

## **IRAN Report (16)**

### **Iranian Norouz Traditions: Haft Seen**

Nowruz is the national New Year festivity celebrated in Iran and Afghanistan. In some other countries, such as Tajikistan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Syria, Iraq, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Albania, China, Turkey, Turkmenistan, India, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, this festivity is celebrated by the people.

Nowruz is a springtime celebration whose activities symbolize rebirth and the link between humans and nature. The Iranian poet Saadi (1210-1291) wrote: "Awaken, the morning Nowruz breeze is showering the garden with flowers."

While the two-week celebrations center on seeing relatives, picnicking, travelling, and eating traditional food, Nowruz itself - which is Farsi for New Day - is steeped in ancient myths and fiction, as well as traditions and symbols.

Iranians mark Nowruz by setting the Haft Seen, a table with seven items starting with the Persian /s/ sound.

The items usually include Sabzeh (freshly grown greens), Samanu (a sweet pudding made from germinated wheat), Senjed (the dried fruit of the oleaster tree), Seeb (apple), Seer (garlic), Somagh (sumac) and Serkeh (vinegar).

People also put the holy Qur'an next to the main Haft Seen items in hopes of being blessed by God in the year ahead.

The mirror (symbolizing cleanliness and honesty), a bowl of water with goldfish, decorated eggs (symbolizing fertility) sometimes one for each member of the family, candles (enlightenment and sunrise), coins (representing wealth), dried nuts and fruits and Sonbol (hyacinth) are also among the items Iranians include in their Haft Seen.

### **Iran purchases 695 thousand doses of corona vaccine so far**

Kianoosh Jahanpour, spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, has stated on his Twitter page:

“The first batch of COVAXIN®, India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine by Bharat Biotech is due to arrive in Tehran tonight (March 11, 2021). Considering this shipment, 695 thousand doses of corona vaccine have been imported into the country so far.”

[www.irna.ir/news/84260091/](http://www.irna.ir/news/84260091/)

### **Largest Mobile Hospital Opened in Iran**

The largest mobile hospital in the country has been built with the efforts of the Foundation for the Execution of the Order of Imam Khomeini. The complex has 99 beds, two operating rooms, one delivery room. The construction of the hospital has cost nearly 29mln dollar - one-third of foreign rivals.

<http://kayhan.ir/fa/news/212916>

### **Cuba sends 100,000 doses of the Soberana 02 vaccine candidate to Iran**

The Cuban Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industries Business Group (BioCubaFarma) announced on Twitter the sending of the doses “as part of the collaboration with other countries in the development of COVID-19 vaccines.” “100,000 doses of Soberana 02 were sent to the Pasteur Institute in Iran, which will be used in clinical trials in that country,” the state entity’s publication indicated.

[www.irna.ir/news/84260349/](http://www.irna.ir/news/84260349/)

### **Iran unveils two radiopharmaceuticals for cancer treatment**

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization has unveiled two new radiopharmaceuticals for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and breast cancer, which have reached production stage at the Radiation Application Research Institute of the Atomic Energy Organization.

<http://fna.ir/f33mtc>

### **Iranian scientist develops cellulose thread to generate electricity**

By sewing electrically conductive cellulose threads into fabric using a conventional household sewing machine, Suzanne Darabi, a researcher at the Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden has now been able to produce thermoelectric textiles that produce a small amount of electricity when heated on one side – such as human body heat.

<https://www.isna.ir/news/99122116147>

### **Simorgh supercomputer has been used: Minister**

Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said in a statement that the Simorgh supercomputer was ready last week, which the Ministry of Health used regarding one of the Covid-19 issues in Tehran.

Simorgh supercomputer is one of the 100 supercomputers in the world whose manufacturing technology is the exclusive owned by some countries. The project is used in issues such as artificial intelligence, metadata and the Internet of Things, and provides the basis for weather forecasting, geological analysis, seismology and genetic data analysis on a data platform.

[www.irna.ir/news/84259392/](http://www.irna.ir/news/84259392/)

### **Iranian explorer in the depths of the seas**

One of the tools of exploration in the sea is the use of research vessels. The Persian Gulf Ocean Explorer is Iran's most important research vessel in the field of marine science. The construction of this ship was completed in 4 years and 40% of foreign exchange was saved, costing more than 27 billion tomans. This explorer has been delivered to the National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

<https://t.me/farsna>

### **Iranian professor at Canadian university develops self-driving bus**

A research team led by Amir Khajeapour, an Iranian professor of mechanical and mechatronics engineering, has spent over four years creating the autonomous bus project called the

“WATonoBUS.” According to the university, the project has cost well over \$1 million and the vehicle is now in its final testing to ensure it can handle winter weather.

School officials said the bus could be operating on Ring Road at the school by the time students return to campus for in-person classes once COVID-19 restrictions ease. “We’re hoping that when students come back to campus, whether that is in September or earlier, this shuttle bus will be ready to provide a needed service,” Khajepour said in a news release. “Students will be able to take the LRT train to campus, then take our bus to any part of campus.”

<https://www.isna.ir/news/99122116429>

### **Why Jihad Daneshgahi is among top 10 universities in the world**

Secretary of the Office of Space Technologies and Advanced Transportation:

- Iranian researchers have localized "product subsystem technologies", "product design and integration technology and testing" and "product testing technologies and access to global quality".
- Eighty-five percent of urban trains are localized by the university’s academics.
- The production of "train control system" and "propulsion system" by Jihad Daneshgahi made this institution one of the top 10 in the world in this technology.

<https://www.isna.ir/news/99122216710>

### **Increase in Iranian oil production for the second consecutive month**

OPEC: Iran's crude oil production in February compared to the previous month increased by 35,000 barrels and reached 2 million and 120 thousand barrels per day. The price of Iranian heavy oil also increased by \$6.28 and reached \$60.66 per barrel.

<http://tn.ai/2468852>

### **Which countries did Iran import most of the goods from?**

The Trade Development Organization has announced that by the end of February this year, the country's imports have reached about 34 billion dollars, which shows a decrease of about 15% compared to the same period last year. Also, during this period, the weight import of the country has exceeded 30,000 tons, which faced a decrease by more than 6%. According to the Trade

Development Organization, China, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, India and Germany are the main exporters of goods to Iran, accounting for 72% of Iran's total imports.

<https://www.isna.ir/news/99121914671/>

### **Water transfer to the eastern and central provinces on March 15**

Iran Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade announced the opening ceremony of the operation of transferring water from the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman to the eastern and central provinces of the country. This project has been done with the investment of large mining companies, which will be known as a great and sustainable projects of the Ministry.

<https://www.isna.ir/news/99122216647>

### **We are negotiating to host the World Cup qualification games: Zarif**

In a meeting with the President of the Football Federation, the Iranian Foreign Minister emphasized the efforts of the country's diplomatic capacity to consult with the aim of hosting the World Cup qualification games in Iran.

<https://t.me/isna94>

### **Iran and 16 other countries form the "Coalition for the Protection of the Charter of the United Nations"**

Iran, China, Russia, North Korea and several other countries have formed a coalition to protect the United Nations Charter from the threat or use of force and unilateral sanctions. This coalition is called "Group of Friends Defending the UN Charter".

<https://www.isna.ir/news/99122216501>

### **Iran establishes the Nowruz Badge of Honor and presents to cultural figures and diplomats**

Diplomats from Central Asian countries accredited in Tehran took part in the presentation ceremony of the first Honorary Badge of Novruz. The ceremony was held in the presence of

Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Orientation of Iran Seyed Mojtaba Hosseini and President of the ECO Cultural Institute Sarwar Bakhti.

<https://tn.ai/2469416>