomile Flower Festival coincides with the World Day of Flowers and Plants on June 14th and 15th. This festival attracts both domestic and international tourists to this pristine region, known for its natural reserve of medicinal plants. Spanning several hundred hectares of chamomile meadows, the festival is organized by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Ardebil Province. Skilled local artists and craftsmen showcase heritage items like rugs, mattresses, saddlebags, and traditional woolen blankets at the event.

**Flora and Fauna:** In the Fandoqlu Forest, 19 species of forest trees have been identified, including rare varieties like hazelnut, maple, ash and oak, enhancing the region's value.

The area is also home to wildlife such as foxes, wolves, brown bears, and martens, as well as birds like magpies, partridges, golden eagles, and hooded crows.

The valleys of Fandoqlu Forest boast one of the world's most beautiful and rarest flowers, the *Lilium ledebourii* presenting great potential for tourism development. Chamomile, a fragrant annual plant reaching heights of 20 to 40 centimeters, grows naturally in fields, valleys, gardens, and predominantly in the Fandoqlu Forest. Fandoqlu Forest is where the dry and cold climate of Ardebil Province meets the warm and humid climate of Gilan Province. As a result, the forest is often shrouded in fog throughout the year, with low-level cloud movements observable even on the hottest summer days. The elevated location contributes to a moderate and cool climate overall.

## Accommodation

Tourists visiting Fandoqlu Forest can stay at a small accom-

modation facility offering overnight stays. For those seeking a more adventurous experience, camping in the picturesque surroundings of Fandoqlu is also an option.

## Recreational activities

One of the standout recreational activities in Fandoqlu Forest is the grass ski slope. This beautiful slope rises to 1700 meters above sea level and meets all necessary standards. The Fandoqlu-Heyran Cable Car is another thrilling attraction in the area, capable of transporting 1,350 people per hour along a 1752-meter route.

## Best time to visit

Thanks to its elevation, Fandoqlu Forest enjoys a pleasantly cool summer and a cold, humid winter. Situated in the cold regions of Ardebil Province, this forest offers a refreshing escape from the summer heat. During the spring and fall seasons, Fandoqlu Forest showcases a variety of flowers, including tulips and chamomile, adding to its natural beauty.



## Iranica Desk

Shushtar, a city in Khuzestan Province, is home to over 100 historical water structures that have stood the test of time. Among these structures is the Lashkar Bridge, one of Shushtar's standout attractions, originally constructed for water management. Beyond its primary function, the bridge was also intended to facilitate communication between Shushtar and neighboring settlements. While the main structure of the bridge hails from ancient Iran, its horseshoe arches exhibit architectural features typical of the Safavid era.

The Lashkar Bridge stands as one of the most well-preserved remnants from the Sassanid period and is a highlight of Khuzestan Province. Spanning 124 meters in length and rising eight meters high, the bridge is situated outside the Lashkar Gate. Its construction aimed to enhance connectivity between Shushtar and other provinces and villages to the south.

The Lashkar Bridge is constructed from stone, sand, and Sarooj mortar and originally featured 13 arches, with 11 still standing today. This robust structure underwent renovation and reconstruction during the Safavid era. Unfortunately, five of its arches were destroyed in the Qajar period, and due to the high restoration costs, the city's ruler opted not to repair them. Consequently, locals had to improvise by using temporary barriers to uphold communication with other provinces, but this makeshift solution proved ineffective as the barriers eventually succumbed to pressure.

In recent years, a leisure complex has been developed alongside the Lashkar Bridge, significantly boosting tourism in the region. Travelers from various cities in Khuzestan Province

## Timeless charm of Shushtar's Lashkar Bridge



frequent this recreational spot for weekend retreats. The complex's design incorporates the flow of the river, which not only enhances its aesthetics but also helps maintain a cool atmosphere. This natural feature results in a temperature differential of approximately 10 degrees Celsius between the interior of the complex and the outside environment.

The Lashkar Bridge, along with 15 historical sites forming the "Historical Hydraulic System

of Shushtar," is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This bridge holds a crucial place in the history of Iran and Shushtar. It is known as the entrance point for the Iranian army, as it facilitated their passage into Iranian territory after the Arab invasion of Iran. Subsequently, the city fell under Mongol rule during the Islamic centuries.

Shushtar is an ancient city with a history dating back 10,000 years. Situated near the

Bakhtiari Mountains, the city stretches from Dezful in the west to Masjed Soleyman in the east, indicating its deep roots in the history and civilization of Elam.

Shushtar experienced significant growth during the Safavid era. Vakhushti Khan, a ruler of that time, took charge of the city and undertook substantial efforts to enhance its development and population. Historical records indicate that Vakhushti Khan oversaw the renovation

of the Lashkar Bridge, a project that laid a strong foundation for the city. Today, various sections of the Lashkar Bridge showcase architectural elements from the Safavid era.

The best time to visit the Lashkar Bridge in Shushtar is during the spring and autumn seasons. The weather in Shushtar during these two seasons is moderate and the water level of the river rises, enhancing the beauty of the surrounding nature near the bridge.



The Lashkar Bridge stands as one of the most well-preserved remnants from the Sassanid period and is a highlight of Khuzestan Province. Spanning 124 meters in length and rising eight meters high, the bridge is situated outside the Lashkar Gate. Its construction aimed to enhance connectivity between Shushtar and other provinces and villages to the south.





**PERSPECTIVE** The agricultural sector plays a significant role in ensuring food security, and one might even say it underpins national security. The following report outlines the actions taken by the government of Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi regarding some staple items; it then goes on to detail some of the initiatives of organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture, breaking down the work carried out within each department, starting with the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization (NRWO).

Iran's previous president Ebrahim Raisi (R) plants a tree sapling on the occasion of the National Tree Planting Day on March 5, 2024.  
 president.ir

By the numbers

# Achievements of Raisi's Agriculture Ministry

Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi (L) inaugurates the modern smart subsurface irrigation project of the Karoon Agro Industry Inc. in the southwestern city of Shoushtar on March 8, 2024.  
 president.ir

## Natural Resources, Watershed Management Organization

**Natural resource land ownership:** The country holds 137 million hectares of natural resource land. Prior to the Raisi government, approximately 77 million hectares of these lands had ownership documentation. Under the previous government, this figure rose to 134.5 million hectares.

**Watershed management:** Before the Raisi government took office, watershed management projects were implemented in several provinces, covering several thousand hectares. However, due to the previous government's efforts, a land restoration program for several million hectares was initiated for the first time. Scientific studies have already been conducted on seven million hectares of land across the country.

Following comprehensive and expert studies, watershed management of 20 million hectares of the country's pastures was incorporated into the 7th National Development Plan (2023-27). During his visit to the Agriculture Ministry, president Raisi emphasized the revitalization of 50 million hectares of land nationwide, and this initiative was approved after further expert studies. It is also worth noting that the Raisi government fulfilled ap-

proximately 42% of the objectives outlined in the 6th National Development Plan (2016-2022) regarding watershed management.

According to experts from the country's natural resources organization, there is a groundwater deficit of more than 140 billion cubic meters nationwide. This deficit can be addressed through the implementation of watershed management projects.

**Demarcation of lands:** The delineation of natural resource lands and watershed management was one of the other positive measures taken by the Raisi government. The demarcation of lands in this sector witnessed a 57% increase, rising from 89 million hectares at the start of that government to 140 million hectares by the end of the Iranian calendar year of 1402 (ended March 19, 2024).

**Planting one billion trees:** The ambitious plan to plant one billion trees was initiated by the Raisi government. This plan entailed planting 250 million saplings annually throughout the country with the involvement of the populace.

## Land Affairs Organization of Iran

**Resolving agricultural land use conflicts:** One of the key challenges faced by Iranian farmers in their dealings with the government has been the issue of overlapping boundaries between national and agricultural lands. By the end of September 2021, 1.08 million hectares of land across the country had been cleared of such conflicts, which equates to 11% of the total land area.

During the Raisi government, significant progress has been made, with this figure rising to 11.037 million hectares, representing a 922% increase. As a result, 75% of the country's lands are now free from border conflicts.

**Accreditation of agricultural lands:** It is worth noting that up until August 2021, approximately 4% of agricultural lands (totaling about 1.780 million hectares) had been documented. In the last three years, there has been significant progress in this regard, with documents issued for an additional 8.604 million hectares, representing a 383% increase and bringing the total accredited land to 53% of the total agricultural land.

**Consolidation of agricultural lands:** Another initiative being pursued in the agricultural sector is the consolidation of small, fragmented plots of land that have fallen out of use over the last few decades. Until August 2021, when president Raisi took office, 256 hectares of agricultural lands had been integrated, and this figure rose significantly to 13,144 hectares during the Raisi government. This reflects a substantial growth rate of 5054% in the consolidation of small land parcels.

**Identifying, preventing change of land use:** One of the challenges faced is the threat of changing the use of agricultural land. In some cases, even first and second-class lands have been targeted by profiteers. Up until August 2021, 379,738 cases of land-use change were identified, and this number rose to 600,612 cases in the last three years, reflecting a growth rate of 58%.

**Demolition of unauthorized**

**constructions:** Unauthorized constructions on agricultural lands that were demolished up until August 2021 totaled 109,296 cases. During the Raisi government, this number rose to 244,824 cases, reflecting an increase of 87%.

**Allocation of land for agricultural projects:** During the second-to-last government and up until August 2021, a total of 714,366 hectares of national land were allocated for agricultural projects. In the previous government, this allocation increased by 12%, reaching 799,153 hectares.

**Land allotment for production, industrial projects:** One of the key projects undertaken by the Land Affairs Organization of Iran is the allocation of land for production plans across various industries. During the penultimate government and up until August 2021, a total of 140,880 hectares of land were allotted for this purpose. However, under the Raisi government, the transfer of land in this sector increased by 12%, reaching a total of 150,891 hectares. It is worth noting that in the realm of intelligent land monitoring, the technology to monitor and intelligently oversee the country's land was not in place until August 2021. Due to the efforts of the Raisi government, this capability has now been implemented across all 31 provinces.

## Iran Fisheries Organization

**Aquatic exports:** This area has a high capacity for revenue generation and supplies the basic goods market with high-calorie items, it is worth mentioning that in the calendar year of 1402, 210,000 tons of aquatic products were exported



from the country, generating a value of \$650,000. Three years before in 1399 (ended March 20, 2021), this figure stood at 139,000 tons, equivalent to \$528 million.

**Shrimp farming:** The latest statistics from the calendar year of 1399 indicate that Iran had 15,000 hectares of shrimp cultivation fields, producing 48,000 tons of shrimp. Under the Raisi government, these figures have risen to 26,000 hectares, representing a 73% growth in cultivation fields and a 4% increase in production, yielding 50,000 tons of shrimp. The relatively modest 4% increase in production, compared

to the significant 73% increase in cultivation, can be attributed to the emergence of a disease affecting these marine animals. Specifically, acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND), which is a bacterial disease prevalent worldwide, has impacted shrimp farms. Bacterial diseases tend to have prolonged lifespans, whereas viral diseases present less of a challenge in this regard.

Despite these challenges, Iran has achieved 96% of its goals set for this sector in 1402.

**Production of fish in cages:** By the end of the second-to-last government, there were 133 cages in

the sea, resulting in the production of 2.6 thousand tons of fish. These figures have seen significant growth, reaching 356 cages and yielding 6,318 tons of fish by the end of 1402, representing increases of 167% and 143%, respectively.

**Eyed eggs:** Eyed eggs refer to fertilized salmon eggs that have developed to a stage where they are ready to be transferred. The term "eyed egg" describes this stage, as the eyes of the developing fish become visible inside the egg.

In 1399, 202 million pieces of eugenic eyed eggs were produced in Iran, and this number rose to 367 million pieces in 1402, reflecting

an 81% growth rate. As a result of these initiatives, salmon production in the country has increased over the last three years.

**Algae production:** Algae production holds significance due to the crucial role algae play in ecosystems. They serve as a food source for numerous aquatic animals, and some varieties are even suitable for human consumption. Additionally, algae are prolific producers of oxygen through photosynthesis.

At the end of the penultimate government, algae production stood at 40 tons (wet weight), and this saw a substantial increase of 820% un-

der the Raisi government, reaching 368 tons by the end of 1402.

**Ornamental fish:** Ornamental fish breeding and exports contribute significantly to the country's economy, benefiting from a strong market demand. In 1399, the production of ornamental fish stood at 276 million pieces, and this number increased by 37% to reach 379 million pieces in 1402.

**Aquatic production:** In 1399, 1.268 million tons of aquatic products were produced domestically. This figure grew by 11% last year, reaching a total of 1.408 million tons.

**Job creation:** Employment statis-

tics within the fisheries sector also showed a positive trend. By the end of the calendar year of 1399, the sector employed 237,000 people, and this number rose to 261,000 by the end of 1402, reflecting a 10% growth rate.

**Fishing:** In 1399, the country's fishing yield totaled 715,000 tons, and this amount increased by 7.8% to reach 771,000 tons by the end of 1402.

**Aquaculture:** Within the sector of fish and other marine products, Iran raised 553,000 tons of fish in 1399. By the end of 1402, this figure rose to 637,000 tons, reflecting a 15% growth rate.

## Iran's agriculture, fisheries flourish under Raisi

### PERSPECTIVE

The statistics and reports tallied by the government of Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi show that the government's performance in agriculture was satisfactory. It even managed to chalk up solid achievements in the fields of farming and fisheries.

### Almost self-sufficient in wheat production

One of the achievements of the government in this field was its move towards reaching self-sufficiency in wheat. This is especially important since wheat is deemed a strategic commodity in securing the country's food supply. Consequently, the Raisi government set out to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production and made strides in the production and purchase of wheat from farmers.

As per the report of the Agriculture Ministry, the country's domestic wheat production stood at 4.5 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended March 20, 2022), and Iran imported an additional 7 million tons to meet the needs of the country. The next year, Iran produced 7.5 million tons of wheat and imported 3 million tons. In the last calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), domestic wheat production rose to 10.4 million tons, and the country imported a further one million tons. Given the downward trend in wheat imports and the estimates made, the country is on track toward achieving self-sufficiency in wheat provision this year.

There were several measures that Raisi's government took to cause an increase in the production of this key product: First, the government an-

nounced the guaranteed purchase rate of wheat ahead of the planting season and rationalized it. Second, Iranian farmers saw a 129% growth in wheat purchases, from 50,000 rials per kilo in the calendar year 1400 to 130,000 rials in 1402. This was done so as not to disadvantage farmers. Third, the government provided various support packages such as the planting subsidy and wheat delivery bonus.

### Diplomacy in agricultural prosperity

Raisi's government has had successful experiences in developing agricultural diplomacy. It got the Qiz Qalasi hydroelectric dam, the largest and most important water project in the northwestern border region, up and running after 20 years. The dam provides the plains of the northwestern provinces with 2 billion cubic meters of water annually and lays the groundwork for the expansion of the agriculture and tourism sectors there.

The strengthening of food diplomacy with Russia, Latin American countries, neighboring nations, and aligned states was a key focus of the previous government's actions and consultations. Its active agricultural diplomacy resulted in several memorandums on safe consumption, food health, and pesticides, as well



Iranian late president Ebrahim Raisi (2nd-L) is getting briefed about an innovation at an exhibition showcasing the achievements of the country's knowledge-based companies, in Tehran on August 16, 2022.

IRNA

as the exchange of botanical technical knowledge. Removing export tariffs on agricultural goods with Asian countries and Russia and creating new export markets were also central to the government's consultations with other nations. According to a report by the Agriculture Ministry, these efforts led to a 22% growth in the export of agricultural and food products, reaching \$6.37 billion at the end of 1402, up from \$5.22 billion in 1400.

### Investment growth in fisheries

According to a report from the Iran Fisheries Organization, 63% of the investments in the fisheries and aquatics sub-sector in the calendar year 1399 (ended March 20, 2021) came from bank facilities, 20% from the private sector, and 17% in the form of loans from the government. However, in the year 1402, the total figure marked a 1,200% increase. The breakdown of this investment in 1402 was as follows: 90% from the private sector, 5% from public sector credits, and 5% through bank facilities.

When it comes to trade, the Raisi government also saw a notable expansion in the export of aquatic and fishery products. In 1399, Iran exported 139,000 tons of fishery products, generating revenue of \$528 million. This increased significantly by 1402, with exports reaching 210,000 tons and bringing in \$650 million.

### Development of agricultural tech

Another notable achievement of the Raisi government was the advancement of Iran's agricultural technology and the boost in its productivity within the agricultural sector. Through the backing of novel scientific projects linked to water and food security, the establishment of technological and knowledge-based units in agriculture witnessed a substantial expansion, increasing by 308%. This growth took the number of such units from 152 in 1400 to 621 by the end of 1402. Furthermore, the issuance of electronic business licenses in the agricultural sector, which initially stood at zero at the start of the government's term, surged to reach 307,000 cases as of 1402.

### Growth in fertilizer production

With an output of 8 million tons of urea fertilizer, Iran ranks among the world's largest and most prominent exporters of this vital strategic agricultural input. The country's annual agricultural requirement for potassium nitrate, phosphate, and potash chemical fertilizers stands at approximately 4.5 million tons. Iran has achieved self-sufficiency in the production of potassium nitrate fertilizers, which constitute the largest share of the country's fertilizer portfolio.

Regarding phosphate and potash fertilizers, which were previously imported until the last few years, the country embarked on a path toward self-sufficiency in agricultural fertilizers by planning 30 projects for the construction of factories and the development of domestic mines. This initiative aims to produce over 3 million tons of chemical fertilizers and 2 million tons of phosphate and potash fertilizers. Key projects within this framework include utilizing the capacities of the Urmia Petrochemical company for potassium sulfate fertilizer production, the establishment of a factory for phosphoric acid and phosphate fertilizer manufacturing at the Karun Phosphate Products Complex, the triple superphosphate fertilizer production by Yazd's KimiaDaran Kavir Factory, and the development of the Charam Phosphate Mines.

Thus, the production of phosphate and potash fertilizers in Iran witnessed a notable increase, rising by 51% from the start of the previous government's term to the end of 1402. This increase took the production levels from 77,000 tons to 116,000 tons, which, in turn, led to the cessation of imports and the retention of currency within the country.



Iran's deceased president Ebrahim Raisi at an event in Tehran on September 5, 2022, marking the start of the agricultural calendar year 1401-1402 and honoring successful persons in the agriculture industry.

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Iranian Knockout Cup:

## Moghanlou at the double as Sepahan ends title drought



### Sports Desk

Shahriar Moghanlou scored twice as Sepahan defeated Mes Rafsanjan 2-0 in the Iranian Hazfi Cup (knockout) final on Thursday. The leading marksman in the newly-finished Persian Gulf Pro League season with 16 strikes, Moghanlou found the net with eight minutes into the game at Tehran's Azadi Stadium, intercepting a back pass by Mes full-back Meysam Teymouri before beating wrongfooted keeper Hamed Lak from close range. Referee Bijan Heidari blow in whistle for a spot kick after a VAR review showed Mes forward Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi handling the ball in his own box as Moghanlou sent his

former Persepolis teammate the wrong way to double Sepahan's lead midway through the first half.

A fifth Hazfi Cup crown handed Sepahan a playoff spot in the inaugural AFC Champions League Elite in August while it ended a nine-year trophy for the Isfahan-based club, which had last lifted the Iranian top-flight trophy in the 2014/15 season. It also came as a relief at the end of a season packed with twists and turns for Jose Morais's men, who at one stage looked to be the clear favorites to win the Iranian league but eventually had to settle for a third-spot finish behind Tehran archrivals Persepolis and Esteghlal. Sepahan chairman Mahdi Azer-

↑ Sepahan players celebrate lifting the Iranian Hazfi Cup trophy after a 2-0 win against Mes Rafsanjan in the final at the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on June 20, 2024  
● PAYAM SANI/IRNA

baijani brought an end to weeks of speculation over the future of the club's bench, saying the Portuguese manager "has already given us his wish list of new players and planned for next season." Meanwhile, fullback Ramin Rezaeian said the game marked his last appearance in a Sepahan shirt after two seasons with the club, during which he bagged 21 goals, providing his teammates with 20 assists, in 70 outings.

## Volleyball Nations League: Iran's surge halted by Olympic champion France

### Sports Desk

Iran's winning run in Week 3 of the Volleyball Nations League came to an end by a straight-set defeat (25-21, 25-17, 25-20) against France on Friday.

Inspired by back-to-back 3-2 victories over USA and the Netherlands in Manila, Iran was chasing only a third win in 11 outings in this year's VNL but the reigning Olympic champion proved too strong for Payman Akbari's men, who remained second from bottom in the 16-team table.

French opposite spiker Jean Patry led the European powerhouse to a seventh win in the preliminary round with a game-high 16 points, while outside hitter Trevor Clevenger chipped in 12. Skipper Milad Ebadipour was the top scorer for Iran with 10 points, followed by Amin Esmaeilnejad, whose quiet night finished with seven points.

"France is the Olympic champion and their tactics and gameplan is much different to other teams in the tournament. Iranian players tried so hard to put in a de-

cent performance but they were clearly worn out after playing 10 sets over the past two days. I hope the team will have a proper recovery for the final game against Germany," said Akbari, who took over from Mauricio Motta Paes after the Brazilian coach was sacked following a loss to Bulgaria in the second week of the competition.

The top eight in the preliminary round will head to the Polish city of Lodz for the VNL Finals, starting with the last-eight round on Thursday.



French outside hitter Yacine Louati (19) hits a spike during a straight-set win against Iran in Week 3 of the Volleyball Nations League preliminary round in Manila, Philippines, on June 21, 2024.  
● FIVB



## New-look Spain make Euro 2024 statement



↑ Spanish players celebrate their goal in a 1-0 victory over Italy in the Euro 2024 group stage in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on June 20, 2024.  
● GEORGI LICOVSKI/EPA

REUTERS - Spain have produced footballing masterclasses to clear two big hurdles impressively at the start of their Euro 2024 campaign, sending a statement to their fellow title challengers.

After hammering Croatia 3-0, they subjected defending champions Italy to a 1-0 defeat on Thursday that would have been a thrashing were it not for goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma who made several stunning saves to save his team from humiliation.

Spain enjoyed themselves while toying with a team who had given the impression they were making progress under manager Luciano Spalletti after coming from behind to beat Albania 2-1 in their opening game of the tournament.

Superb performances against high-level opponents are reviving memories of the all-conquering Spain who dominated world football for several years, winning back-to-back European Championships in 2008 and 2012 and the 2010 World Cup. But Luis de la Fuente's Spain play another game, far from the possession-based "tiki-taka" style which became a trademark of the Xavi Hernandez, Xabi Alonso and Andres Iniesta generation of over a decade ago. De la Fuente was a hard-work-

ing full back for Athletic Bilbao in the 1980s and after becoming head coach of Spain's academy system, he was given the chance to take charge of the senior squad with the unique advantage of knowing most of his players from a very young age.

A tough character with strong work ethic balanced by a good understanding of his players, De la Fuente has shown tactical nous and excellent man management skills in just over a year in the job.

The first step was seen when they won last year's UEFA Nations League with a much-changed squad from the one that disappointed under Luis Enrique at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Now, however, his team seem to have reached another level.

Their relentless high pressure combines with lightning fast one-touch moves and precise passes that give the impression of a squad in which each player has an almost instinctive feel for the positioning of his team mates.

"I know footballers very well, that's my best virtue. I know what they want, what they need to be happy and what I do is give it to them," De la Fuente told a press conference.

If he can keep his squad happy, Spain could be set for another golden era.



# Canada's blacklisting of IRGC 'mindless gift' to Israel, terrorists: *Acting FM*

In yet another hostile move against Iran, the Canadian government blacklisted the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Wednesday and designated the elite Iranian military force as a so-called "terrorist" entity. The belligerent move came less than a month after the Canadian House of Commons adopted a non-binding resolution calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to blacklist the IRGC and expel an estimated 700 Iranians. Iran's interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani denounced the Canadian government's decision, describing it as a senseless gift to the bloodthirsty Israeli regime, terrorists and enemies of peace and stability in West Asia. "Canada's unlawful act of declaring an integral part of the official military force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has played an irreplaceable role in defending the national security and territorial integrity of dear Iran, and protecting the security and stability of the region and confronting the terrorism by Daesh, was malicious and violates the principles and rules of

international law," Bagheri Kani wrote in a post published on the social media platform X on Thursday. The Iranian official added that it was "a mindless gift to the bloodthirsty regime, terrorists and other enemies of peace and stability in the region." Bagheri Kani said the Canadian government will be held accountable for the consequences of the provocative and irresponsible decision.

### FM spokesperson slams Canada's 'unwise' move

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani also said Tehran reserves the right to reciprocate with a "proper" response Canada's unlawful act to designate the country's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist" organization. Kan'ani denounced the "political, unconventional and unwise" move by the Canadian government against the IRGC, and said such measures will fail to hinder the elite force from increasing the level and scope of its power rooted in the Iranian nation. He noted that the IRGC is an official and legal entity



enshrined in Iran's Constitution, which, along with other Armed Forces, is responsible to safeguard national security and borders and promote lasting security and stability in the region by fighting the vicious phenomenon of terrorism.

### Italian ambassador called in over Canada's decision

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned on Thursday the Italian am-

bassador to Tehran in protest at the Canadian government's decision to blacklist IRGC. Paola Amadei, whose country represents the Canadian interests in the Islamic Republic, was called in by the Director-General for Americas at the Foreign Ministry and received Tehran's strong protest over Ottawa's unlawful action that contradicts the rules of international law. The 59-year-old Italian diplomat was also warned

about the repercussions of such a move the Islamic Republic's right to take necessary measures. Canada broke off diplomatic ties with Iran and closed its Tehran embassy in a surprise move in 2012, citing various reasons, including Iran's support for Syria, its nuclear work, and alleged threats to the Israeli regime. In the same year, however, Ottawa took off the anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization

(MKO) from its list of terrorist organizations. In 2022, Iran's Foreign Ministry imposed sanctions on eight Canadian officials and one institution over their support for anti-Iran terrorists and acts of terror among other things. Canada has also been serving, for years, as a safe haven for Iranian embezzlers, who have fled their safe in the knowledge that Ottawa would not take the trouble to extradite them.

## Grossi: JCPOA revival possible despite IAEA resolution



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi has in an interview with a Swiss daily newspaper voiced the possibility of bringing the 2015 Iran nuclear deal back to life as he rejected accusations about the Islamic Republic's "secret" nuclear plans.

In an exclusive interview with Neue Zürcher Zeitung on Thursday, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi underscored the possibility of revitalizing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers — despite a recent anti-Tehran resolution by the agency's Board of Governors. Stressing that the resolution urges Tehran to "cooperate better," Grossi told the Zürich-based German-language paper that efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran have thus far failed due to "mutual accusations."

"Iran now has more fissile material and more technical know-how," the IAEA chief said. "Unlike three years ago, it is also clear that one cannot simply return to that nuclear agreement, but must fundamentally renew it. Iran's technology has advanced light years since then."

Queried on the pointlessness of the IAEA's possible move to involve the UN Security Council in the case of Iran given Russia's veto power, Grossi said, "That is one of the negative consequences of the current geopolitical tensions and a further step backwards compared to the past. In the past, as IAEA Director General, I could always rely on a lowest common denominator among the veto powers of the Security Council and on them reacting as one in the event of Iranian misconduct. That is no longer the case."

Responding to a question whether Iran is "secretly enriching uranium somewhere or building a bomb," the IAEA chief said, "That would be too far-reaching a conclusion. We have no information that the Iranians are pursuing a secret, parallel nuclear program... there is no evidence of such a thing today."

## Terror lobby against ...

Canada, the US, and certain European nations have fallen under the influence of anti-Iranian terrorist groups like the Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) which is notorious among Iranians for its decades of terrorist activities. The MKO has regained organizational momentum and financial strength since being removed from American and European blacklists and allowed to operate in Albania and other European countries. Leveraging its organizational resources and financial power, the MKO infiltrated European, Canadian, and US parliaments with its agents or formed lobbies within these countries to further its terrorist agenda. Aside from the MKO, another

terrorist group that has felt the sting of the IRGC is ISIS. While ISIS doesn't appear to be openly active, it continues its political pursuits covertly in Canada and the US. It's no surprise that these terrorist groups, thwarted by the IRGC, would strike back at this official and legitimate military force of Iran by convincing the Canadian government to blacklist the IRGC.

I have made clear that the blacklisting won't impede the IRGC's lawful activities. The people who stand to lose the most from the designation are Iranians residing in Canada. Given that the IRGC is an official military force alongside the regular army, a significant number of Iranian men have done their mandatory

military service within this force. Now, with the passing of this law, Iranian men who served in the IRGC and live in Canada are branded as terrorists, even though many may have no ongoing ties to Iran and have simply become collateral damage in the terrorist lobby's campaign against the IRGC. In response, it's expected that Tehran will take retaliatory action once the dust settles from the presidential election scheduled for next Friday, and the Iranian parliament will legally designate Canadian military forces in the West Asian region as terrorists. Although there may not be a large number of Canadian troops in the region, they will be viewed as terrorists by the Islamic Republic of Iran. As Iranian officials have emphasized, Canada bears full responsibility for this unwise decision.

## Presidential hopefuls outline social welfare plans

The second of five debates was aired live by national TV on Thursday, with six presidential candidates unveiling their economic and social welfare blueprints.

The second televised debate commenced with the remarks of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, emphasizing the virtues of discipline, and moral and ethical conduct.

The debate focused on economic roadmaps conceived by the presidential hopefuls for advancing justice-centric social amenities, scrutinizing their proposals encompassing healthcare, education, and the scientific apparatus.

The 240-minute debate followed the same format underpinned by four distinct segments.

The inquiries during the first segment revolved around subsidies, their fair allocation to either producers or consumers, and candidates' blueprints to combat the scourge of poverty. The second segment of the debate underscored the pivotal theme of healthcare reform and cost reduction for patients.

Delving into the intricacies of preventative measures, human resource management, and technological advancements within the health sector, the six candidates articulated their visions for improving the country's healthcare landscape.

In the third segment of the four-hour debate, the focus shifted towards education and the integration of industry with academia to combat brain drain and propel the country towards scientific excellence.

The six candidates outlined their strategies to improve and modernize the country's education system, promote a just framework, and cultivate strong ties between universities and industries to foster innovation and economic growth.

In the final segment of the debate, each candidate had the opportunity to present a six-minute summary of their plans and visions for the country.

Each candidate's summary revealed their unique visions and priorities for the country, ranging from economic growth and social welfare to administrative efficiency and justice, offering voters a comprehensive understanding of their proposed agendas for the future.

Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a former lawmaker and a second-time presidential hopeful, emphasized the pivotal role of the "people and families" in his government, stressing the importance of collective work and a robust foreign policy to drive economic growth. He also highlighted his focus on economic justice through targeted subsidy law, aiming to ensure the fair distribution of resources and oppor-

tunities within society. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, a veteran political figure and parliament speaker, positioned his government as a supportive shield for the people, advocating for the provision of comprehensive welfare programs to uplift the nation.

Mostafa Pourmohammadi, a former minister who also held senior posts in the Judiciary, outlined his plans to maximize the country's existing capacities and streamline the bureaucratic system for more efficient governance.

By focusing on leveraging current resources effectively and implementing administrative reforms, he aimed to enhance governmental performance and service delivery to the public.

Alireza Zakani, the mayor of Tehran and former lawmaker, reiterated his government's commitment to key sectors such as healthcare, education, and higher education.

Masoud Pezeshkian, a former health minister and seasoned lawmaker, drew from his experience as the former health minister, highlighting his dedication to serving marginalized strata. Saeed Jalili, a former lead nuclear negotiator and head of the country's top security body, underscored the importance of utilizing the country's vast and untapped potential based on principles of justice to propel the nation forward.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist





# Moscow, Tehran to enhance tourism ties through BRICS membership



By Leila Imeni  
Staff writer

The first BRICS Tourism Forum was held in the Russian capital, Moscow, on June 20 -21. The forum was attended by delegations from all nine members states: Russia, Brazil, Egypt, India, Iran, China, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and the Republic of South Africa.

The event program included expert sessions with the participation of the major market players and meetings of ministers for tourism of BRICS countries.

The first day of the forum included a meeting of the industry representatives' work group, negotiations of travel agents and the presentations of their products, travel services and other industry projects from various countries.

Addressing the journalists on the second day of the event, the First Deputy Head of the Office of Mayor and the Government of Moscow Evgeny Kozlov said tourism is one of the top strategies of Moscow's mayor. We share a lot of love and generosity with the tourists and there is much money and profit in tourism sector.

Last year in Moscow we had 24.5 million tourists across the country and all over the world and still it is not enough. We are making efforts to make it double and the figure is expected to hit 50 million after 2030. To do so, we should work really hard altogether.

Kozlov, who is also the chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, said ten years before the outbreak of COVID-19 about 20% of all tourists visiting Russia came to Moscow and now it reached to 40% and still it is not enough. He called intra BRICS cooperation for development of Moscow Tourism vital, adding that, "We send business missions to member countries and held exhibitions and tourism fairs but unfortunately not South Africa and Brazil and we plan to do so within next year".

"We have more 400 museums in Moscow so the culture and heritage of Moscow is wide and deep," he said.

In response to a question from Iran Daily about the potential impact of BRICS membership on the growth of tourism cooperation between Tehran and Moscow, he stated "We can complete each other with closer ties. I know a special place here in Moscow, a hotel, which is somehow embassy of Iran. It is where many Iranian people come. Maybe they like the location or the restaurants nearby. I know about hundreds of people or more than 50 groups came to Moscow with vi-

sa-free group regime, now we have, which was launched last year. We have this special visa preferences for Iranian groups come here". "I believe you should introduce your country more for Russians to discover Iran's hidden gems of culture, nature and resorts to promote mutual tourism ties".

He said Moscow was a sister city with Tehran. And being a sister city is still not enough. Because tourism is the partnership between tourism operators and we should support at the federal level or the official level. So, it is really important to hold the sister-city partnership between local authorities.

He added: "But we should in addition have the partnership businesses between Moscow and for example Tehran. So that's why we had the business mission for Tehran last year and for the Russian side it was 19 commercial firms and tourist operators and 37 domestic commercial and tourism firms in Tehran. Then later on, we will have tours from different cities of Iran here in Moscow. And they will not stay only in Moscow. They will be transferred to Kazan city - one of the biggest cities in Russia - to discover Kazan and to have the complete tour "Moscow plus Kazan".

"And as I mentioned before, tourism is about teamwork. We work in a strong partnership with the biggest cities in Russia with to have Moscow+ tourism forum. You come to Moscow plus Saint Petersburg or you come to Moscow plus Kazan. You come to Moscow then to go to one of the biggest industrial cities here. We have the connection with Isfahan. I was really shocked seeing the nature of Isfahan. There were a lot of caravansaries that were really nice, and really impressive". He emphasized that it is a two-step strategy. Firstly, you should have the partnership in official level. Next, you should have the partnership with tourism firms. So, the two-step strategy is a winning strategy.

## Minister: Honoring cultural luminaries, a sign of reverence for civilization, heritage

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts said that honoring the elites in the field of cultural heritage is a manifestation of respect towards civilization, culture, and origins.

During the event celebrating prominent figures in cultural heritage at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ezatollah Zarghami said the focus of the event was on enhancing society's heritage awareness, involving the youth, paying tribute to significant cultural figures, and ultimately safeguarding the traditions.

During the cultural event on Thursday, eight pioneers in the field of cultural heritage were honored in recognition of their years of service in this field, IRNA reported.

Cultural heritage is a unifying field, Zarghami stated, emphasizing the importance of roots and origins. According to him, "new growth is always connect-



ed to the root, and without preserving the roots, there can be no new growth". Zarghami further appreciated the establishment of the House for the Lasting Figures in the cultural heritage, emphasizing the importance of gathering pioneers regardless of political affiliations to engage in dialogue. He concluded that unlike other fields that may have a political orientation, "archaeology is a sincere and impartial field".

During the ceremony, notable figures such as Dr. Sadeq Malek Shahmirzadi (archaeologist), Dr.

Abdolmajid Arfaei (researcher and expert in ancient languages), Dr. Ahmad Jalali (former Iranian Ambassador to UNESCO and academic member at Allameh Tabatabaee University), Dr. Fakhri Daneshpur Parvar (archaeologist), Dr. Mehdi Rahbar (archaeologist and researcher), Dr. Mohammad Mansour Fallamaki (pioneer in restoration and architectural education), Ahmad Montazer (restorer of historical artifacts and objects), and Behrouz Vojdani (music researcher and pioneer in cultural heritage) were among those honored.

## Ambassador: Joint film production represents cultural values of Iran, Tajikistan

### Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian ambassador to Tajikistan, during an unveiling ceremony of the film 'Fish in the Hook', called the production of a joint film between the two sides a representation of the values of Iran and Tajikistan.

During the unveiling ceremony of the joint production of Iran, Tajikistan, and Russia, directed by Mohebooddin Mozaffar, at the Tajik Film Institution, Alireza Haqiqian described the linguistic, cultural, historical, and civilizational fields between the two countries as strong foundations for strengthening and expanding relations between Iran and Tajikistan, IRNA reported.

He said that the production of a joint film can provide a new platform for representing the values and traditions, as well as be an effective means of preserving the common cultural and historical heritage of two sides.



The Iranian ambassador to Tajikistan, expressing gratitude to the Iranian and Tajik officials and filmmakers, said that fortunately, with the growth and strengthening of interactions between the two countries in recent years, the arena of joint film and series production has flourished, and "we are witnessing an increase in mutual cooperation in this area". Iran's multilingual TV channel (IRIB)

and Tajikistan TV signed a memorandum of understanding to initiate a collaborative film project in last October.

The agreement established a partnership among Dov Film in Tajikistan, Amkart in Russia, Tajik Film Company, and iFilm, representing the IRIB. They collaborated to coproduce the cinematic film titled 'Fish on the Hook'.

## Five natural heritages of Kerman registered on national list

### Iranica Desk

An official from the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization in Kerman said that five natural sites in the southwestern province have been registered in the country's natural heritage list.

Nader Alidadi Soleimani, the head of the Registration Office of the organization of Kerman Province, announced that five natu-

ral sites in the province have been identified for inclusion in Iran's list of natural monuments during the initial session of the meeting for the registration of natural heritage in the current Iranian year, which commenced on March 20, 2024, IRNA reported.

The natural monuments include Goli Havak Valley, Oros Habitat in Rabor County, Mazar Shah in Ravar County, Fahraj's natural vases, and Torang cave, Soleimani said. He also said that in addition to its

diverse and valuable historical and cultural attractions, Kerman Province is also endowed with numerous unparalleled and unique natural attractions due to its climatic diversity.

Soleimani said that 28 natural works of the province had previously been listed in the country's natural heritage list.

Kerman has also the highest number of world registrations among the provinces in the country, with 10 world-registered works.