



Islamic Culture and Relations
Organization

IRAN FOCUS

A LOOK AT REAL IRAN IN MONTHLY NEWS

March

2022

Issue No.48





*In the Name of God
the Merciful
the Compassionate*





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**CULTURAL CONSULATE OF
THE EMBASSY OF I.R. IRAN – PRETORIA**

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INTRODUCTION

The Noah (of today's ship) is the Imam of the Time ('a.j.). There are storms and hardships on the sea but when the captain is chosen by God and Infallible, there is no fear We ask the Imam of the Time (may our souls be sacrificed for him).

who is the captain of this ship, to help his country reach the shore of salvation and to help and support the pious people of Iran.

Imam Khamenei

Iran: A concise History

Known as Persia until 1935, Iran is a country with a history of over 10000 years and home to one of the oldest known civilizations. Persia, or Iran, as the country is more appropriately called, presents a lexicon of human history matched only by a handful of other countries in the world. The name Persia is derived from the Persis, a province in southern Iran from which a southern Iranian tribe, known as the “Persians” created a world empire in the sixth century B.C. The name Iran, pronounced “Eran”, however, comes from the term “Aryan” meaning “the land of nobles”, a name first used about the first millennium B.C.

‘Iran’ as a territory has multiple meanings. Broadly and devoid of any sort of political or territorial claims, one can see it as three regions. First, there is modern Iran, within its international borders. Then there is ‘Greater Iran or / ‘Iran exterior comprising the additional areas that once formed part of the Iranian world at various times in history. Lastly, there are the areas, sometimes very remote from the center, including parts of Europe and India that exhibit Iranian influence.

In the seventh century A.D. the new faith, Islam, which was based on Monotheism, offered the Iranian population an excellent opportunity whence for several centuries Iranian arts and acumen crystallized and became paramount in the Islamic world. The following centuries witnessed the development of distinctive traditions in pottery and ceramics, tile work, stucco, brickwork, metalwork, glassware, carpets, textiles, jewelry, music and poetry.

In antiquity, and again during the Islamic period, Iran’s position between the West and China helped to transform this land into “a crossroad of civilizations” and one of the great sources of art and thought. Iran’s originality is such that it continuously invented new forms while maintaining its distinct character, as its influence extended over immense regions.

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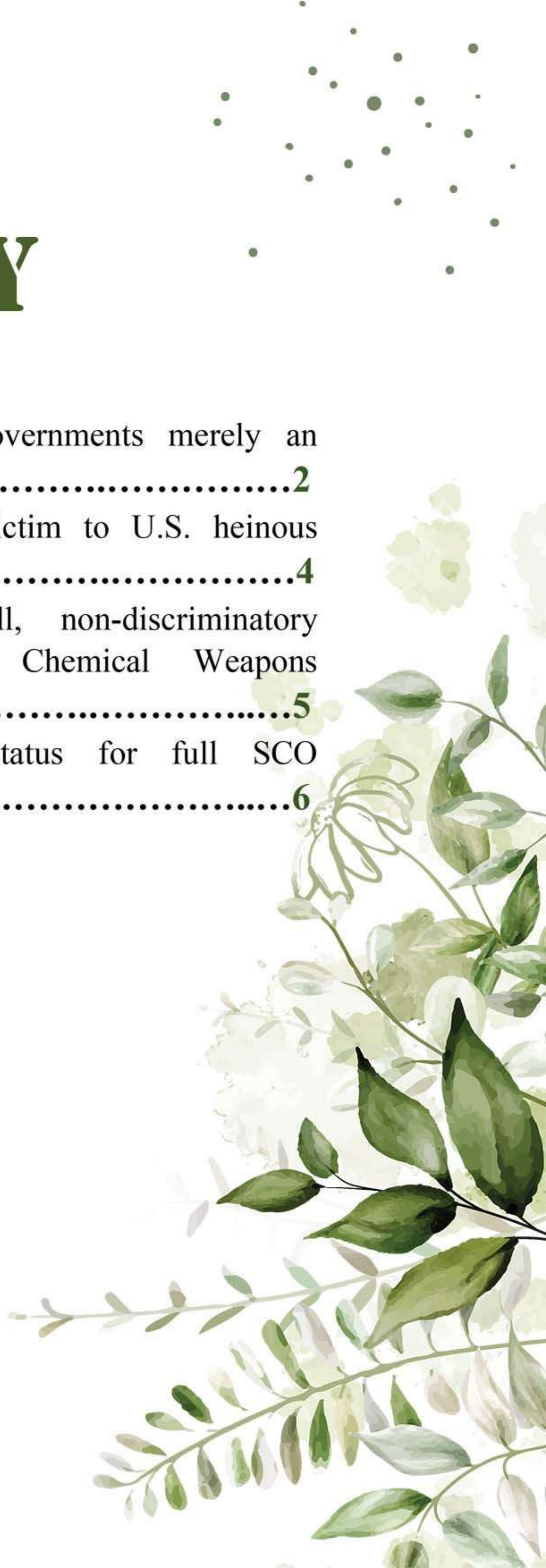
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U.S. support for governments merely an illusion

March 1, 2022

TEHRAN — In an enlightening speech on the day of Mab'ath, the day Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was officially chosen by God to spread the religion of Islam, Leader of the Islamic Revolution shed light on the outcomes of blindly trusting the United States.



In his televised speech, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei noted that those who trusted the United States to back them are now suffering from the U.S. backstabbing.

Noting the experience of Afghanistan and Ukraine, the Leader outlined that the rulers of “dependent countries” who rely on the West, and United States in particular, are now left alone and helpless.

Elaborating on Iran’s position on the Russia-Ukraine war, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Iran supports ending the war in Ukraine. We want the war to be ended there, but the solution to any crisis is only possible if the root cause is identified. The root of the crisis in Ukraine is the U.S. policies that create crises, and Ukraine is a victim of these policies.”

He added that the United States dragged Ukraine to where it is now.

“By interfering in Ukraine’s internal affairs, creating color revolutions and toppling one government and putting another in power, the U.S. dragged Ukraine into this situation,” he asserted.

The Leader was referring to former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.



Ayatollah Khamenei went on to note that the support of the people is the backbone of the administrations. “The people are the governments’ most important support. This is the second lesson from Ukraine’s situation. If the people of Ukraine had been involved, the Ukrainian government wouldn’t be in this situation. The people didn’t get involved because they didn’t approve of the government.”

According to the Leader, the U.S. is a “manifestation of modern ignorance, discrimination, oppression and creating crises in the world today.”

Highlighting that the U.S. regime creates crises, lives off of crises and feeds on various crises in the world, he said, “Ukraine is another victim of this policy.”

“These mafias, which even control the election and removal of American presidents, need to create crises and establish crisis centers in different parts of the world in order to survive,” Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

He then added that Western society uses science and knowledge to “slaughter people and plunder the other nations.”

The Leader also said although the Islamic system is still far from its great goals, it is an attractive model for Muslims and the people of the world.

In his illuminating speech, the Leader sent a message to the rulers of the Arab world to not blindly trust the Westerners because they will eventually be left alone.

Ukrainians falling victim to U.S. heinous policies

March 8, 2022

TEHRAN- Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has said the people of Ukraine are a victim the U.S.'s evil actions, while underlining the Islamic Republic's opposition to war.



The comments by the president comes as Russia has so far refused to stop its war on Ukraine.

He also said France and Germany should make efforts to reduce negative impacts of the crisis, and expressed concern about the impact of sanctions on the stability of global finance, energy supplies, transportation and supply chains.

In his remarks, the Iranian president said it is in the interest of all countries that the war in Ukraine comes to an end.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is against the war and every day when the war ends sooner, it is in the interest of the nations, and the dangers, injuries and problems of the people are reduced,” the president stressed.

“The people of Ukraine, like the people of Afghanistan, Yemen and Iraq, have fallen victim to the United States’ evil policies,” Iran’s president added.

Iran calls for full, non-discriminatory implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention

March 11, 2022

TEHRAN - Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations has called to the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



Addressing a United Nations Security Council meeting on Syria, the Iranian diplomat said, “The politicization of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the use of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for political purposes have major negative consequences for the authority and validity of the Convention and the organization,” according to Fars News.

In this meeting, he called for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as the preservation of the authority and competence of the organization.

Referring to the implementation of Syria's obligations, Takht Ravanchi said, “Syria is fulfilling its obligations under the Convention and will continue to cooperate with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and it has submitted its 98th report on the destruction of chemical weapons on its soil on January 17, 2022. In addition, Syria has regularly provided information to the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the UN Secretariat on the possession and use of chemical weapons by some terrorist organizations.”

Iran signs draft status for full SCO membership

March 12, 2022

TEHRAN — Following consultations between authorized representatives of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Iran, a signing ceremony was arranged for Iran's membership protocol in Tashkent on Friday.



The document approved the draft memorandum of obligations of the Iranian side in order to obtain the status of a SCO member state.

The event was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov, heads of the permanent bodies of the SCO, national coordinators of the member states, as well as heads and representatives of the diplomatic missions of China and Iran in Tashkent.

The signing of the protocol was a practical step towards the implementation of the decision taken last year by the leaders of eight states at the Dushanbe SCO summit to start the procedure for admitting Iran to the permanent membership of the organization.

The document testifies to the readiness of the Iranian side after acquiring membership to comply with the goals and principles of the SCO Charter, international treaties and documents adopted within the organization, to contribute to the development of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with member states, to increase the authority of the SCO in international and regional affairs.

The next stage of this process will be the signing of the memorandum of commitments on the sidelines of the forthcoming SCO summit in Samarkand in September this year and the fulfillment of these obligations. After that, the heads of member states will consider granting Iran the status of a SCO member state.

On September 17, 2021, it was announced that Iran would become a full member of the SCO.

ART & CULTURE

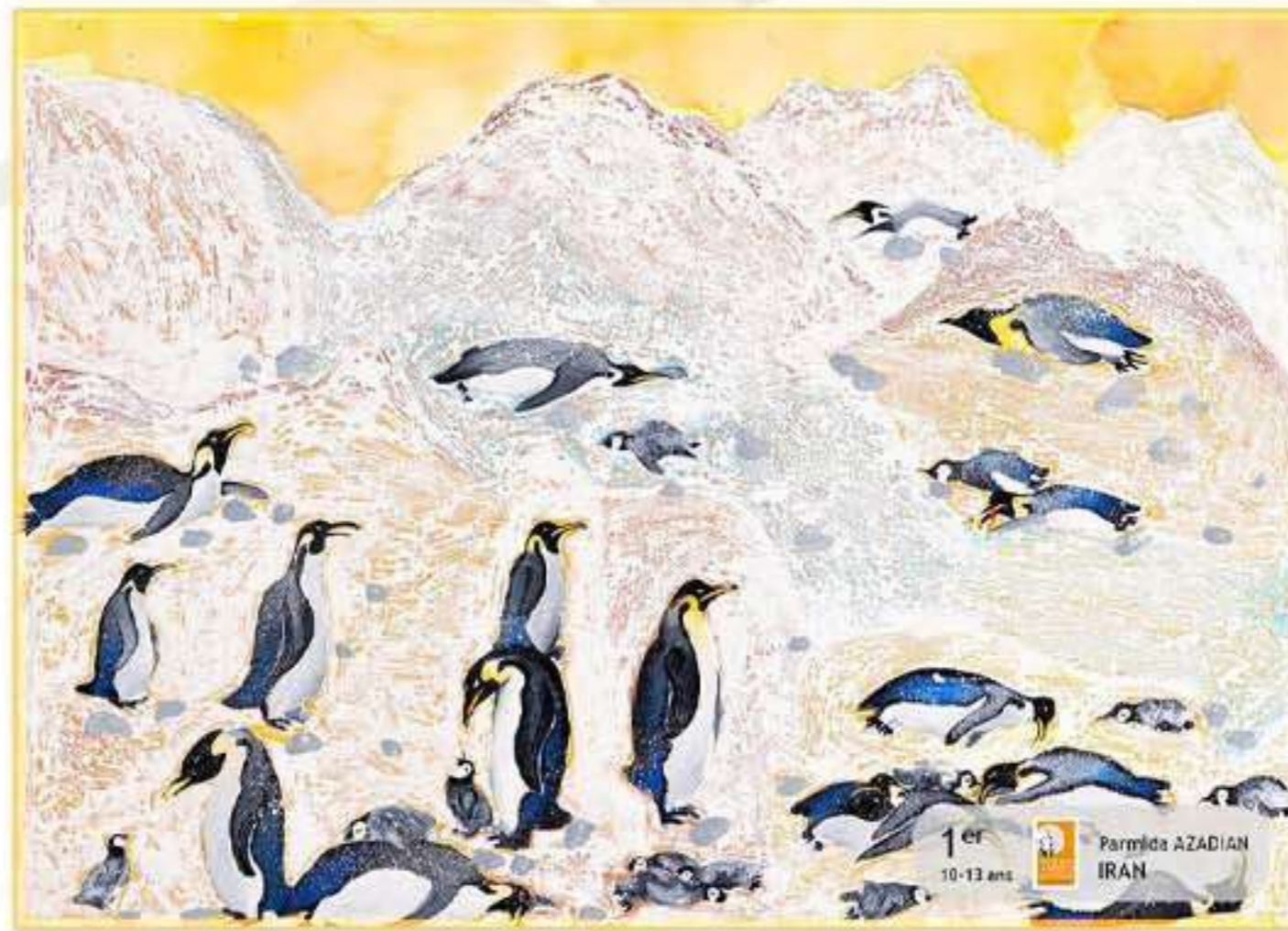
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Iranian girl Parmida Azadian finishes first at UNESCO center art competition

February 27, 2022

TEHRAN – Eleven-year-old Iranian girl Parmida Azadian has won first prize at the International Visual Art Competition 2020 in Troyes, France.

Parmida, a member of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA – Kanoon), received the prize in the category dedicated to children aged between 10 and 13, the institute announced.



The International Visual Arts Competition is open to everyone from 3 to 25 years old.

First prize in the 3-5 category was given to Cheuk Nam Li from China, while Elyn Han from Canada took first place in the 6-9 competition.

Nada Gougou from France received the top prize in the 14-17 category and Ling Joo Yee from Malaysia received first prize in the 18-25 category.

The top award in the medio-social category was given to Fiorenza Geretta Musiris from Peru. The Louis François Center for UNESCO and the World Art Institute of Youth – Centre for UNESCO (Imaj) organize the competition to promote the practice of art among children and young people around the world in the hope of uniting them through an international activity.

The World Art Institute of Youth – Centre for UNESCO (Imaj) has assigned itself the task of giving children and youth a place in the memory of mankind.

The theme of this year's competition is "The landscape that I love, the nature I must preserve".

Iranian photographers honored at Asahi Shimbun international exhibit

February 27, 2022

TEHRAN – Four Iranian photographers have been awarded at the 82nd International Photographic Salon in Japan.

The exhibition is organized by the Asahi Shimbun and the All-Japan Association of Photographic Societies. It was launched in 1927 with the participation of photographers from 15 countries outside of Japan.


Ahmad Khatiri received an award for his work “Alone” depicting a boy clad in a military uniform among a number of Iranian servicemen.

“Alone” has previously received the GPU White Ribbon J1 - FIAP blue ribbon J3 at the Vernon-Normandy Photograph Exhibition in France.

Winners were chosen by a jury of eight photographers and experts headed by Takeyoshi Tanuma.

Anju, Etsuko Enami, Shintaro Shiratori, Tokihiro Sato, Ezure Yasuharu, Shigeru Ito, Takeo Kato and Toru Nakata were the members of the jury.





Fajr Festival of Visual Arts wraps up honoring top works

March 5, 2022

TEHRAN – The 14th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts ended with the honoring of the top works in ten categories.

Winners received their awards in a closing ceremony held at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall. The Golden Tooba for best painting was awarded to Paria Malmir, while Hadi Faqih received the award in the Persian painting (miniature) category.

Ehsan Cheraghi Iranshahi was named the best cartoonist of the festival and Nasrin Shapuri Azari was picked as best sculptor.

The Golden Tooba in the graphic design category was shared by Mohammadreza Chitsaz, Mikail Barati and Sadeq Ili.

Saber Qazi won the award for best photographer and Elaheh Abdollahzadeh was the winner of the new arts section.

The award in the ceramics category went to Mohammadreza Ravandeh and Maryam Sadat Siadat was named best illustrator.

Mohammad Fateh Natanzi won the best calligrapher award.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaili praised the organizers for holding the festival’s exhibitions for the first time across the country.

“We saw a younger generation of artists beside the veteran artists in this edition of the festival, and if the festival seeks a stronger educational policy we can see a great number of promising young artists in the future,” Esmaili said.

He stressed the need for more attention to the art market and called it an absolute necessity for strengthening art diplomacy.

“We have comprehensive plans to develop the country’s art market and will take great steps in this direction in the near future, because we know that we attract a large number of people with the language of art,” he noted.

President Ebrahim Raisi also showed his positive attitude towards art by visiting “Mirror on the Mirror”, an exhibition of the 14th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts organized at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.



**چهاردهمین جشنواره
هنرهای تجسمی فجر**
14th Fajr Visual Arts Festival

نقاشی | تصویرسازی | اسراییک | طراحی گرافیک | عکاسی | مجسمه
کارتون و کاریکاتور | خوشنویسی | انکگرایی | رسانه‌های هنری جدید

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سازمان هنرهای تجسمی
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Muscat to host Iranian film festival

March 5, 2022

TEHRAN – The Omani capital city of Muscat will be playing host to an Iranian film festival from March 7 to 9.

A lineup of five films, including “The Maritime Silk Road” directed by Mohammad Bozorgnia and “Copper and Gold” by Hodayun As’adian, will be screened during the festival, which will be held at the Oman Film Society.

“The Maritime Silk Road” is about Soleiman Siraf, a man who, according to historical documents, was the first sailor to cross the Indian Ocean to China. His route was later called the Maritime Silk Road and many merchants took that route to ship their merchandise to China.

“Copper and Gold” follows Seyyed Reza, a mullah in training struggling to take care of his ailing wife Zahra and their children.

“A Five Star” by Mahshid Afshar, “So Close, So Far” by Reza Mirkarimi and “A Cradle for the mother” by Panahbarkhoda Rezai will also be screened during the festival, which will be held with contributions from the Embassy of Iran in Muscat.



Two rare manuscript copies of Nezami's Khamseh showcased at Mashhad exhibit

March 8, 2022

TEHRAN – Two rare manuscript copies of Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi's Khamseh dating back to almost 650 years ago were showcased in an exhibition in Mashhad on Sunday.

The exhibition underway at the Astan-e Qods Razavi Museum and Library is a prelude to a massive program Iran plans to organize next week to commemorate the greatest romantic epic poet in Persian literature, who brought a colloquial and realistic style to the Persian epic.

One of the copies has been written in thulth style calligraphy on 268 folios in 27 lines on each. Titles of the chapters have been calligraphed with golden and lapis lazuli inks. The two opening pages have been fully decorated with illuminations. The other copy has been inscribed by Ahmad ibn Mohammad in naskh, which is melded perfectly with the taliq style of Iranian calligraphers. The opening folio of each chapter has been embellished with illuminations.

Rare copies of the Khamseh are kept in Iranian libraries, but the two versions kept at the Central Library of the University of Tehran and the library of the Shahid Motahhari School and Mosque in Tehran were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register list in 2011.

Iran plans to commemorate Nezami Ganjavi in a weeklong program beginning on Esfand 21 in the Iranian calendar year (March 12), which is celebrated by Iran as Nezami Day every year.



Iran Regional Music Orchestra makes debut with Nezami songs

March 9, 2022

TEHRAN – Iran Regional Music Orchestra gave its first concert on Tuesday evening at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall by performing songs from the Persian romantic poet Nezami Ganjavi.

Formerly known as Sazineh Ensemble, the orchestra has been active since 2017. Seven regional music experts are collaborating with the orchestra featuring 45 players and ten singers who are working under the supervision of Payman Bozorgnia.



“The orchestra is composed of outstanding performers from the country’s regional music,” Bozorgnia said on stage before the beginning of the concert.

He added, “Our music is rooted in the country’s regional music and it’s our duty to pave the ground for them to represent their art.”

“There has been no replacement for those regional musicians who have passed away over the past few decades; most of them were real gems who garnered the acclaims of the audience and critics in international performances,” he noted.

Nurbakhsh said that the establishment of a variety of regional music groups can help improve tastes in music in the country.

Yazdi poet awarded at the Fajr Festival

March 9, 2022

Alieh Mehrabi was the winner of the adult-classical poetry category of the Fajr International Poetry Festival.

“Animah is a collection of sonnet poems I wrote between 2015 and 2019. This book, published by Soore Mehr, contains sonnets with a variety of themes and subjects, including social, ritual, and romantic,” said Mehrabi.

“Four of my seven published books are religious poems, so I'm more likely to be remembered with religious poems. But poetry is a means of awakening people's souls for me, and I have done so without limiting myself to a religious subject,” she added.

Regarding the poetic meaning of his poems, he said that in any way that words can express, his ultimate purpose is awakening and awareness.

Mehrabi noted that she has written religious poems for the spirit of prayer and hope, love sonnets for sympathy with lovers, and resistance poems for the attitude of stability and battling.

It is also worth mentioning that this lady poet's book won first place in the 16th International "Fajr Poetry" Festival.



Nezami intl. prize awarded to top Iranian artists, literati

March 11, 2022

TEHRAN – Iran’s leading artists and literati were awarded the first Nezami international prize in Tehran.

The prize was given to calligrapher Keykhosro Khorush, miniaturist Mohammad-Baqer Aqamiri, stage director Behruz Gharibpur, and the family of the late musician Hossein Dehlavi.

Scholars and researchers Mohammad Roshan-Dashti, Mehdi Mohabati, and Abdolmajid Arfaei as well as singers Saeid Shafieiun and Kurosh Asadpur, and musician Hatam Asgari Farahi also received the award.

An honorary award was also given to the prominent Iranian singer Shahram Nazeri. Organized by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, the prize aims to honor studies and works on the Persian poet Nemazi Ganjavi from around the world.

The works and studies must throw the spotlight on the significance and impacts of Nezami on the Persian language, literature, art, and culture.

The prize is scheduled to be presented annually on Nezami Day, which falls on March 12 this year.

Abdolmahdi Mostakin, the secretary of the prize, also said, “Different massive programs have arranged by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO to celebrate Nezami’s works, which have inspired numerous literary, dramatic, and artistic works in Iran, the region, and the world over the past 800 years.”

“Due to his creativity and unique innovations in Persian literature and his creative imagination, several countries in the region are trying to connect themselves to the great poet,” he stated.

“Regarding his great cultural potential and his Iranian origin, Nezami can join the neighboring nations to the eternal sources of Islamic Iranian culture and develop Iran’s soft power in the global culture and civilization,” Mostakin noted.

Tehran’s Azadi Tower is illuminated on the eve of Nezami Ganjavi Day on March 11, 2022 to celebrate the Persian poet.

This year’s celebration will run for a week in response to some false claims the Azerbaijan Republic made about the Iranian poet.





Iran honors top books of the year

March 15, 2022

TEHRAN – Top publications in different categories of the 39th Iran’s Book of the Year Awards were honored during a special ceremony at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall. In each category, two books were selected as winners and authors received their awards from President Ebrahim Raisi.

“The Persian Mirror: Reflections of the Safavid Empire in Early Modern France”, published by Oxford University Press, was one of the winners.

“101 Middle Eastern Tales and Their Impact on Western Oral” by Ulrich Marzolph, “The Ka’ba Orientations: Readings in Islam’s Ancient House” by Simon O’Meara, “Baharestan of Jami” by Shen Yi-Ming and “Poet and Poetry of Modern Iran” by Muhammad Abdus Sabur Khan also received awards.

“Azarbaijan and Shahnameh”, a study by Sajjad Aidanlu about the lofty status of Ferdowsi’s Persian epic masterpiece among people in the Azarbaijan region, was chosen as one of the best books in the literary research section.

“Pronunciation in the Classic Persian Poetry” written by Vahid Eidgah Torqabei was another book honored in this section.

“Fascinating Grief” gives a comprehensive account of what happened during Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani’s funeral procession across Iran in 2020.

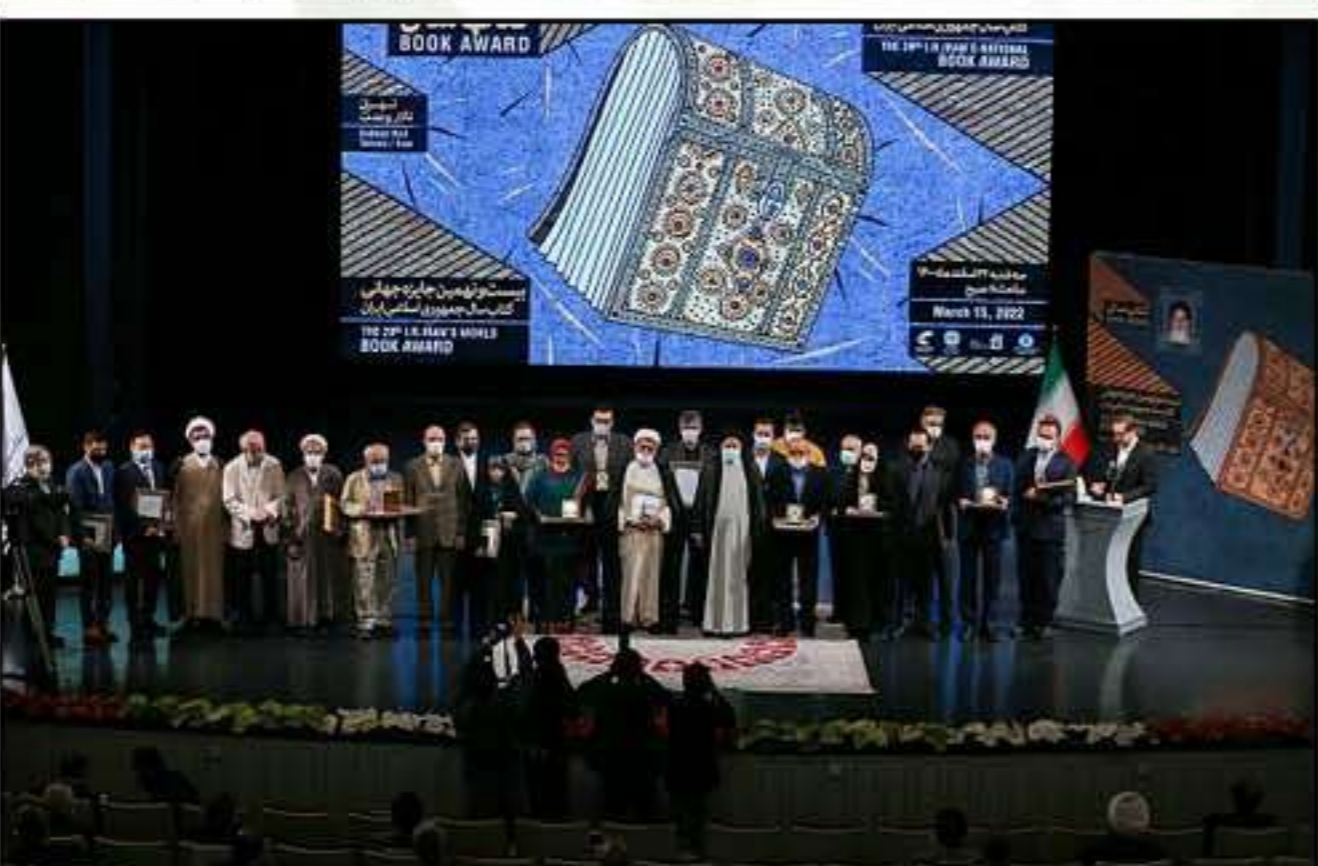
Several books were awarded honorable mentions in the art category.

A translation of Norman Bryson’s “Vision and Painting: The Logic of the Gaze” by Mehdi Habibzadeh received an honorable mention in the theory of art category.

Mary Warner Marien’s “Photography: A Cultural History” translated into Persian by Hadi Azari Azghandi won an honorable mention in the photography section.

In the dramatic arts category, Tom Stern’s “Philosophy and Theatre: An Introduction” translated by Ali Mansuri, Ted Nannicelli’s “A Philosophy of the Screenplay” translated by Ehsan Shahqasemi and András Bálint Kovács’s “Screening Modernism: European Art Cinema, 1950-1980” translated by Mohammadreza Sohrabi won honorable mentions.

Books in various categories of science were also honored.



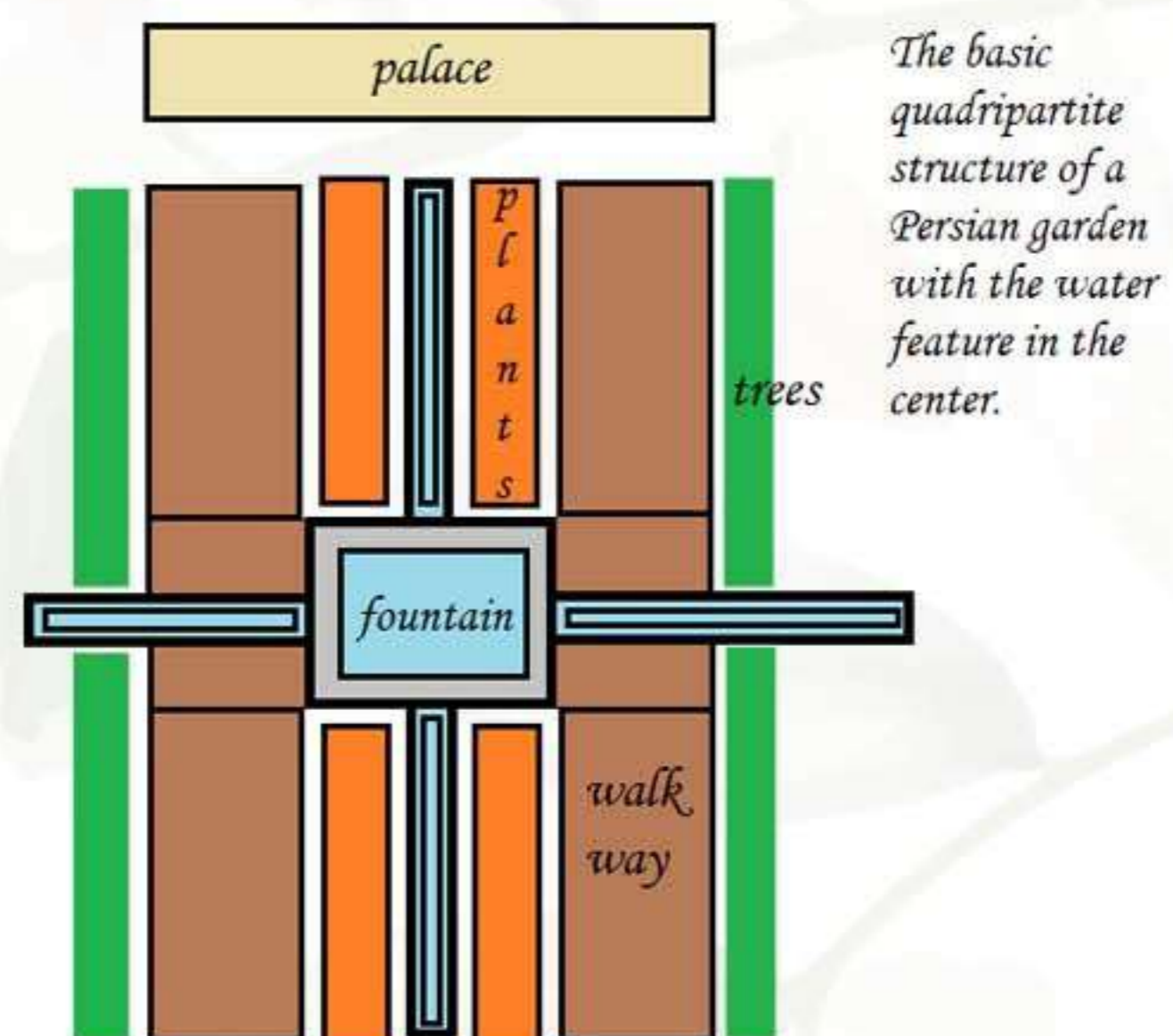
The Persian Garden

The property includes nine gardens in as many provinces. They exemplify the diversity of Persian garden designs that evolved and adapted to different climate conditions while retaining principles that have their roots in the times of Cyrus the Great, 6th century BC. Always divided into four sectors, with water playing an important role for both irrigation and ornamentation, the Persian garden was conceived to symbolize Eden and the four Zoroastrian elements of sky, earth, water and plants. These gardens, dating back to different periods since the 6th century BC, also feature buildings, pavilions and walls, as well as sophisticated irrigation systems. They have influenced the art of garden design as far as India and Spain.

Brief synthesis

The Persian Garden consists of a collection of nine gardens, selected from various regions of Iran, which tangibly represent the diverse forms that this type of designed garden has assumed over the centuries and in different climatic conditions. They reflect the flexibility of the Chahar Bagh, or originating principle, of the Persian Garden, which has persisted unchanged over more than two millennia since its first mature expression was found in the garden of Cyrus the Great's Palatial complex, in Pasargadae. Natural elements combine with manmade components in the Persian Garden to create a unique artistic achievement that reflects the ideals of art, philosophical, symbolic and religious concepts.

The Persian Garden materialises the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth. The perfect design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the original result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e., technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany and agriculture.



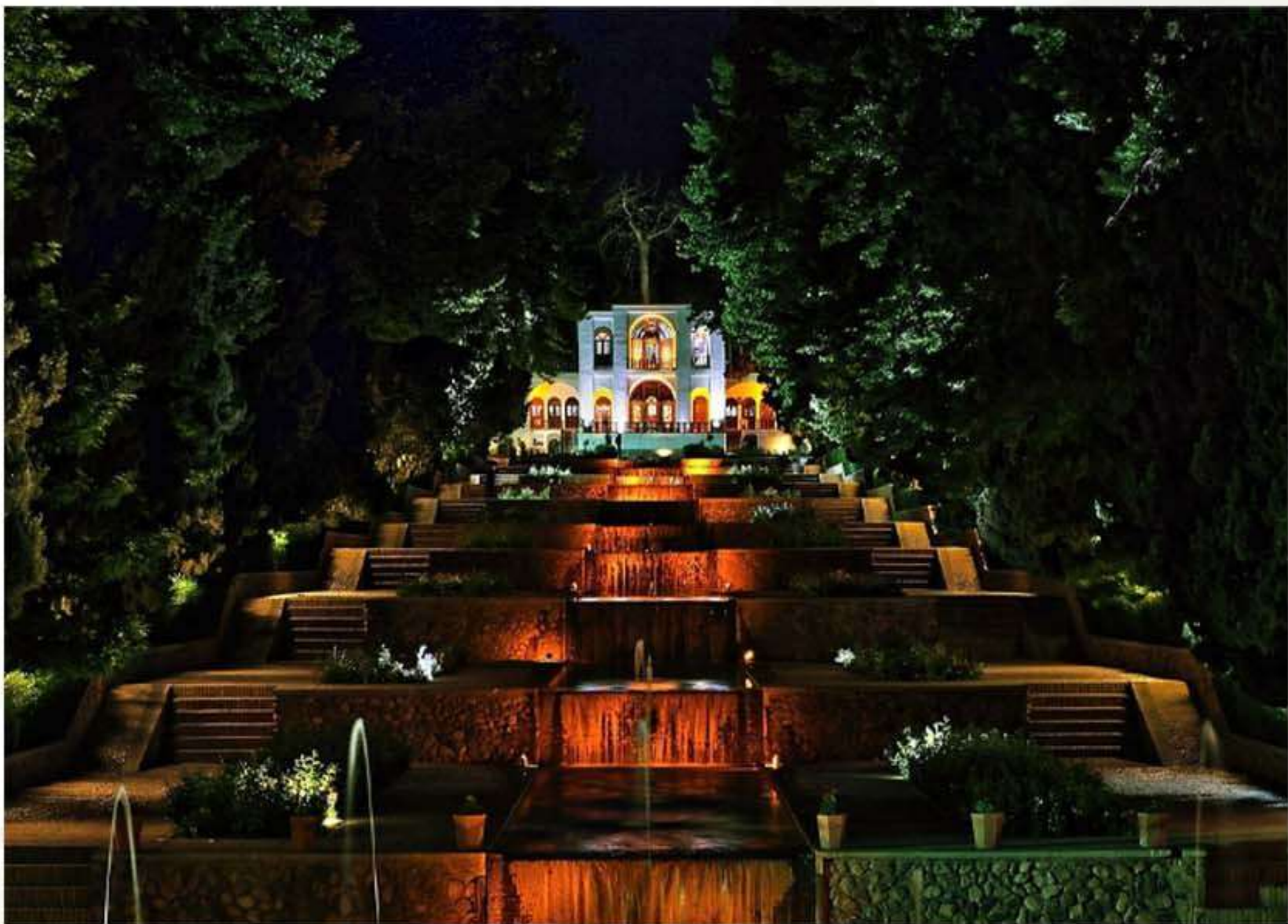
The notion of the Persian Garden permeates Iranian life and its artistic expressions: references to the garden may be found in literature, poetry, music, calligraphy and carpet design. These, in turn, have inspired also the arrangement of the gardens. The attributes that carry Outstanding Universal Value are the layout of the garden expressed by the specific adaptation of the Chahar Bagh within each component and articulated in the kharts or plant/flower beds; the water supply, management and circulation systems from the source to the garden, including all technological and decorative elements that permit the use of water for functional and aesthetic exigencies; the arrangement of trees and plants within the garden that contribute to its characterisation and specific micro-climate; the architectural components, including the buildings but not limited to these, that integrate the use of the terrain and vegetation to create unique manmade environments; the association with other forms of art that, in a mutual interchange, have been influenced by the Persian Garden and have, in turn, contributed to certain visual features and sound effects in the gardens.



(Bagh-e Chehel Sotun)



(Fin Garden in Kashan)



(Shazdeh Mahan Garden)



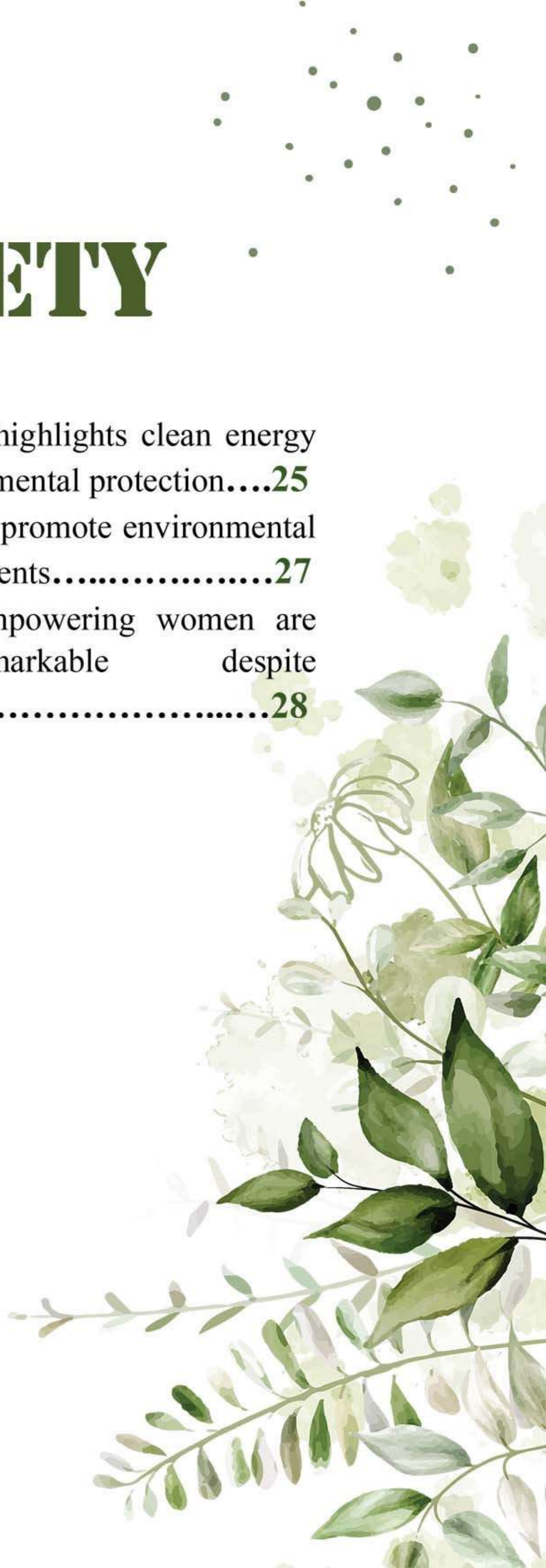
(Eram Garden in Shiraz)



(Dowlatabad Garden in Yazd)

SOCIETY

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Ayatollah Khamenei highlights clean energy development, environmental protection

March 6, 2022

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday emphasized the need to develop non-fossil sources of energy, including renewables, and expand activities to protect the environment.

The destruction of forests and the environment and vegetation is equivalent to the degradation of national interests, and the depletion of part of the forests for construction, except in emergencies, is definitely to the detriment of the nation, he explained.

He made the remarks on the occasion of National Tree Planting Day, which is annually celebrated on the fifteenth day of Esfand, the last month on the Iranian calendar. The day also marks the beginning of the National Week of Natural Resources.

“One of the serious tasks toward protecting the environment is to preserve the two natural assets and vital reserves, namely water and soil, and to avoid taking them for granted. In this line, authorities must pay attention to expert points of view.” Inattention to “wildlife protection” is another issue that will be detrimental to national interests, the Leader said, noting that in Islam, hunting is allowed only if it (human) needs to be fed, otherwise, it is illegal, and even hunting trips are forbidden, so we must take steps to prevent illegal hunting seriously and pay attention to the issue of wildlife conservation.

Emphasizing the need to develop clean energy, he said that “the development of non-fossil energies, such as nuclear energy, which is increasingly used in the world and the countries of the region are moving towards it, as well as wind and solar energies, should also be taken seriously.”

The Leader further called on people to plant and protect trees, saying that doing such important works requires national support. Tree planting is among the activities that can prevent the disappearance of forests around and inside cities through expanding vegetation cover.

To mark the occasion, Ayatollah Khamenei planted two fruit tree saplings.



National plan aims to promote environmental protection among students

March 8, 2022

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Education has prepared a plan with the goal of promoting the importance of environmental protection among students nationwide. Called “supporters of the environment”, the plan will be implemented in the next school year (starting September 23), highlighting the environment’s significance in a healthy life, ILNA quoted Sadeq Sattari, an official with the Ministry of Education, as saying on Tuesday.



Preserving vital natural resources, institutionalizing the culture of environmental protection, expanding the society’s knowledge about the environment, and boosting the participation of students in environmental protection activities are among the main objectives of the plan, he explained.

On the occasion of Clean Air Week, nine training packages on environmental literacy as well as procedures for activities and jobs were unveiled on January 22. These works are entitled climate change, biodiversity, waste, ecotourism, sports and environment, sports and civic activities with the aim of enlightening, educating, and promoting environmental culture with special priority on empowering educators, and facilitators to provide appropriate environmental education to members of the community as well as public participation in environmental protection.

Every year, January 19, is the National Clean Air Day in Iran in order to remind and highlight the main factors in maintaining air quality, as well as promoting a sense of responsibility and citizen participation in protecting the urban environment and fulfilling social responsibility for the environment.



Achievements in empowering women are undeniably 'remarkable despite sanctions'

March 9, 2022

TEHRAN – Zahra Ershadi, Iran's ambassador and deputy representative to the United Nations, has said that Iran has made significant progress in empowering women, despite U.S. illegal and inhumane sanctions.

She made the remarks at a meeting of the Security Council on women, peace, and security held.

“The United States-imposed illegal and inhumane sanctions against the country have negatively affected the financing and executing of the programs planned by the Government, civil society, and private sectors aiming at women advancement and empowerment. However, Iran has made significant achievements in this regard.

Women have an undeniable role to play in promoting dialogue and confidence in the peace and security process. It is a well-known fact that encouraging women to participate in the peace process increases the possibility of peace.

As a result, women's participation in the peace process increases the effectiveness of humanitarian aid, enhances civilian protection, contributes to the political settlement of disputes and the maintenance of long-term peace, and accelerates economic reconstruction,” she highlighted.

Referring to the situation of women in the region, she stated that “the Palestinian women and girls continue to suffer because of the decades-long occupation and human rights violations, as well as the Israeli regime’s colonial and apartheid policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In Afghanistan, the current situation has severely affected Afghan women’s rights, including their political and socio-economic rights, such as the right to education, work, and political participation. The Taliban should heed the international community’s call to protect human rights, particularly women’s rights.

Issues concerning women and girls are the responsibility of the General Assembly. The Security Council should only address this issue if it is directly related to the maintenance of international peace and security.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Sanctions run counter to UN Charter, Sustainable Development Goals

March 4, 2022

TEHRAN – Illegal sanctions against nations are in a clear contradiction with the UN Charter and Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Environment chief Ali Salajegheh, has said.



“Fifty years have passed since the world’s first major environmental event, the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm. The establishment of the UNEP as the main coordinating body for environmental activities has played an important role in recognizing and analyzing challenges related to the natural and human environment, developing plans and agreements, and promoting environmental knowledge and information,” he said addressing the closing ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on Thursday in Nairobi, Kenya, IRNA reported.

“Illegal and inhumane economic sanctions against nations, along with their negative consequences for the enjoyment of fundamental human rights are in clear contradiction with the spirit of the UN Charter and the content of the Sustainable Development Goals. Sanctions have hampered timely and cost-effective access to the goods and technologies needed to ensure the ecosystem's safe management and recovery.

During these years, Iran has faced many problems, including the imposed war and unilateral illegal sanctions, which have led to economic challenges and have had an impact on the preservation of the environment as a vital element of human life. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, praised Iran’s approach toward environmental protection.



Iranian researcher wins Humboldt Prize

March 6, 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian researcher, Farzaneh Momtazi, has received the internationally renowned Humboldt Research Award, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Every year, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation grants up to 100 Humboldt Research Awards to leading researchers of all disciplines from abroad in recognition of their academic record to date.

The award amount is €60,000. Award winners are also invited to conduct a research project of their choice at a research institution in Germany in cooperation with specialist colleagues.

Momtazi is a researcher of the National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences, who received a one-year scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in the field of “The effect of climate change on the distribution of amphibians in the Persian Gulf”.

So far, young researchers as well as many experienced scientists from Iran have been able to obtain this valuable research grant, but this is the first time that a researcher in the field of zoology and marine sciences has won this award.



Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung / Foundation

Iran able to produce 600m doses of COVID vaccines annually

March 9, 2022

TEHRAN – Thanks to the capacity of knowledge-based companies, Iran is able to produce 600 million doses of vaccine against coronavirus annually, the head of the Food and Drug Administration, has said.

A total of 21 knowledge-based companies are operating to produce 50 million doses of vaccine monthly and 600 million doses annually, IRNA quoted Bahram Daraei as saying.

Iran is the sixth country in the world and the first country in West Asia to gain the ability to produce the Coronavirus vaccine.

COVIRAN is the first vaccine in West Asia that is in the process of global registration.



Domestically-made vaccines

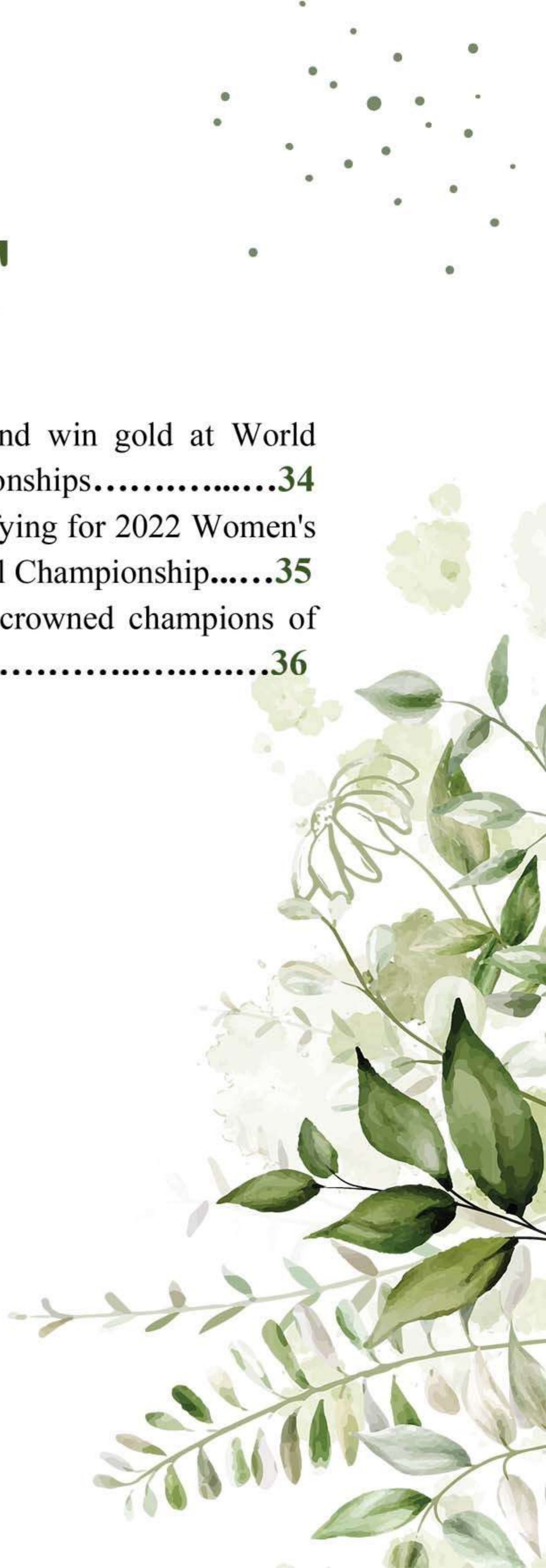
Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN BARKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, Razi Cov Pars is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

Moreover, the Iranian-Australian Spikogen vaccine and Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, are other vaccines, which have received the emergency use license.

SPORT

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Iran's men's compound win gold at World Archery Para Championships

February 26, 2022

TEHRAN – Iran's men's compound team claimed a gold medal at the 2022 World Archery Para Championships.

In the compound open final, Iran's Ramezan Biabani and Hadi Nouri defeated Australia 145-143 to become this year's champion whilst Slovakia beat France 150-141 to take bronze.

The women's event saw Turkey keep their composure to win 150-149 against Russian Archery Federation.

After being tied 148-148 at the end of the match, Iran's Maryam Yavarpour and Farzaneh Asgari succeeded 20-19 in a shoot-off against Britain to secure the bronze medal.

Iran's men's recurve team had previously qualified for the final match.

Gholamreza Rahimi and Asghar Zarei Nejad defeated Turkey 5-3 in the semifinals and will face Britain in the final match on Sunday.

A total of 223 archers from 40 nations compete in the championships in the United Arab Emirates.

The event started on Feb. 22 in Dubai, and finished on Feb. 27.



Iran on brink of qualifying for 2022 Women's Junior World Handball Championship

March 13, 2022

TEHRAN – Iran is on the verge of qualifying for the 2022 Women's Junior World Handball Championship after defeating Uzbekistan 25-21 in the 2022 Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship on Sunday.

Iran lost to Kazakhstan 30-24 in their opening match but defeated India (42-37) and Thailand (28-21) in their next matches.



The Championship is the 16th edition of the championship scheduled to be held from Mar. 7 to 14 in Almaty, Kazakhstan under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

Kazakhstan, Iran, Uzbekistan, India and Thailand compete in the edition.

It's the fifth time in history that the championship is be organized by the Kazakhstan Handball Federation.

It also acts as the qualification tournament for the 2022 Women's Junior World Handball Championship, with top two teams from the championship directly qualifying for the event to be held in Slovenia.

On Monday, Kazakhstan will play Uzbekistan and India meet Thailand.

Iran will advance to the world championship if end the competition as top two finishers.

Iran's women's U18 crowned champions of CAFA

March 15, 2022

TEHRAN – Not so long ago, the Iranian women teams were a footballing minnow but today, they can win title in the international event. In the CAFA U18 Women's Championship, the Iranian girls showed how strong they are.

Iran, headed by Maryam Azmoun, won the title in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with three wins over Uzbekistan (1-0), Tajikistan (11-0) and Kyrgyz Republic (2-1). What a wonderful result.

Iranian women football players have been beyond the expectations in the recent years.

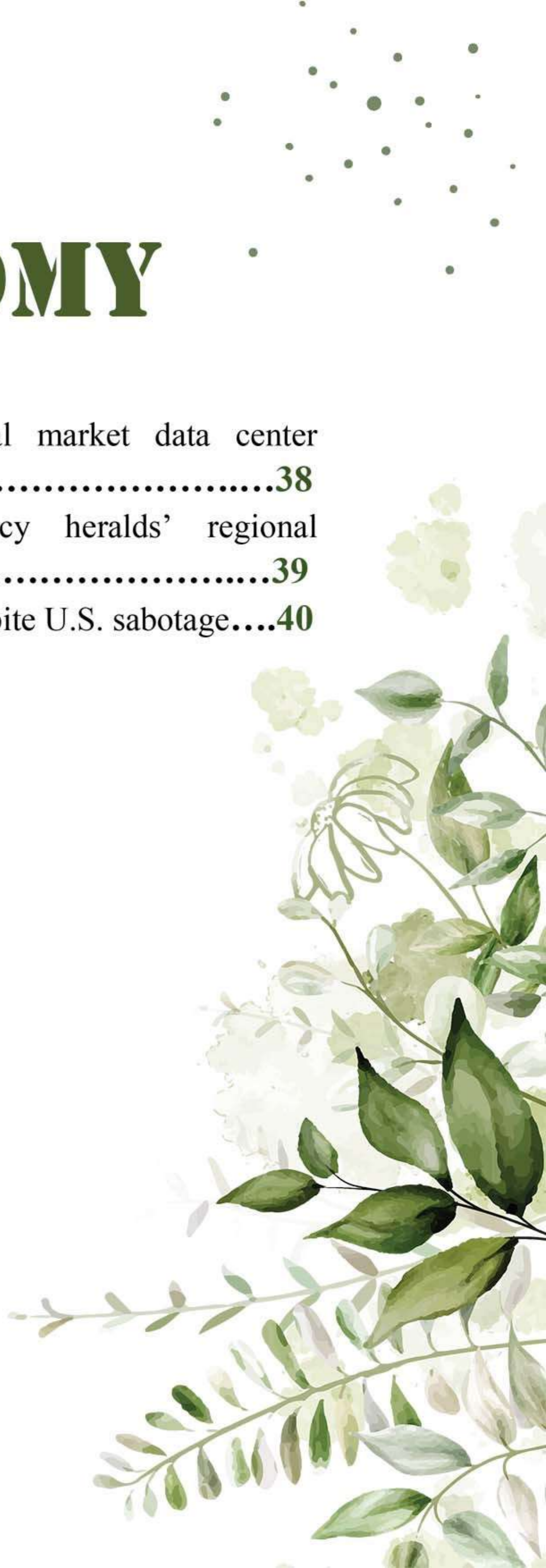
In January, Iran took part in the AFC Women's Asian Cup for the first time. It is a proud moment for them. They failed to book their place in the next stage but they found a path to success.

The Iranian sportswomen have a bright future ahead. The attention is all they need because the Iranian women, in the recent years, have shown they are capable of achieving great things.



ECONOMY

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Iran's biggest capital market data center launched

March 6, 2022

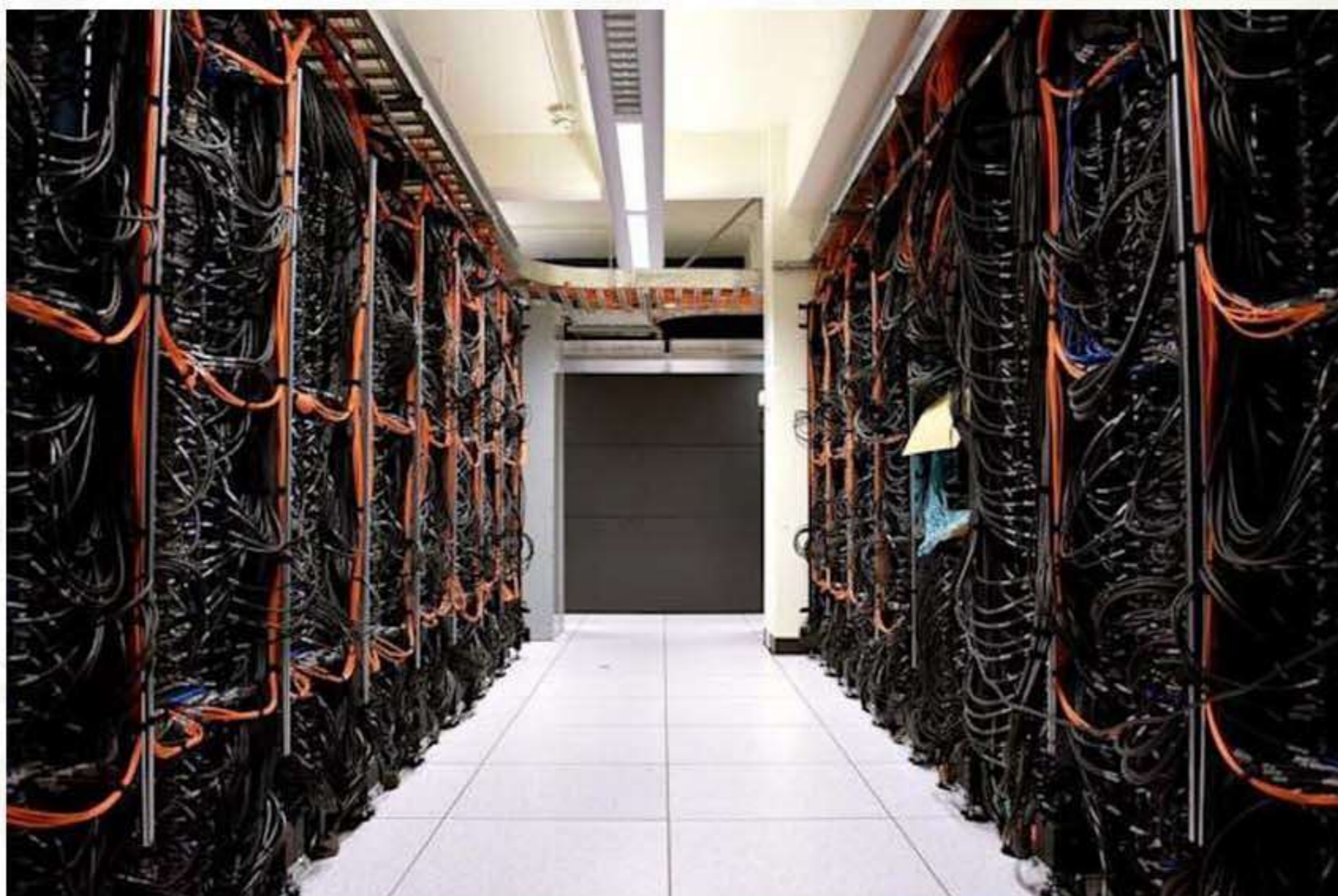
TEHRAN – Iran's largest and most advanced capital market data center was officially opened in a ceremony on Sunday, IRIB reported.

Held at the place of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), the opening ceremony was attended by Head of Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi as well as SEO board members and senior managers active in the stock market.

The center has been established with the aim of stabilizing and developing technology infrastructure in all areas of processing, storage, and security in order to protect the interests of shareholders and meet the technological needs of the capital market.

As reported, this data center is an effective step in reducing security risks, developing electronic and intelligent services in the capital market, while providing the necessary platform for future development plans.

Providing data to brokers and order management systems (OMS) are also among the services that can be provided by this operational data processing center.



Iran trade diplomacy heralds' regional stability

March 12, 2022

TEHRAN- Since Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi took office back in August 2021, Tehran has broadened its focus on boosting ties with the regional and neighboring countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has international borders with 13 countries. Iran shares a total of 5,894 km of land borders with its neighboring countries including Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. It also has a total of 2,440 km of coastline, sharing maritime borders with six other countries, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Given its strategic geographical location, the Islamic Republic has enormous potential for promoting and facilitating trade in the region.

The International North-South Transport Corridor is a 7,200-kilometer-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road routes for moving freight between Iran, India, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, Central Asia and Europe. If implemented, the strategic route can enhance trade connectivity among the regional countries.

At the same time, Iran's rich mineral reserves ranging from iron ore to gold plus cheap energy have always attracted interest from foreign investors. To put things in perspective, the country holds a percent of the world's population and a massive seven percent of the total minerals in the world.

Iran is already known as the anchor of stability and security in West Asia.

Good diplomacy with the neighbors, including the expansion of trade ties with neighboring states, tops the agenda of the new Iranian government. Tehran's innovative trade diplomacy can further promote peace and stability in the region and beyond by securing the interests of the sovereign regional states and engaging them in constructive interaction.



Oil exports rising despite U.S. sabotage

March 12, 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has said Iran’s oil exports are still on the rise despite the U.S. seizure of Iranian tankers in recent months, Fars news agency reported.

“The United States has, on several occasions in the past months, violated Iranian oil tankers to prevent the export of shipments,” Javad Oji said on Saturday.

“When the enemy realized it could not stop our exports and contracts, they went after our ships,” the minister added.

His remarks follow reports of a recent seizure of an Iranian oil tanker in the Bahamas, even as talks in Vienna to revive a 2015 nuclear deal are still underway.

“Iran's oil exports have risen under the toughest sanctions and without waiting for the outcome of the Vienna talks,” said Oji.

The increase was thanks to “different methods used to win contracts and finding different buyers,” the official added.

Tehran's oil exports have been limited since former U.S. President Donald Trump in 2018 exited the 2015 nuclear accord and reimposed sanctions.

Iran views U.S. sanctions as illegal and has said it will make every effort to sidestep them.





Islamic Culture and Relations
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