



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC AND MEDIA DIPLOMACY



Issue #31, January 01-15, 2021

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Javad Zarif ✓
@JZarif

It is with heavy hearts that we commemorate victims of [#PS752](#) tragedy.

Nothing can make up for loss of loved ones.

Only thing we can do is to provide compensation in accordance with prevailing int'l norms and to hold those responsible to account. Justice will be served.



©Roshi Rouzbehani



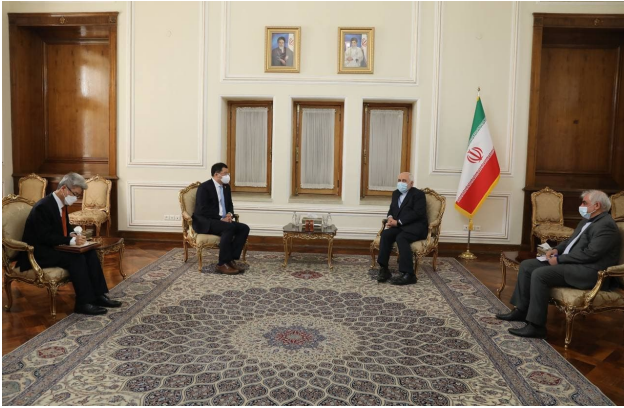
The MFA Digest's Editorial Board deeply regrets the last year's tragic Flight PS752 crash and offers sympathies with the victims' family members. May their souls rest in peace!





MFA NEWSLETTER

KOREAN VESSEL SEIZURE A MATTER FOR THE COURTS: MINISTER ZARIF



Iran's foreign minister told a visiting South Korean delegation Monday that the release of its vessel and crew seized by Iranian forces is a matter for the courts and out of the government's hands, state media reported.

In a meeting with South Korea's first vice foreign minister, Dr. Zarif said that the Iranian government cannot intervene in the case, which is "under review in the legal and judicial framework."

Zarif on Monday reiterated the government's claim that the vessel was confiscated by Iran over "environmental pollution." But he urged South Korea to remove the restrictions on the Iranian funds, calling the frozen assets the "biggest barrier" to improving relations between the two nations.

For his part, Choi Jong Kun reaffirmed South Korea's resolve to settle the problem, pledging that Seoul will do its utmost to pave the way for Tehran's access to the financial resources.

MINISTER ZARIF TALKS WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN KUWAIT, INDONESIA

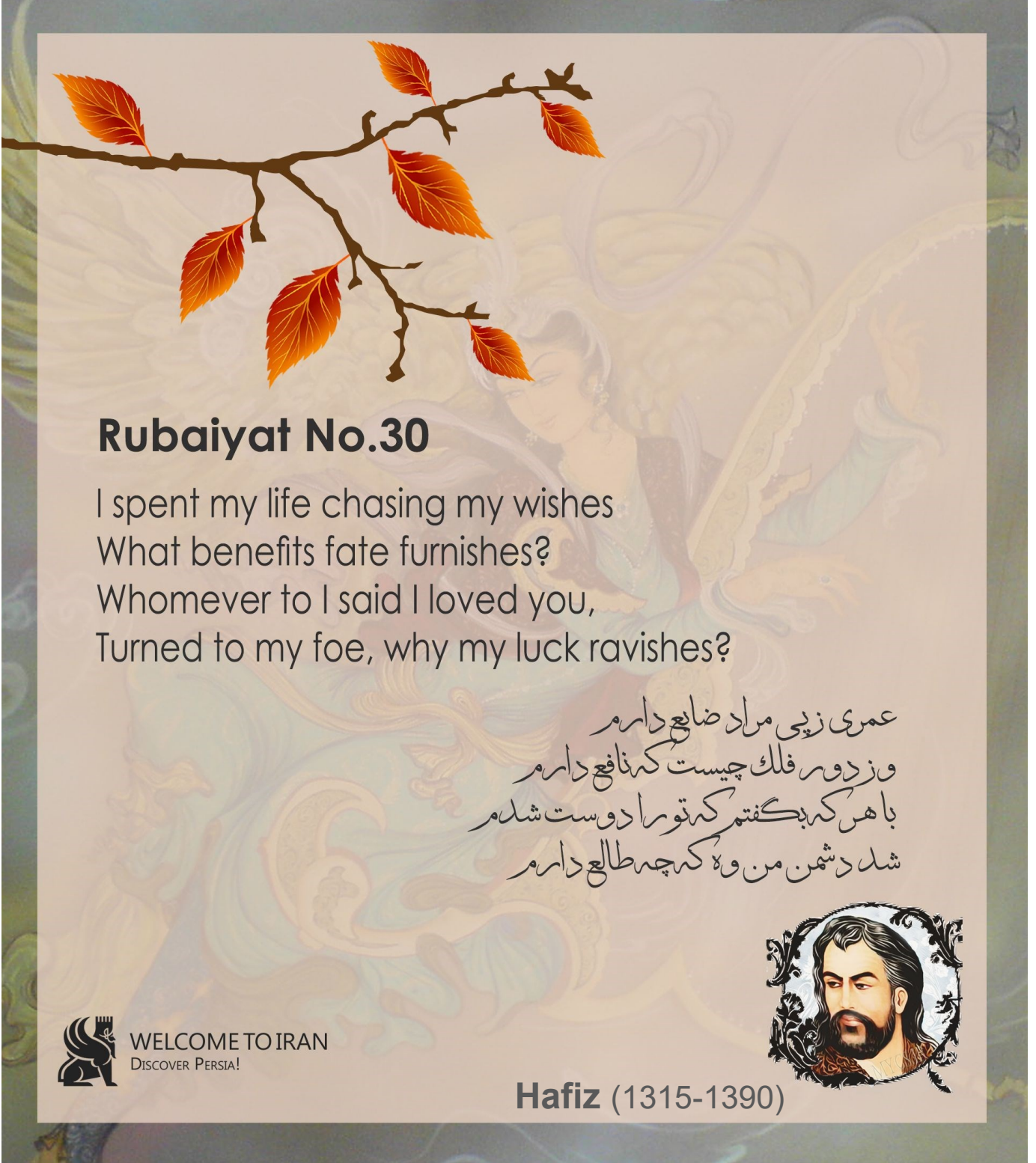


Minister Zarif and his Kuwaiti counterpart Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah discussed the latest issues in bilateral relations and regional developments in a phone call at the beginning of the New Year (2021).

During the phone call, Dr. Zarif elaborated on the Islamic Republic's views regarding the establishment of comprehensive stability and security, without foreign interference and free from any tensions.

Moreover, in a conversation with his Indonesian counterpart Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi on January 11, 2021, Minister Zarif expressed sympathy with Jakarta on the deaths of a number of Indonesian citizens in the recent crash of a passenger plane. Dr. Zarif also offered his condolences to the families of victims of the fatal crash and wished divine mercy for the dead.





Rubaiyat No.30

I spent my life chasing my wishes
What benefits fate furnishes?
Whomever to I said I loved you,
Turned to my foe, why my luck ravishes?

عمری زپی مراد ضایع دارم
وز دور فلک چیست که نافع دارم
با هس که بگفتم که تو مرادوست شدم
شد دشمن من و ه که چو طالع دارم



WELCOME TO IRAN
DISCOVER PERSIA!



Hafiz (1315-1390)





TWIPLOMACY

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei Quotes Jesus Christ Word



Khamenei.ir
@khamenei_ir

Jesus said, "It isn't good to attend to your appearance while your heart is ill, hurt, & polluted." Since a person's being is a combination of his appearance & interior, it isn't enough to attend to one's appearance but be corrupted within. One's interior must be corrected too.

10:38 PM · Jan 5, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Minister Zarif's Message on détente in Among the Persian gulf Arab States



Javad Zarif
@JZarif

Congratulations to Qatar for the success of its brave resistance to pressure & extortion.

To our other Arab neighbors: Iran is neither an enemy nor threat. Enough scapegoating—especially with your reckless patron on his way out.

Time to take our offer for a strong region. #HOPE

9:20 PM · Jan 5, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Shares Video About The Role of The US in Nurturing Terrorism in the Middle East



Iran Foreign Ministry
@IRIMFA_EN

It's a well-documented fact, which's been admitted by Trump, that US has had a crucial role in the rise of terrorism in our region, from AQ to ISIS. Not surprising that the US assassination of Gen #Soleimani was cheered by ISIS: brothers in arms. #WillNeverForgetWillNeverForgive



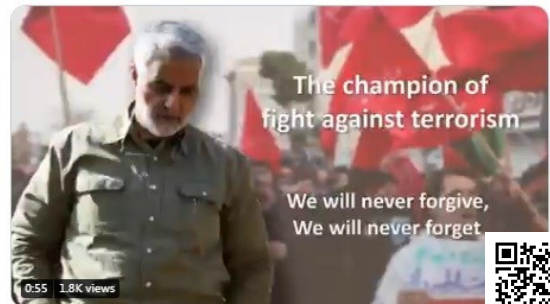
11:08 AM · Jan 2, 2021 · TweetDeck

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pays Tribute to General Soleimani



Iran Foreign Ministry
@IRIMFA_EN

Gen Soleimani was a brilliant strategist, a humble & brave commander, a gentle character & above all a national hero & an anti-terrorism champion. His loss was a tragedy, but his legacy of resistance & objection to bullying will remain well alive. #WillNeverForgetWillNeverForgive





FEATURE STORY

AMIR KABIR (JANUARY 9, 1807—JANUARY 11, 1852)

Mirza Taqi Farahani was born in 1807 in Farahan, Iran, entitled Ataback-e Azam (The Chief Minister), Amir Nezaam (The Prince of the State), and Amir Kabir (The Great Prince), is one of the greatest politicians in the recent two centuries of Iran. He initiated reforms that marked the effective beginning of the modernization of Iran.



At an early age, Mirza Taqi learned to read and write despite his humble origins. Because of his natural gift and talent, he mastered the knowledge and skills when still very young. He joined the provincial bureaucracy as a scribe and, by his abilities, advanced within the hierarchy of the administration. In 1829, as a junior member of an Iranian mission to St. Petersburg, he observed the power of Russia, Iran's great neighbor.

He concluded that important and fundamental reforms were needed if Iran was to survive as a sovereign state. As a minister in Azerbaijan, he witnessed the inadequacies of Iranian provincial administration, and during tenure in Ottoman Turkey, he studied their progress toward modernization. Upon his return to Iran in 1847, Mirza Taqi was appointed by Mohammad Shah of Qajar Dynasty to the court of the crown prince,

Naser o-Din, in Azerbaijan.

With the death of Mohammad Shah in 1848, Mirza Taqi was largely responsible for ensuring the crown prince's succession to the throne. Out of gratitude, the young monarch appointed him Chief Minister and gave him the hand of his own sister in marriage. At this time Mirza Taqi took the title of Amir Kabir. He gained his Premiership at a time when the affairs of the country were completely ruined and its internal system was totally torn down. Iran was virtually bankrupt, its central government was weak, and its provinces were almost autonomous. During the next two and a half years, the Amir initiated important reforms in virtually all sectors of society.

Government expenditure was slashed, and a distinction was made between the privy and public purses. The instruments of central administration were overhauled, and the Amir assumed responsibility for all areas of the bureaucracy. Foreign interference in Iran's domestic affairs was curtailed, and foreign trade was encouraged. Public works such as the bazaar in Tehran were undertaken. A new secular college, the Dar ol-Fonun (The Skills House), was established for training a new cadre of administrators and acquainting them with modern techniques. Among his other accomplishments was the foundation of a newspaper 'Vaqa'ye Etefa'qieh' (The Happened Events).





With a firm, doubtless, strong, and steady will, Amir Kabir continued his reformations and exploitations, and all alone, resisted the most selfish, tyrannous and despotic king of the Qajar Dynasty along with his corrupt relatives,



courtiers, and flatterers, among whom some had been excluded from the government. They regarded the Amir as a social upstart and a threat to their interests, and they formed a coalition against him, in which the queen mother was active. She convinced the young Shah that the Amir wanted to usurp the throne.

In October 1851, the Shah dismissed him and exiled him to Kashan, where he was murdered on the Shah's orders on January 11, 1852. Historians and those who are acquainted with Amir Kabir and have studied his life and manners appreciate and regard him as a great and remarkable man.

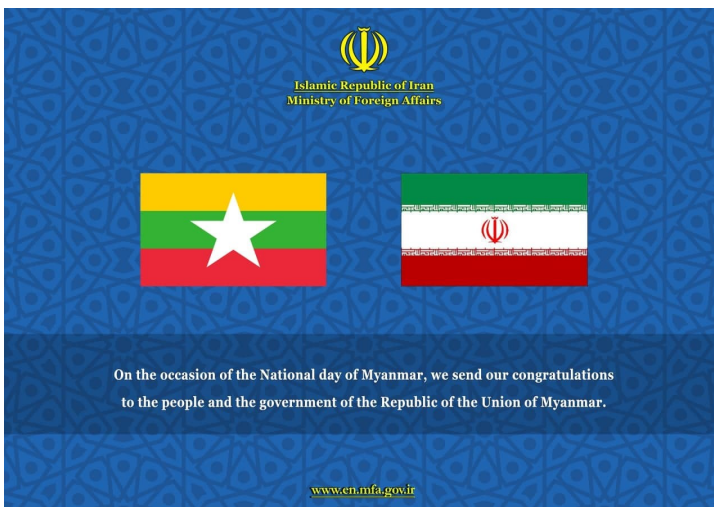
Contemporary and near-contemporary European observers all formed favorable impressions of Amir Kabir, seeing in him a unique embodiment of honesty, patriotism, and efficiency. Among his Iranian contemporaries Amir Kabir received praise from several poets of the age, notably Qāānī, but his services to Iran remained generally unappreciated in the Qajar period. Modern Iranian historiography has done him more justice, depicting him as one of the few capable and honest statesmen to emerge in the Qajar period and the progenitor of various political and social changes that came about half a century later. (*Iran Chamber Society & Encyclopedia Iranica*)





Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks
the Liberation Day of Cuba
(January 1)

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks
the National Day of Haiti
(January 1)



Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs marks
the Independence Day of Myanmar (January 4)



Culture & Society

IRAN MOVES TO OUTLAW SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT OF WOMEN

After a decade of deliberation, Iran's government approved a bill on Sunday (January 3, 2021) that criminalizes violence and sexual misconduct against women and specifies punishments for perpetrators.

The bill, which has been passed by the cabinet, must now be adopted by the country's Parliament to become law, but women's advocates are hopeful of success.



Many Iranian rights activists and lawyers said it marked a step forward and reflected the shifting dynamics of Iranian society, which they describe as steps ahead of the government on issues of violence against women.

The complete draft of the bill has not yet been made public, but a summary posted on the government's website states that "any act that causes physical or emotional or reputational harm" to a woman or results in curbing her freedom and social rights is considered a crime.

It also addresses sexual harassment and coercing women into sexual acts short of intercourse as crimes. Sending a woman an unsolicited sexual message, text or photograph, demanding sexual relations or forcing sexual acts could bring penalties of six months to two years in prison and up to 99 lashes, as well as monetary fines.

The judiciary is required to create and sponsor centers that provide support for victims of violence and women vulnerable to violence, the bill summary said. Security forces are also obliged to create a special female police unit to protect women.

"We have been waiting for this for 10 years," said Shima Ghoosheh, a lawyer based in Tehran who specializes in representing women and who said she was one of the attorneys the government consulted. "I think this is a step forward because it gives us a general law for protecting women that we can build on and amend."

Ms. Ghoosheh and two other legal experts in Iran said they expected Parliament to pass the bill because it had been watered down and altered to reflect the views of the judiciary and lawmakers.

Masoumeh Ebtekar, Iran's vice president for women's and family affairs, tweeted that the measure was the result of hundreds of hours of deliberation by legal and government experts and "dedicated to the deserving and patient women of Iran." (*New York Times*)



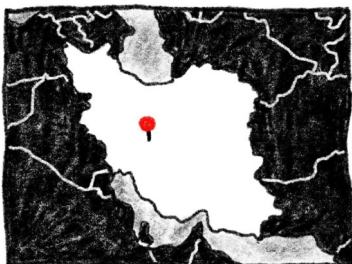


ISFAHAN AMONG 52 PLACES TO LOVE IN 2021, ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

The New York Times asked readers to tell them about the spots that have delighted, inspired and comforted them in a dark year. Out of more than 2,000 suggestions the NYT received, 52 of them were selected to remind its readers that the world still awaits. Neeknaz Abari's description of the magnificent Isfahan has found its place in the list.

Grown up in the US and working at a consulting firm in Dallas, Neeknaz wrote for the NYT that "My memories of Isfahan come in snippets: The hiss of the nan panjereh, an intricate funnel-cake dessert, as my grandmother shows me how to dip it into hot oil; the smiling, chattering taxi drivers with their endless questions about America and their playful jabs at my accent; the winding alleyways that reveal hidden nooks and crannies in the Grand Bazaar.

I wish Americans could see the vibrant curiosity of the people who live here. I used to visit Isfahan every year. I spent long mornings lifting weights in the women-only gyms, and afternoons with my grandfather, watching him lovingly watering the plants in his garden and shooing away stray cats. But divisive politics, and now Covid-19, have made it harder. My grandfather died two years ago. I wasn't there. I feel my Farsi growing rusty on my tongue.



Here are photos the NYT shares with its readers about the beauty of Isfahan.





IRAN TO HOST BIGGEST CALLIGRAPHY EVENT, 'SILK ROAD'



Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Hojatollah Ayoubi said that having long-lasting civilization and history, Iran will host the biggest cultural calligraphy event, in Tehran and Mashhad on January 20-26, 2021.

Ayoubi added that around 1000 works with roughly 300 artists will participate at the first international exhibition and scientific conference of the Silk Road calligraphy both via videoconferencing and in person.

“The core part of the exhibition is holding scientific conferences where 30 countries from Europe, Africa, and the region such as Pakistan, France, Morocco Egypt, India, Tajikistan, Iraq, Tunisia, and Algeria will participate with 25 articles.” Ayoubi stressed.

“This artistic event is a new experience for UNESCO during its 70-year age because it has been seeking the opportunity to make nations and cultures closer via dialogues,” he added.

Iran is the forerunner to hold such an event which is art-based, for its long history, civilization and cultural heritage said the Secretary-General of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

IRAN TO MEND ANCIENT IRANIAN TAQ-E KASRA MONUMENT IN IRAQ

Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ali-Asghar Mounesan said that Iran has reached an agreement with Iraq to repair the Iranian ancient monument of the Sassanid era, Taq-e Kasra in Ctesiphon, Iraq.

Mounesan announced the news in an interview with IRNA following the collapse of a part of the historical arc, arguing, “Due to the historical significance of that ancient monument of Sassanid era we talked to the Vice-President and Head of Budget and Planning Organization (BPO) Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht and gained his agreement with the allocation of sufficient budget.

“The BPO is now scheduled to assess the required budget and deliver it to the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (CHHTO) for the purpose,” the Minister said.



Located 30 kilometers south of Baghdad, Taq-e Kasra, aka Arch of Ctesiphon, is an ancient building, built between 241 and 272 AD during the Sassanid era, which is notable for its great barrel vault in baked brick. The main barrel vault of Taq-e Kasra is 35 meters high, 25 meters wide, and 50 meters long.





Jameh Mosque of Shafei is located in the Iran's western city of Kermanshah



TRADE AND ECONOMY

IRAN-AFGHANISTAN RAILWAY PROJECT GOES BEYOND ECONOMIC INTERESTS

The first railway between Iran and Afghanistan was launched in December 2020, linking the Iranian northeastern city of Khaf to Afghanistan's western city of Ghoryan over a 140 km track. The project represents a major step toward increasing Afghan-Iran trade and opening landlocked Afghanistan to the rest of the world through the Iranian port of Chabahar.



The new railway is the latest in a series of projects Iran has implemented, mostly in Afghanistan's Western regions, as part of a \$560 million pledge for rebuilding Afghanistan. Tehran was one of the largest donors at a 2002 Tokyo conference, pledging more than India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, and Pakistan combined.

Schools, power plants, new border crossings and roads are some of the other projects Iran has undertaken. In 2005, Iran opened the 122 km Dogharun-Herat highway that has been serving as

one of the main import-export gateways to Afghanistan. That \$60 million project was built by Khatam-al Anbiya.

While Iran's major investments in Afghanistan's western regions reflect strong historic and cultural ties between the two nations, the economic benefits are also significant, especially at a time when Iran is under US sanctions reimposed by the Trump administration. Iran is currently Afghanistan's largest trade partner followed by China and Pakistan.

Beyond economic and cultural aims, Iran wants to improve the security of its borders, create more jobs, and reduce poverty in the hopes of decreasing illegal immigration from Afghanistan. Iran also seeks to improve access to important raw materials, such as iron ore mines in western Afghanistan.

Instability and climate change have contributed to significant underdevelopment in Iran's southeast provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, and Kerman. Projects under construction, such as the Khaf-Herat railway and the Chabahar-Zahedan-Mashhad railway, should boost local economies.

Iran also sees these railways as a way to counter US sanctions and improve economic ties with its neighbors. Iran already has rail links with Turkmenistan, Pakistan, and Turkey and is expected to complete six more railway projects by the end of 2021. Ongoing projects will connect the railway network to Astra in Azerbaijan and Basra in southern Iraq. (*Atlantic Council*)





GARMENT EXPORTS STAND AT OVER \$40M IN 7 MONTHS



The value of Iran's garment exports stood at over \$40 million during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21, 2020), chairman of Iran Textile Exporters and Manufacturers Association Majid Nami announced.

He has previously announced that the production of garments in Iran increased 70 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year, compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Iran's As announced by the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian garments are exported to Iraq, Kuwait, Australia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Korea, Japan, UAE, UK, Venezuela, Ivory Coast, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Qatar, Oman, Nigeria, Switzerland, Pakistan, Georgia, Spain, and Denmark.

According to the chairman of Tehran's Union of Garments Manufacturers and Sellers, domestic units are supplying 70-80 percent of the requirement for clothing inside the country.

950,000 TONS OF IRANIAN GOODS EXPORTED TO AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

Director of border markets of the Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan Mobin Ali-Mir said that more than 950 thousand tons of goods had been exported from the border markets of the area to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the last 10 months.

He pointed out that in the first half of this year in Persian calendar (Starts on March 20), 10 percent of Iran's trade was done through Sistan and Baluchestan border markets, adding: "these markets are leading in exports of non-oil goods and seven of the eight markets in the region are active."

In this course of time (H1), Ali-Mir said that more than 650,000 tons of goods had been exported through the border markets of Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province, highlighting: "most exports had been done through the markets of Mirjaveh and Kahak."

Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province has the highest number of active markets: two markets near the border with Afghanistan, and five others near the border between Iran and Pakistan.





IRAN REGISTERS NEARLY \$1.5BLN FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN 9 MONTHS

Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade announced that nearly \$1.5 billion of foreign investment has been made in Iran during the first three quarters of the current Iranian year (March 20—December 20, 2020).

The Ministry announced that during the first nine months of the current Iranian year, some 129 foreign investments were approved in the country at a value of \$4.384 billion.

The four countries with the highest amount of investment in the mentioned period were Germany, China, Turkey and the UK, respectively.

Moreover, an official at Iran's Interior Ministry said last December that foreign investors can apply for five-year residence in Iran, adding that the residence will enable them to receive special services.

“Application forms would be available in line with a platform envisaged by the Foreign Ministry, the Interior Ministry, Iran's department on foreign investment, and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI),” Mahdi Mahmoudi noted.

He stressed that foreign nationals and immigrants residing in Iran would get free of charge medical treatment for coronavirus pandemic.



IRANIAN KNOWLEDGE-BASED FIRM EXPORTING NANO-BASED HERBAL DETERGENTS TO EUROPE, ASIA

An Iranian knowledge-based company has started exports of nano-based herbal detergents to the European and Asian states.

“One of the advantages of our products is protection of the environment, which is highly important to the European countries,” Manouchehr Shahbazian, the CEO of the knowledge-based company, said.

He added that the company has a contract with Sweden, noting, “We plan to sell 75 tons of the detergent to the European country per month.”



“In addition, we have reached an agreement with a Lebanese company to export 25 tons of nano detergents,” Shahbazian said.

“Negotiations have also been held with the Omanis and a contract will be signed with them in the next few days,” he added, stating that the company's products have also been tested and approved by Qatari and the UAE companies.

Iranian researchers have produced different detergents and disinfecting materials and systems to fight against COVID-19 since the coronavirus outbreak in the country.



Ali Mohammadi from Iran's Khuzestan Province was acknowledged at the 2020 Maxim Dmitriev Photography Festival. Mr. Mohammadi is working in the ISNA News Agency.



A photo from Iranian photographer Maryam Saeidpour's series "Quarantine" won the gold medal in the graphic category of the Third Annual Meihodo International Youth Visual Media Festival in Japan.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IRAN STARTS CLINICAL TEST OF THIRD HOME-MADE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Spokesperson of Iran's Food and Drug Organization (IFDA) Kianoush Jahanpour said that the clinical trial of the third domestically-developed COVID-19 vaccine has been launched at Razi Serum and Vaccine Institute.

"The the first and second phases clinical trials of the third Iran-made coronavirus vaccine, affiliated to Razi Serum and Vaccine Institute, have kicked off with the approval of the Medical Ethics Committee," Jahanpour wrote on his Twitter account.



Iran is working on multiple projects to develop indigenous vaccines for the novel Coronavirus, known as COVID-19.

Tehran reported earlier that the first three Iranian volunteers have received their second dose of the first domestically produced COVID-19 vaccine the same day.

The second dose of the home-grown COVID-19 vaccine (COVIRAN Barekat) was injected to the first three volunteers who had received their first dose on December 29, 2020.

As the Iranian vaccine COVIRAN Barekat has had no side effects after 14 days, the committee for supervising the vaccine has issued the permit for the second phase of injection.

The Headquarters for Executing the Order of Imam Khomeini (EIKO) is the organization that has developed the vaccine.

In a relevant development on Sunday, January 10, it was announced that Iran started coronavirus vaccination on the second 7-member group of volunteers.

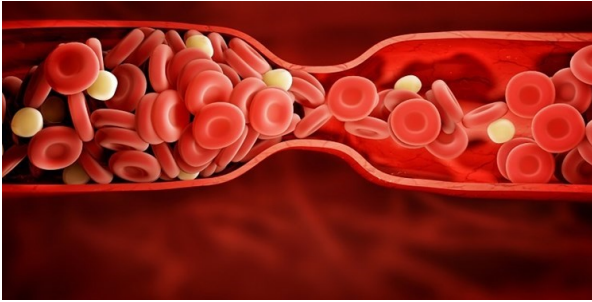
"After getting the license from the relevant authorities, the vaccination to the third group begins on Tuesday morning," Dr. Hosseini from Tehran Medical Sciences University said and added, "Today, three people have been vaccinated and tomorrow 4 volunteers will get the jabs and the first phase will continue till vaccination of 56 people."

Hosseini expressed hope that the approval for the second phase of vaccination will be issued by the end of January.

He went on to say, "I make it clear that this vaccine has been fully safe till this moment and none of the 7 volunteers of the previous two groups has seen any side effects, and that's why the vaccination of the third group has been licensed."



IRAN 1ST COUNTRY TO APPLY PLASMA THERAPY FOR EYE DISEASES



Plasma Assistance Non-Invasive Surgery (PANIS) inventor Farhad Nejat said that Iran is the first country in the world that uses plasma to cure ocular diseases in and noted that 14-15 eye diseases that needed operating room and anesthesia are now treated by the PANIS method.

“The International Eye Surgery Academy has approved the PANIS method,” he said.

The inventor made it clear that the method’s animal trial had taken around one and half years and its human trial began two years ago.

Nejat went on to say that many European countries including Italy, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, and some of the regional countries such as Turkey are exchanging their experiences with Iran.

“PANIS generator is made in Italy, but the method is absolutely indigenized,” Mr. Nejat highlighted.

“Safety, user friendliness, low price, the fast-paced wound healing process, and promoting ocular surface regeneration in different pathological conditions are the most noteworthy features of the method,” the ophthalmologist stressed.

IRAN SELF-SUFFICIENT, ABLE TO EXPORT NANO-BASED ANTI-CORONAVIRUS PRODUCTS

Head of Iran's Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) Saeed Sarkar announced the country’s self-sufficiency and ability to export nanotechnology products for campaign against the coronavirus outbreak.

“On the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, we developed the ability to produce 20,000 N95 mask on a daily basis with a 95% virus filtration capability. Within two weeks, Iran's production reached 200,000 masks, and we provided our hospitals staff with 200,000 masks a day,” Sarkar told FNA.

“We now have the ability to export nano masks,” he added.



Meanwhile, Saeed Sarkar had underlined the country's huge progress in manufacturing and exporting nanotechnology products.

“Fortunately, we are witnessing that nanotechnology products are being exported to over 45 countries of the world and we are witnessing the growing flourishing of this arena,” Sarkar told FNA on the sidelines of the 12th International Nanotechnology Festival and Exhibition in Tehran.



MIGRATORY SWANS IN NORTH IRAN

By traveling over 5,000 kilometers from cold regions of the world, migratory swans arrived at Sorkhrud Wetland in Mazandaran Province, North Iran, to spend the winter season. As the winter of Sorkhrud Wetland is more beautiful and pleasant than any other seasons, the swans spreading their wings over the cities of Sorkhrud and Mahmoudabad in Mazandaran province, indicate a new season with their melodious songs. (Photo credits: MEHR News Agency)





SPORTS

FAGHANI AMONG WORLD'S BEST REFEREES OF DECADE



Iranian referee Alireza Faghani is among the 19 best men referees of the 2011-2020 decade. According to the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS), "Alireza Faghani", an Iranian football referee who was previously selected as the best referee in Asia in 2020, was ranked 19th among the top referees of the last decade.

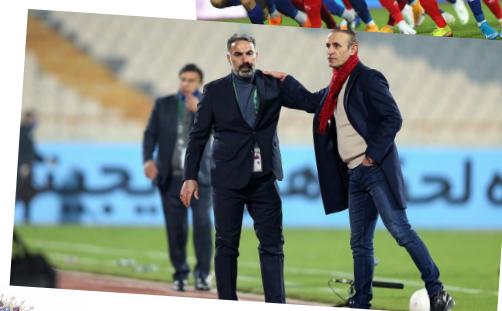
Among the Asian referees, there are only two on the list, Faghani of Iran and Ravshan Irmatov of Uzbekistan.

The IFFHS has devised an equitable method for determining the world's best man referee of the decade. The Federation has taken in consideration the TOP 20 of each yearly ranking of each category concerned and allocated points to each place. So, the first placed received 20 points, the second placed 19 points, the third placed 18 points. And one point for the 20th place. If the annual ranking comprised fewer than 20, no point will be awarded for the unoccupied places.

EXCITING TEHRAN DERBY ENDS WITH 2-2 DRAW

The match between two archrivals Iranian football, Esteghlal and Persepolis, in the Iranian Professional League, finished 2-2 on Monday, January 11, 2021.

The match was 94th competitive meetings between the two teams. Esteghlal have won 26, Persepolis 24 and the remaining 44 games finished as draws.





IRANIAN MIDFIELDER RAHMANI JOINS SWEDISH TEAM DALKURD FF



Iranian midfielder Bakhtiar Rahmani has joined second-tier Swedish team Dalkurd FF on a three-year contract.

“I want to thank God for this opportunity. I’m very happy to join the team since I love Dalkurd. It’s sad that I have not been able to join before but better late than never and now I am here and hope to help the club,” Rahmani told Dalkurd.se.

“I have big goals and that is one of the reasons why I chose Dalkurd. I hope that everyone in the team can contribute so that we can bring the club back to elite football,” he added.

Rahmani, 29, started his playing career at Iranian club Foolad in 2007 and has also played at Esteghlal, Sepahan, Tractor and Sanat Naft.

He has most recently played for Azerbaijani top-flight team Sebail.

KARIMI QUILTS COACHING CAREER AS MAKING FFIRI PRESIDENCY BID

Legendary Iranian footballer Ali Karimi says he is no more interested in the coaching career after he registered to compete in the Iranian Football Federation’s presidential race.

“It has been a while that I have made this decision and my registration in the Federation is the start of my managerial career; given the time period that has passed since my latest coaching, I do not have interest in this career,” Ali Karimi told reporters on Saturday, January 10, 2021.

He submitted his bid for the presidency of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) on Friday (January 9) while announcing another iconic footballer, Mehdi Mahdavia, as his vice-president.

Karimi, 42, is among the top footballers in the history of Iran as fans gave him the title of ‘magician’ for his unique individual techniques. He had 127 appearances for the Team Melli, scoring 38 goals.

The election will be held on February 28 and four other candidates namely Mansour Ghanbarzadeh, Heidar Baharvand, Shahab Azizi Khadem, and Kiumars Hashemi will also compete for the seat.



Mehdi Mahdavia (left) and Ali Karimi (right)



IRAN'S WOMEN'S MOTOCROSS TRAINING IN PICTURE

Women motorcyclists are training on the "Veirani" motorcycle track 10km from Iran's Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi Province.





FOREIGN MISSIONS IN IRAN

Switzerland Embassy Compares Two Colorful Streets in Switzerland and Iran

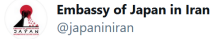


Colorful houses of Appenzell, centre of #Switzerland's smallest canton, illustrate a diverse history, rich traditions + variety of professions. In a recent project by Tehran's District 9 Municipality, walls on Khosrow Ghadyani Alley were painted by residents to uplift the spirit.



3:49 PM · Jan 17, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

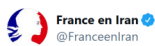
Japan Embassy Shares Persian Magazine With An Article About Different Aspect of Japanese Garden



ایرانی های عزیز عصر بخیر. من صومی هستم، رئیس مرکز اطلاع رسانی و فرهنگی سفارت #ژاپن در #ایران. #سفارت_ژاپن برای این که بتواند ایرانی ها را بیشتر با فرهنگ ژاپن آشنا کند، اخیراً مقاله ای را در #مجله ای به نام #فَهوه به چاپ رسانده است. موضوع این مقاله "#باغ_ژاپنی" است. #japaniniran



France Embassy Shares Poster of the 2nd Francophone Festival about Storytellers of Yalda Night



Ne ratez pas le 2ème Festival francophone des Conteurs de la nuit de Yalda ! Les participants sont invités à enregistrer une vidéo de leur narration ou à traduire un conte persan en français.

Le règlement du concours : bit.ly/3pXKchJ



Italian Ambassador Visits Tehran National Sculpture Biennial



Very impressed by today's visit to 8th #Tehran Sculpture Biennial @ Vaadat Hall. Great works by skillful & inspired artists. Thanks to GD of #Roudaki Foundation, Mahdi Afzali, for warm reception and useful discussion on ways to strengthen 🇮🇹🇮🇷 relationship in music & the arts.



4:23 PM · Jan 14, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone





IRANIAN MISSIONS ABROAD

Iran Embassy to Ukraine Shares Photo of Iranian Ambassador's Tribute to Victims of Flight PS752 Crash



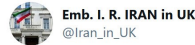
В Києві, за участі ряду представників українського керівництва, родичів жертв катастрофи – падіння українського літака, та ряду акредитованих дипломатів, відбулася церемонія, присвячена річниці пам'яті жертв катастрофи.1/2

#PS752
#هوایپمای_اوکراینی



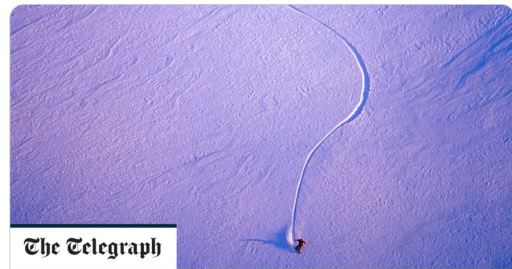
4:27 PM · Jan 8, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Iran Embassy to the UK Shares Story of Telegraph Paper About Iran's Mesmerizing Skiing Spots



Iran's #ski areas reach altitudes that overshadow those of even the highest resorts in the Alps.the highest mountain in the Alps, Mont Blanc, rockets to 4,810m In comparison, Mount #Damavand in Iran reaches 5,610m!

❄️❄️❄️
#Iran_in_uk #alborz #ski #dizin



The Telegraph

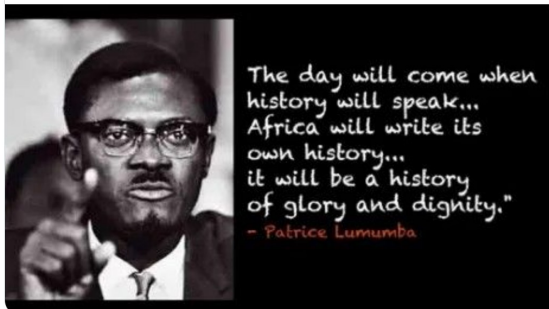
Is Iran the world's greatest untapped skiing destination?
A new ski trip has launched with Snoworks to Iran's unheard-of ski resorts
telegraph.co.uk

Iran Embassy to D.R. Congo Remembers Independence Leader Patrice Lumumba



Le 17 jan. est le 60e anniv. de l'assassinat de #Lumumba . Ses pensées ont inspiré le #Congo pour l'indépendance Il a légué un héritage d'une nation unie en sacrifiant sa vie à la nation qui a maintenu et garanti la souveraineté et l'intégrité territoriale grâce à son sacrifice.

M. J. Shariati @MajdShariati · Jan 14
۱۷ ژانویه ۲۰۲۱، ۶۰مین سالگرد قتل #پاتریسی-لومومبا است که اندیشه و تلاشش الهام بخش مردم #کنگو برای استقلال بود. ۶۰ سالگی که هنوز جراحات استعمار التیام نیافته است. او با نثار جان خود میراثی از ملت متحد به ودیعه گذاشت که حفظ استقلال و تمامیت ارضی کنگو را با جانفشانی خود تضمین کرده اند.



2:43 PM · Jan 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Iran Embassy to India Shares Weblink About the Execution of Agreement Between Iran and India in Chabahar Port



The first shipment of strategic loading and unloading equipment worth \$8.5 million has arrived in #Chabahar port to mark the activation of the contract between the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) and the Indian side.

#Iran
#India
#Afghanistan



1st shipment of Indian equipment arrives in Chabahar port
TEHRAN – The first consignment of Indian equipment for the development of port activities at Iran's Chabahar port worth \$8.5 million has arrived in the southeaster...
tehrantimes.com





DISCOVER IRAN IN PICTURES

KASHAN, HOME TO ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS, LABYRINTHINE BAZAARS



(Photo credit: Tehran Times)



Some of us may be physically apart due to COVID19 — but solidarity binds people together.

Remember to:

Spread kindness & goodwill

Connect with your loved ones

We are in this together – and we will get through this together.

Painting by: Emma Merritt

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