



Cultural Consulate of the Embassy of
the Islamic Republic of Iran in South Africa

IRAN

FOCUS

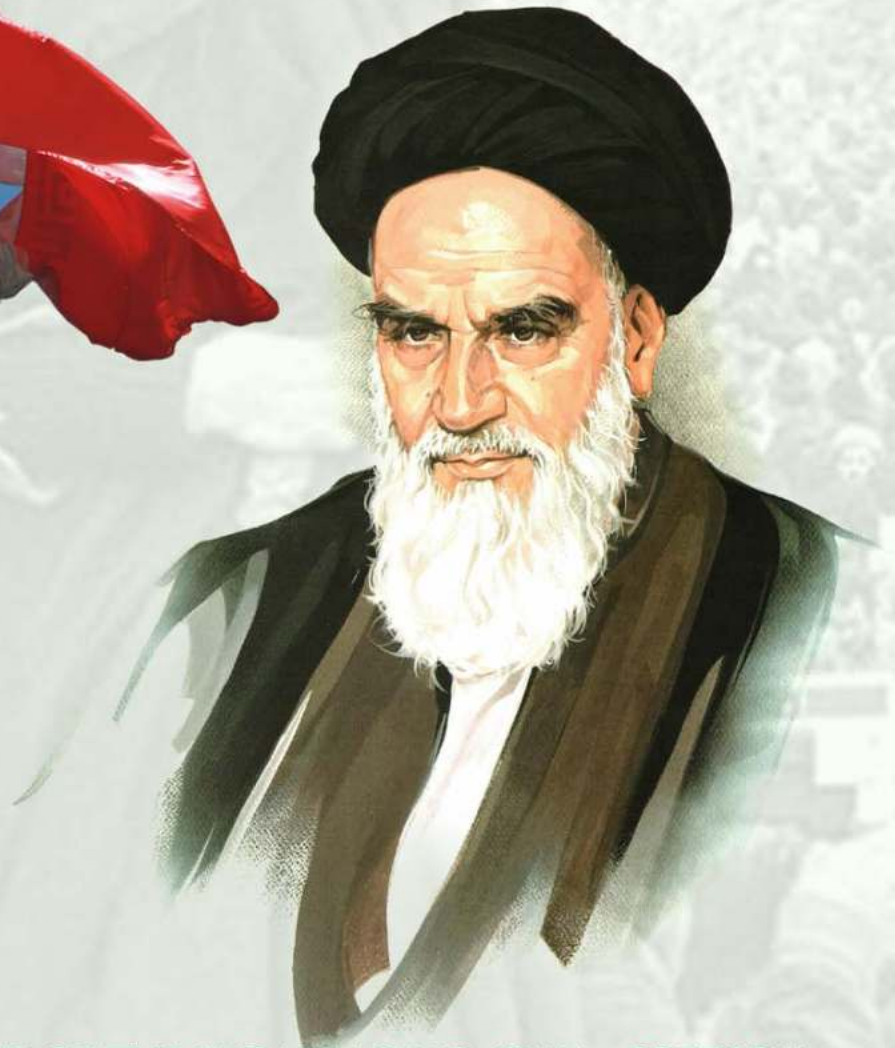


A LOOK AT REAL IRAN IN MONTHLY NEWS

February

2022

Issue No.47



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

IN THE NAME OF GOD
THE MERCIFUL
THE COMPASSIONATE





Islamic Culture and Relations
Organization

IRAN FOCUS

A LOOK AT REAL IRAN IN MONTHLY NEWS

February

2022

Issue No.47

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

350 Cameron Street Brooklyn, Pretoria 0181

Tel : 3180 346 012

<http://pretoria.icro.ir/>

Cciran.africa@gmail.com

 [icro.sa](https://www.instagram.com/icro.sa)



INTRODUCTION

The movement of the Islamic Revolution is an uprising against the barbarous values that have brought about oppression and also class and racial discrimination

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.



CONTENTS



POLICY

1

ART & CULTURE

7



SOCIETY

23



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

27



SPORT

32

ECONOMY

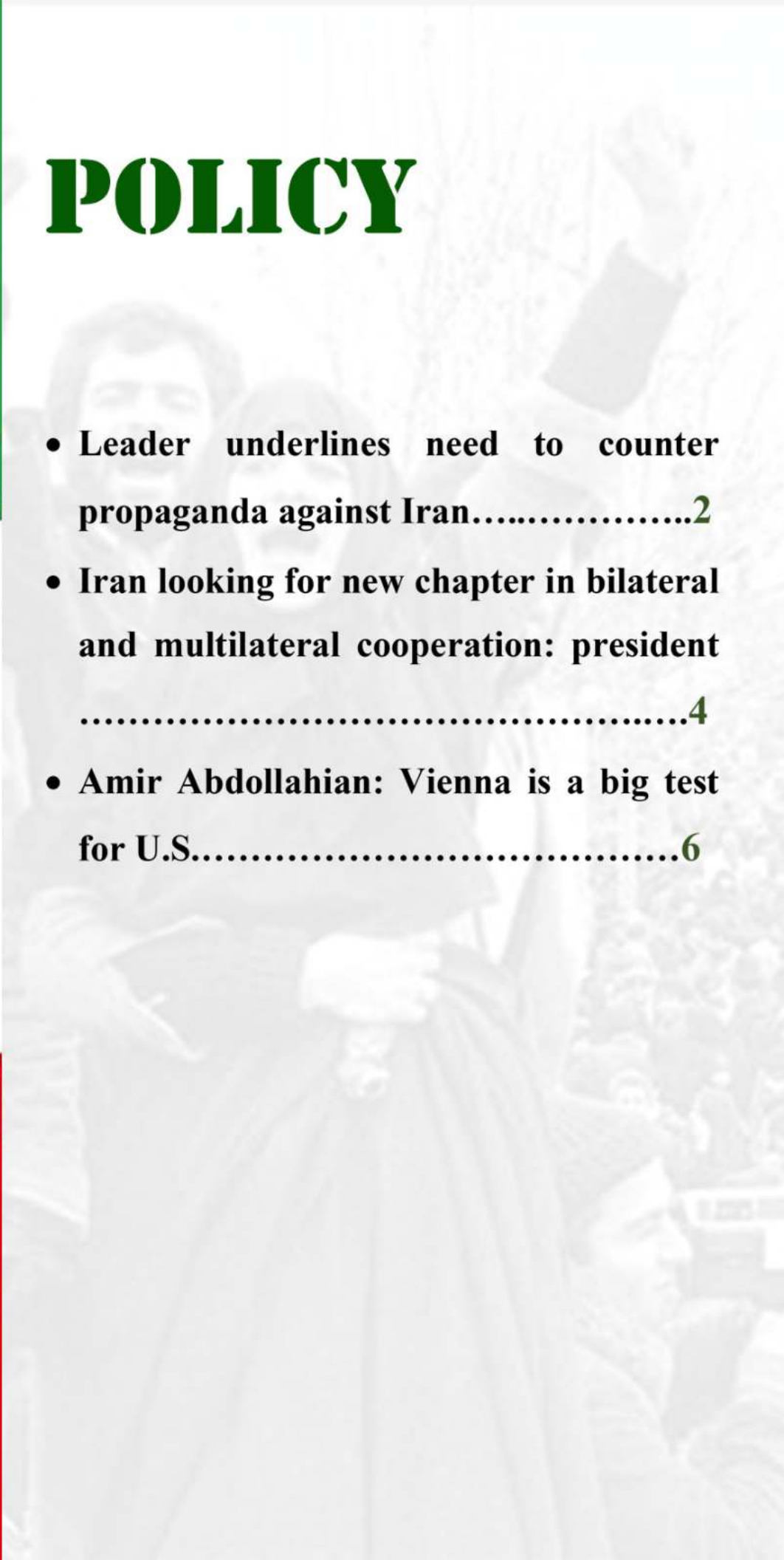
38



POLICY



- **Leader underlines need to counter propaganda against Iran.....2**
- **Iran looking for new chapter in bilateral and multilateral cooperation: president4**
- **Amir Abdollahian: Vienna is a big test for U.S.....6**



LEADER UNDERLINES NEED TO COUNTER **PROPAGANDA AGAINST IRAN**



February 8, 2022

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has underlined the need for proactive countermeasures against the enemies’ propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

The Leader shed light on the enemies’ efforts to distort the truth about the Islamic Republic and the achievements it has made throughout its history.



The Leader pointed to an important issue that is the Jihad of Explanation. Jihad is a sacred struggle by believers against enemies. And the Jihad of Explanation, therefore, means that believers should take on the sacred role of explaining. But explaining what?

Ayatollah Khamenei has introduced this concept to shed light on the need to counter negative narratives being pushed by the enemies which mostly overplay the shortcomings and downplay the breakthroughs the Islamic Republic has made over the last four decades.

“Today, countering the enemy’s push to distort the realities, achievements, progresses, and epic measures of the Islamic establishment requires a defensive move and a hybrid offensive based on the urgent and definite task of the Jihad of Explanation,” the Leader said.

The concept of the Jihad of Explanation centers around media work intended to combat propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

The Leader said there are media outlets that promote “professional lies” against Iran and Islam and distort the truth.

The outlets, the Leader continued, cover up the Shah regime’s ugly face and treasons and sugarcoat it instead. According to the Leader, they make efforts to sully the reputation of the Islamic Republic with all its achievements and people. To counter this media blitz, Ayatollah Khamenei said, the Jihad of Explanation is a must.

“In order to resolve the problems and nullify the sanctions, everyone must react strongly against the efforts being made to pollute our people’s minds. By spreading propaganda, the enemies are trying to make us despondent about the bright future as promised by the Leader; they also are trying to conceal their weak points,” the author added.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks before a group of the commanders and staff of the Army Air Force. The Leader met with the commanders on the occasion of the anniversary of the historic pledging allegiance of Air Force commanders with Imam Khomeini on February 8, 1979, which was a pivotal nail in the coffin of the Shah regime.

The Leader said the huge impact of the Air Force pledging allegiance to Imam Khomeini on the course of events was made possible due to sound media work and proper narration of the events.

Ayatollah Khamenei praised the pledge of allegiance from the Air Force as a smart move rooted in intuition. “This move also indicated that the calculus of America and the ominous Pahlavi regime was wrong. And they were dealt a blow whence they never expected.”

The Leader said today too, the U.S. calculus is wrong. “The U.S. is receiving a blow from a place it never expected. Today the two U.S. presidents - the former and the current president - have joined hands to ruin whatever was left of the U.S. reputation, and they're doing it. They are weakening the U.S., and this will continue,” the Leader pointed out.

Ayatollah Khamenei added, “Whenever the camp of truth enters the field to confront the camp of falsehood, the enemy makes miscalculations despite all its superficial, hollow power and splendor. The Army Air Force’s blow to the decaying body of the Pahlavi regime on February 8, 1979, was an example of this.”

IRAN LOOKING FOR NEW CHAPTER IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION



February 11, 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday laid out the principles and characteristics of his administration’s foreign policy in a meeting with foreign ambassadors, heads of foreign missions and organizations in Tehran. Speaking a day before the celebration of the 43rd anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Raisi expressed hope that the current year would be “the year of peace and excellence of high human values.”



The 43rd anniversary of the revolution rolls around on February 11. But Iran commemorates the period from February 1 to February 11 every year to mark the consequential ten days from the arrival of Imam Khomeini to the country to the total overthrow of the Shah regime ten days later in 1979. This period is known as the Ten-Day Dawn. During the commemoration of the victory of the Revolution, Iran’s high-ranking officials often deliver speeches. On Friday, the president also delivered speech at the Imam Khomeini Mosallah which coincided with the anniversary of the Revolution.

Addressing foreign diplomats, Ayatollah Raisi described the clear message of the Islamic Revolution as the denial of hegemony and domination, defending the oppressed and the right to self-determination. "These ideals are universal values, disagreement with which means denying human and moral values, and the proud Iranian nation still stand by these ideals," he stated.



On celebration of the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the president said, "This revolution is the product of the people's deep belief in the transcendent principles and values of Islam, freedom, justice, and intelligent leadership."

Ayatollah Raisi stated, "The strategic thought of the Islamic Republic of Iran is rooted in the school of Imam Khomeini (RA), the founder of the Islamic Revolution and the concept of pure Islam."

Ayatollah Raisi described comprehensiveness, dynamism and intelligence as the characteristics of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy, adding, "The foreign policy of the popular administration, since the beginning of its office, has been based on the Supreme Leader's guidelines, which are 'maximum interaction with neighboring countries and allies', 'attention to the capacity of regional and international organizations' and 'development of economic diplomacy.'"

Ayatollah Raisi stated, "Development of relations with neighboring countries and Asia and the activation of economic diplomacy... is one of the priorities of the diplomatic apparatus, but due to balanced, dynamic and intelligent foreign policy, special attention is paid to deepening relations and increasing cooperation with the aim of benefiting from reciprocal capacities with other geographical regions such as Africa, Latin America and Europe."

The president continued that Iran enjoys "unique investment opportunities, suitable domestic market, privileged geographical position along with stable and continuous internal security."

VIENNA IS A BIG TEST FOR U.S.



February 11, 2022

TEHRAN — On the sidelines of President Ebrahim Raisi’s meeting with foreign ambassadors residing in Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that Vienna is a big litmus test for the United States.



“Today in Vienna there is a big test for the United States and the West to show their real behavior to the international community,” Amir Abdollahian said.

The Iranian diplomats in Vienna are negotiating to lift the oppressive sanctions, the top diplomat asserted.

He added, “We are present at the negotiating table with seriousness, plan and initiative, and we are determined to reach a good agreement.”

Pointing out that the new government’s approach is popular and transformational, the foreign minister added, “The new government’s approach is pragmatic and it seeks to implement the concluded documents, as well as the postponed laws. This issue is also pursued in foreign policy.”

He stressed that Iran pursues development of bilateral relations based on common interests and equality.

“We have a special view on regional and international cooperation,” the foreign minister added.

Pointing to the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the top diplomat said Iranians have shown throughout history that they answer “dignity with dignity and threats with resistance, and mutual language.”

ART & CULTURE

- Iranian musicians win medals at Global Music Awards.....8
- “World’s Smile” by Marzieh Hushmand wins grand prix at Paralympic Art World Cup.....10
- “Ghost Boys” comes to Iranian bookstores.....11
- Leader praises Moustapha Akkad, Anthony Quinn for “The Message”12
- Gen. Soleimani’s secrets on Operation Valfajr 8 revealed in documentary.....13
- President Raisi visits Fajr visual art festival.....15
- “The Situation of Mehdi” tops on leaked Fajr Film Fest winners list.....16
- Play blending Attar tale, Shakespeare tragedy tops at Fajr Intl. Theater Festival.....18
- Iran launches global prize to honor studies on Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi.....19
- Pasargadae.....20



IRANIAN MUSICIANS WIN MEDALS AT GLOBAL MUSIC AWARDS



January 31, 2022

TEHRAN – Several Iranian musicians have won medals in different categories at the 2022 Global Music Awards.

Composer Farhad Harati won a gold medal for his cinematic choral music, “The Sacred Earth”.

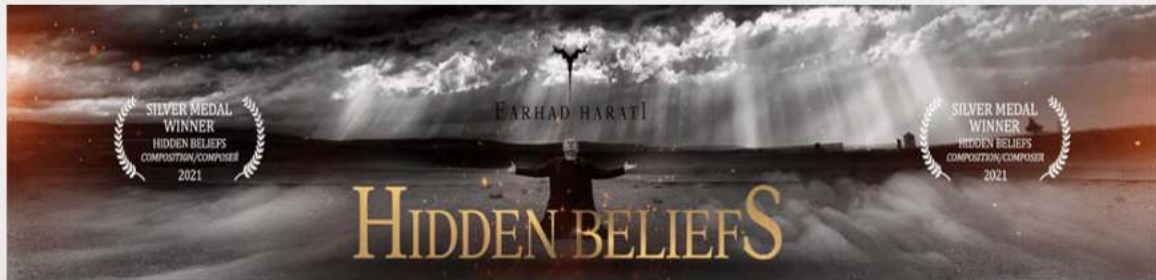
In 2021, Harati received a silver medal at the Global Music Awards for “Hidden Beliefs”.



He is the founder of the Naamira Music Academy. Early on, his interest in composing music was more than his interest in playing others’ works.

Throughout years, he appeared on the stage by holding numerous concerts to show his musical thoughts. Having trained his voice as a tenor singer, he performed the solo pieces in all his concerts.

Receiving orders and holding concerts for some of the agencies of the United Nation’s office in Iran are among the other successful experiences of the composer. He always chooses subjects for his compositions by paying careful attention to his surrounding environment and taking a curious look at social anomalies and behaviors.



His strong inclination to producing instrumental music in classical music, epic and word music genres has led this composer, with his transnational outlook, to invite his listeners to a challenge in listening, thinking and creativity in mental fantasies. Among his credits are the albums “Zero Limitation”, “The Pacific Sun”, “Gray Lone”, “The Lady of Shadows” and “The Silence Season”.

Ahmad Mirmasumi, another Iranian composer, also was awarded silver medals in the composition and sound mixing categories in this year’s gala.

Amir-Hossein Nuri “White Dream” won a bronze medal in the listener impact: motivational/inspirational category, while Hafez Niknafs “Epic No.1” received a bronze medal in the composition section.

Pejman Bolurchi’s “Nature Dance” was also awarded a bronze medal in the music video and instrumentalist categories.



“WORLD’S SMILE”



BY MARZIEH HUSHMAND WINS GRAND PRIX

AT PARALYM ART WORLD CUP

February 4, 2022

TEHRAN – The Paralympic Art World Cup 2021 has given its grand prix to Iranian artist Marzieh Hushmand for her painting “World’s Smile”.

The 2021 edition of the competition, which is organized in Nakama, Japan, for artists with disabilities, was held on the theme of “Smile”.

“World’s Smile” depicts a Black boy sitting on the globe creating bubbles with smiling faces.

“Vaccine” by Ali Bahrami from Iran also won the Kushino Nobumasa Award, while his compatriot Marzieh Baqeri-Chizeh received a Paralympic Award for her painting, “Embroidered Art”.

Hossein Divsalar, the Iranian cultural attaché in Tokyo, received the awards on behalf of the Iranian artists in a special ceremony attended by Nakama Mayor Kenji Fukuda and representatives of organizations sponsoring the competition, the Iranian Cultural Center in Tokyo announced on Thursday.

“Smile of Peace” by Tajiri Hajime and “The Joy of Life” by Yagi Hidetomo, both from Japan were selected as runners-up.

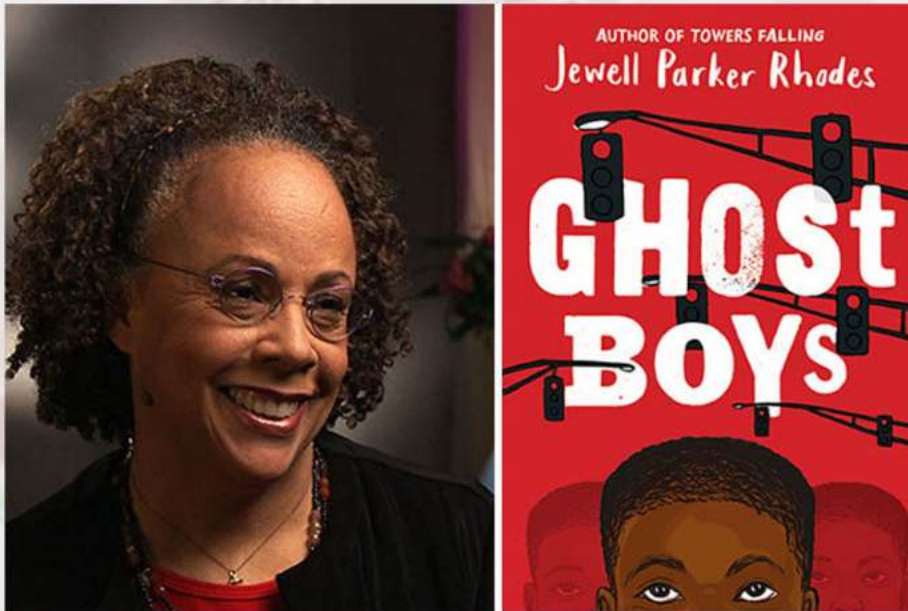


“GHOST BOYS” COMES TO IRANIAN BOOKSTORES



February 4, 2022

TEHRAN – “Ghost Boys” by American writer Jewell Parker Rhodes has been published in Persian by Peydayesh in Tehran.



Behnaz Piri is the translator of the book originally published in 2018.

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that’s been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today’s world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

She is the author of seven books for children including the New York Times bestseller “Black Brother, Black Brother”. Her other books include “Towers Falling”, and the “Louisiana Girls Trilogy: Ninth Ward, Sugar and Bayou Magic”. Jewell has received numerous honors, including the American Book Award, the National Endowment of the Arts Award in Fiction, the Black Caucus of the American Library Award for Literary Excellence, the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for Outstanding Writing, and a Coretta Scott King Honor.

LEADER PRAISES MOUSTAPHA AKKAD **ANTHONY QUINN FOR “THE MESSAGE”**



February 5, 2022

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has praised Syrian-American director Moustapha Akkad for his 1976 movie “The Message” and Mexican-American actor Anthony Quinn for playing the role of Hamza in the epic on the rise of Islam.



He made the remarks during a meeting in Tehran with the organizers of an international conference on Hamza (AS), uncle of the Prophet Muhammad (S), held by Al-Mustafa International University in Qom last Thursday.

“Actually, God bless Moustapha Akkad, and we should thank him for making ‘The Message’, a great film in which part of the life story of the great personality [Hamza] is portrayed by a celebrated and wonderful actor. It’s really amazing; he has been able to depict part of the life of the great man rather well,” the Leader said.

“He [Hamza] was an anonymous companion of the Prophet (S), despite his great role, then he confirmed his belief in Islam and revealed himself as a Muslim openly,” he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei said that Hamza remained anonymous despite the great role he played in the victory of Muslims in several wars and the history of Islam.

He also urged filmmakers to consider the life stories of other companions of the Prophet (S), including Ammar, Salman Farsi, Miqdad ibn al-Aswad al-Kindi and Jafar ibn Abi Talib, in their movies.

“It would be impossible to reach the goal by any other means except art, otherwise it may remain imperfect,” he noted.

GEN. SOLEIMANI'S SECRETS ON OPERATION VALFAJR 8 REVEALED IN DOCUMENTARY



February 8, 2022

TEHRAN – A new documentary film revealing Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani's untold stories on Operation Valfajr 8 was released.

The documentary entitled "When the Night-Time Storm Broke" has been directed by Amir Asgari at the School of Hajji Qassem Foundation.

It is scheduled to be broadcast from the Mostanad Channel, an IRIB channel dedicated to screening documentary films, on Wednesday on the anniversary of the operation that is considered to be one of Iran's greatest achievements in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.



The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' 41st Sarallah Division commanded by Soleimani was one of Iran's divisions that took part in the operation.

"This documentary could have been produced during General Soleimani's lifetime, but he never let us do it," Asgari said during the release of the documentary at the foundation.

"In response to our proposal to make the documentary, he humbly told us to focus on the division's role in the operation without any allusion to his presence," he added.

"As a result, the documentary was never made because it would not have been fair to produce it without reference to his key role in the operation."

Asgari had also carried out an interview with General Soleimani in 2013, however, he wouldn't allow it to be published during his lifetime.

Parts of the documentary also feature interviews Asgari did with Soleimani and several other IRGC chiefs, while he accompanied them on a visit to the former warzones where Operation Valfajr 8 was carried out.

Abbas Mirzai, the writer of several books on the war and the 41st Sarallah Division, including "Bumpy Roads to Imamzadeh", has made great contributions to the research for the documentary.

Asgari said that the Arvand River was calm during the reconnaissance missions for Valfajr 8, but it was stormy on the night when the operation was launched.

"It was very difficult to cross the river amid the storm," Asgari noted.

Operation Valfajr 8 was launched by Iran on February 9, 1986. It was a sophisticated and carefully planned amphibious assault across the Arvand River against the Iraqi troops defending the strategic Al-Faw peninsula, which connects Iraq to the Persian Gulf.

Iran defeated the Iraqi defenders, mostly the Iraqi Popular Army, capturing the tip of the peninsula, including Iraq's main air control and warning center covering the Persian Gulf, as well as limiting Iraq's access to the ocean.

Iran managed to maintain their foothold in Al-Faw against several Iraqi counter-offensives, including Republican Guard assaults and chemical attacks, for another month despite heavy casualties until a stalemate was reached.

The operation was the initial part of the First Battle of Al-Faw that was fought on the Al-Faw peninsula between 10 February and 10 March 1986.

By this operation, the Iranians were able to capture the Al-Faw peninsula, cutting off Iraqi access to the Persian Gulf in the process. The peninsula was later recaptured by Iraqi forces near the end of the war by the massive use of illegal chemical weapons.

PRESIDENT RAISI VISITS FAJR VISUAL ART FESTIVAL



February 11, 2022

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi visited an exhibition of the 14th Fajr Festival of Visual Arts.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili and a number of the organizers accompanied Raisi on his visit to “Mirror on the Mirror”, an exhibition of the festival underway at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. The exhibit is dedicated to showcasing a collection of artworks on the Islamic Revolution.

“An artwork can represent hours of speeches and materials discussed in a book in one single image, sustaining the messages of the speeches and the book for use by several generations,” the president said during a speech made after his visit to the exhibition.



“For people with any language in any era, artwork is expressive and doesn’t need to be interpreted or explained,” he added.

Raisi stressed the need to develop the art market to improve artists’ standard of living, and said that the culture ministry must provide the necessary facilities to offer artworks in an appropriate way.

In order to sustain the presence of art in the public arena, he asked cultural officials to use Iranian embassies across world, organizations, recreational parks and other public centers for showcasing artworks.

He also pointed to the key role that art can play in international diplomacy and asked cultural officials to fully exploit the country’s art potential to boost cultural relations with other nations, especially with neighboring countries.

“THE SITUATION OF MEHDI” TOPS ON LEAKED FAJR FILM FEST WINNERS LIST

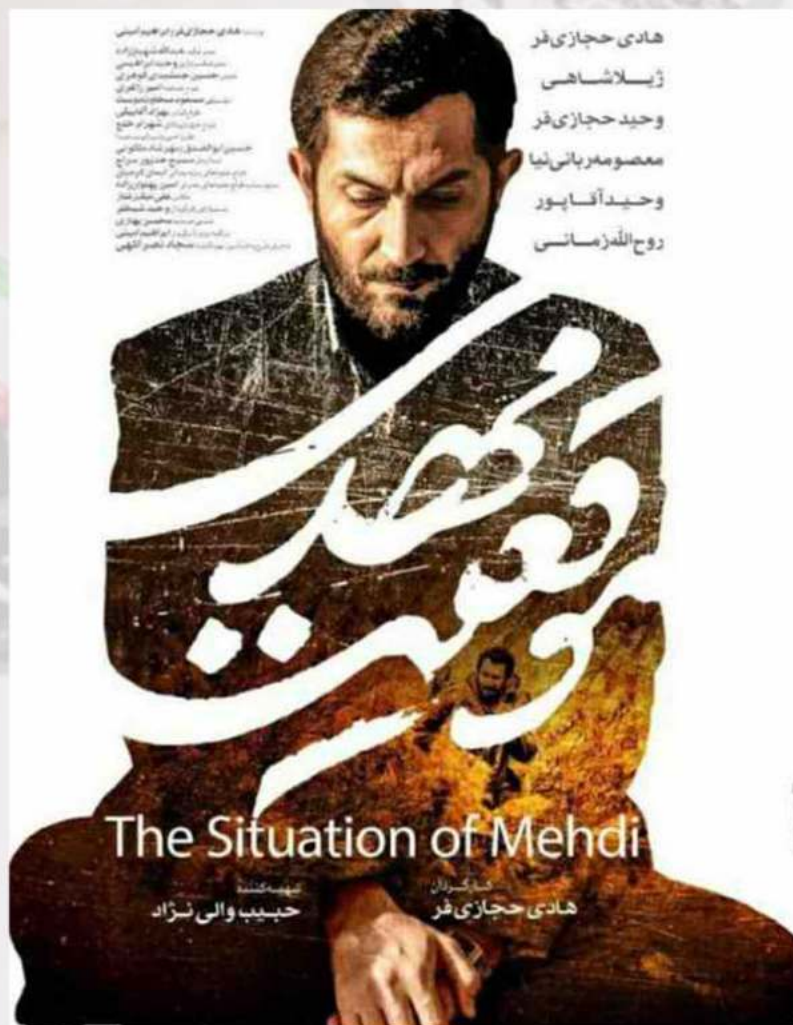


February 12, 2022

TEHRAN – War drama “The Situation of Mehdi” was crowned best at the 40th Fajr Film Festival on Friday night although everyone at the awards ceremony already knew the results since the winners list had been leaked.

Directed by Hadi Hejazifar, the film portrays the life story of Mehdi Bakeri, the chief of IRGC 31st Shura Division that carried out several major operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

“The Situation of Mehdi” garnered several other awards, including the award for best directorial debut for Hejazifar.



Reza Mirkarimi, who was absent at the closing ceremony, was selected as best director for his film “The Night Guardian” and the film’s star Turaj Alvand received the award in his behalf.

The special jury award was given to director Amir-Hossein Asgari for “The Last Snow”, which brought Amin Hayai the Crystal Simorgh for best actor.

The award for best screenplay went to “The Meadow” written and directed by Kazem Daneshi.

Tannaz Tabatabai was named best actress for her role in director Arian Vazirdaftari’s drama “Without Her”.

The Golden Simorgh for best film from the national point of view was awarded to “No Prior Appointment” directed by Behruz Shoeibi.

Director Ahmadreza Motamedi also received a lifetime achievement award.

The following is a list of other winners at the festival.

Best supporting actor: Nader Soleimani for “The Opposition”.

Best supporting actress: Sadaf Espahbodi for “The Meadow”.

Best documentary: “Moribund” directed by Hojjat Taheri.

Best short film: “Bonus” by Reza Nejati.



PLAY BLENDING ATTAR TALE SHAKESPEARE TRAGEDY TOPS AT FAJR INTL. THEATER FESTIVAL



February 16, 2022

TEHRAN – “A Requiem for Julius Caesar and Several Birds of Simorgh” has won awards in several categories, including best play, at the 40th Fajr International Theater Festival.

Directed by Mojtaba Rostamifar, the play blends William Shakespeare’s drama “The Tragedy of Julius Caesar” and the story of Simorgh, the mysterious bird from Persian poet Attar’s masterpiece “The Conference of the Birds”.

The closing ceremony of the festival was held on Tuesday at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall. Baqer Soroush was selected as best playwright for his “Old Age”, written based on Shakespeare’s tragedy “King Lear”, in which King Lear of Britain decides to divide his realm among his three daughters due to his old age and to retire from the duties of the monarchy.

The following is a list of other winners at the festival:

Best actress:

Nora Hashemi for “My Fair Lady”.

Best actor:

Tinu Salehi for “The Buckle”.

Best composer:

William Nayyeri for “My Fair Lady”.



IRAN LAUNCHES GLOBAL PRIZE **TO HONOR STUDIES ON PERSIAN POET** **NEZAMI GANJAVI**



February 16, 2022

TEHRAN – The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO announced on Tuesday the launch of an international prize to celebrate studies from across the world on the Persian poet Nemazi Ganjavi.

The studies must throw the spotlight on the significance and impacts of Nezami on Persian language, literature, art and culture, the prize policymaking council said in a press release.

The prize will be presented on Nezami Day, which will fall on March 12 this year. “Due to our negligence, different aspects of Nazemi have been introduced among the younger generation and this negligence has caused some movements,” Iranian National Commission for UNESCO Hojjatollah Ayyubi said in a meeting with the council.

“Different books on Nezami’s works have been translated across the world this year, but none of them have referred to his language and identity origin,” he added. He noted that the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO plans to hold the Persian poet in high regard in UNESCO programs more than ever.

He said that the National Museum of Iran plans a commemorative event for Nezami, which will be followed by another cultural program in Tafresh.

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.

PASARGADAE



Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Cyrus II the Great, in Pars, homeland of the Persians, in the 6th century BC. Its palaces, gardens and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization. Particularly noteworthy vestiges in the 160-ha site include: the Mausoleum of Cyrus II; Tall-e Takht, a fortified terrace; and a royal ensemble of gatehouse, audience hall, residential palace and gardens. Pasargadae was the capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia. Spanning the Eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindus River, it is considered to be the first empire that respected the cultural diversity of its different peoples. This was reflected in Achaemenid architecture, a synthetic representation of different cultures.

Founded in the 6th century BC in the heartland of the Persians (today the province of Fars in southwestern Iran), Pasargadae was the earliest capital of the Achaemenid (First Persian) Empire. The city was created by Cyrus the Great with contributions from the different peoples who comprised the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia. The archaeological remains of its palaces and garden layout as well as the tomb of Cyrus constitute an outstanding example of the first phase of the evolution of royal Achaemenid art and architecture, and an exceptional testimony to the Achaemenid civilisation in Persia. The “Four Gardens” type of royal ensemble, which was created in Pasargadae, became a prototype for Western Asian architecture and design.







SOCIETY

- **Female Iranian students runner up at IDA 2022.....24**
- **Intl. support for refugees in Iran should be strengthened.....25**
- **Over 2,900 educational projects inaugurated countrywide.....26**



FEMALE IRANIAN STUDENTS RUNNER UP **AT IDA 2022**



January 23, 2022

TEHRAN – Three industrial design students of Tehran’s Al-Zahra University won second place in the educational toy design category of the International Design Awards (IDA 2022).

Created in 2007, the International Design Awards aims to recognize, celebrate and promote exceptional design visionaries and discover emerging talent in Architecture, Interior, Product, Graphic, and Fashion Design worldwide.

The annual IDA competition is held in five categories of Architectural Design, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, and Product Design.

Parnian Jamali, Najmeh Fanoudi, and Sajedeh Ashrafpour proposed a project called “Greeone”, and won the silver rank in the educational toy design category.

Greeone is designed for children aged 6 to 9 and its main goal is to bring children closer to nature and highlight togetherness. As all components of this product are durable and can be recycled or reused.

The game begins with solving five puzzle pieces in the shape of a mountain that represents five continents, then the child plants 5 microgreens and takes care of them until they grow, and then harvest the plants and use them in food.



INTL. SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES IN IRAN **SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED**



January 31, 2022

TEHRAN – Ivo Freijsen, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representative in Iran, said that international support for Iran should be strengthened given the presence of millions of refugees in the country.

He made the remarks in a meeting with deputy interior minister Seyed Majid Mirahmadi, which was held in Tehran on Monday.

“We seek to obtain international funding through various consultations,” he further stated, highlighting that we are aware of the hardships and problems of Iran in support of refugees despite the oppressive sanctions.

Despite the difficult path and the lack of funds, we must maintain our morale and motivation in this humanitarian field, however, the Islamic Republic has always shown that it supports refugees despite all the difficulties, he emphasized.

“We must keep in mind that the surest strategy for managing this challenge is the voluntary return of citizens to their country, which is done by the maintenance of peace and stability in the home country, therefore all efforts at regional and global levels must be focused on peace and stability in Afghanistan,” he further suggested.



OVER 2,900 EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS **INAUGURATED COUNTRYWIDE**



February 8, 2022

TEHRAN – Some 2,950 educational projects were officially put into operation across the country via video conferencing with First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber in attendance, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

The educational projects include 13,450 classrooms constructed with the participation of charities throughout the country.

With the opening of these projects, more than 2 million square meters will be added to the educational space of the country.

These centers have been built in 31 provinces with a special focus on deprived and underprivileged areas with an investment of more than 100 trillion rials (nearly \$370 million).

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities, including, opening up job opportunities, building educational spaces and health centers, as well as empowering the deprived.

Iran has many school-building benefactors amounting to 650,000 people inside and 1,000 people outside the country.

About 10 percent of charitable schools are built with the participation of charities abroad. This is a valuable asset, which should be promoted.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Iranian researchers win COMSTECH Award 2021.....28
- Pastu Covac provides 100% immunity to omicron strain.....29
- CovIran Plus elicits protective neutralization against Omicron.....30
- You sanction it, we build it.....31



IRANIAN RESEARCHERS WIN **COMSTECH AWARD 2021**



February 6, 2022

TEHRAN – Two Iranian researchers were among the biennial award winners of the COMSTECH 2021.

COMSTECH on Thursday announced biennial award winners of the year 2021 in nine categories. This year, it granted lifetime achievement awards in the fields of Biology and Chemistry, ISNA reported.

Ali A. Mousavi-Movahadi, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the University of Tehran, won the COMSTECH lifetime achievement award in Chemistry.

The Award for the best scientific book was also won by Esmael Ghavanloo, Associate Professor, Shiraz University.

COMSTECH the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was established in January 1981.

COMSTECH Awards are conferred to recognize the outstanding research work carried out by scientists who are citizens of and working in, OIC member states. Each award carries a certificate, a shield of honor, and a cash prize.

These awards are given in four basic sciences; Biology and Chemistry alternating biennially with Mathematics and Physics.



PASTU COVAC PROVIDES 100% IMMUNITY **TO OMICRON STRAIN**



February 5, 2022

TEHRAN – The injection of Pastu Covac vaccine provides 100 percent immunity against the omicron strain, Alireza Biglari, head of the Pasteur Institute has said. Developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, the vaccine is called Soberana 02 in Cuba and Pastu Covac in Iran. Pastu Covac is the only homegrown vaccine available for injection in children aged 2-18, he said, adding, clinical trials have shown that the vaccine is highly efficient and safe.

The vaccine prevented symptomatic disease in people inoculated with three doses by 65 percent and its effectiveness in the prevention of severe disease and hospitalization was 96.5 percent, he stated.

So far, 15 million doses of the vaccine have been produced, 8 million of which have been used in the vaccination process and the rest are ready to be delivered to the ministry, Biglari said.

It is the only vaccine in the world that can fight several mutations simultaneously, Biglari said in July.

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said five coronavirus vaccines have been so far produced domestically.

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



COVIRAN PLUS ELICITS PROTECTIVE NEUTRALIZATION AGAINST OMICRON



February 16, 2022

TEHRAN – Results of a study conducted by Iranian scientists show that the domestically-developed SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidate, BIV1-CovIran Plus, produces neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron variant.

The B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant of SARS-CoV-2 with multiple novel mutations has reduced the neutralization potential of vaccinated individuals' sera. World Health Organization has suggested that a vaccination strategy based on repeated booster doses is unlikely to be sustainable.

The process for global registration of the “COVIRAN Barkat” vaccine for coronavirus started on January 27 by holding a virtual meeting with the World Health Organization officials.

According to a new study, the effectiveness of the COVIRAN Barkat vaccine in fighting the coronavirus has been more than foreign rivals, namely Sinopharm, AstraZeneca, and Sputnik.

COVIRAN vaccine was 87 percent effective in protecting against coronavirus infection and 86 percent effective against Covid-related hospitalization, compared with 84 percent and 82 percent, respectively for AstraZeneca; Sinopharm came in third with 80 percent and 72 percent, respectively.



YOU SANCTION IT, WE BUILD IT



February 13, 2022

TEHRAN – Knowledge-based companies are breaking U.S. monopoly by manufacturing sanctioned items to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

Currently, over 7,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country producing sanctioned items to reduce imports.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, nanotech, biotech, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in.

With the outbreak of coronavirus, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem endeavored to surge production to meet the country's need for self-protective equipment along with medical and pharmaceutical items to fight against the pandemic, at a time when other developed countries were struggling with a severe lack of personal protective tools.

Most recently, a company developed a technological test kit to diagnose the new Omicron strains, which is also one of the top three manufacturers of COVID-19 antigen-based diagnostic kits.

While, another technology company has developed an antigen-based rapid detection kit, which can detect the Omicron variant in less than 20 minutes.

Iran also produced drugs confirmed to be effective in the coronavirus treatment, including, Remdesivir, Tocilizumab.

Iran excels in nanotech, biotech

Iran is ranked 12th in the world and first in West Asia in terms of biotechnology, as 9.5 percent of the income of knowledge-based companies and more than 60 percent of their exports are related to biotechnology.

So far, 27 biotechnology medicines, 12 vaccine projects, 90 pharmaceutical raw materials, and 55 projects in agriculture and food security have been implemented in order to gain a 3 percent market share and biotechnology assistance to the development of the economy

SPORT

- Ice climber Safdarian proud of doing a great job.....33
- Iranian athletes nominated for Best Male and Female awards by APC.....34
- Iran's sitting volleyball nominated for Best Team Performance.....35
- Sports minister Sajadi hails potential of Iranian women athletes.....36
- Iran still 21st in FIFA ranking.....37



ICE CLIMBER SAFDARIAN PROUD OF DOING A GREAT JOB



January 31, 2022

TEHRAN - Iran's Ice climber, Mohammadreza Korouyeh Safdarian, says breaking the dominance of Russia in the world's Ice climbing has been a great job done with his and his countryman Mohsen Beheshti Rad.

Safdarian snatched Iran's second gold medal at International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) Ice Climbing World Championships in Saas-Fee. Beheshti Rad claimed the country's first gold medal in the men's speed final. Having finished fifth in the men's speed contest, Safdarian managed to stand first, achieving a gold medal in the overall results.

Safdarian won a bronze medal at the World Championships in the same city four years ago.



IRANIAN ATHLETES NOMINATED FOR BEST MALE AND FEMALE AWARDS BY APC



February 1, 2022

TEHRAN - Tokyo Paralympics medalists Ruhollah Rostami and Hashemiyeh Motaghian Moavi have been nominated for the Best Male and Female Athlete respectively at the Asian Awards 2021.

The upcoming Asian Awards 2021 were organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC).

Powerlifter Rostami won a gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics by lifting 234kg in his third attempt in the men's -80kg.

He will have to vie with Indian Para athlete Sumit Antil, Chinese wheelchair fencer Yanke Feng and Japanese Para athlete Tomoki Sato.

Motaghian also made history by winning the first ever gold medal in athletic in the Paralympic Games in the women's section.

She claimed a gold in the women's javelin - F55 with a throw of 24.50 meters. She also bettered the world record by 47 centimeters.

Alongside Motaghian, Indian Bhavina Hasmukhbhai Patel (Para table tennis), China's Wen Xiaoyan (Para athlete) and Indonesia's Leani Ratri Oktilla (Para badminton) are nominated for the coveted Best Female Athlete of the Year 2021.



IRAN'S SITTING VOLLEYBALL NOMINATED **FOR BEST TEAM PERFORMANCE**



February 4, 2022

TEHRAN - Tokyo Paralympic Games gold medal winners Iran's sitting volleyball team have been nominated for the Best Team Performance at the Asian Awards 2021.

The upcoming Asian Awards 2021 were organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC).

The team will have to compete with China men's goalball team, Japan men's wheelchair basketball team and Korea mixed boccia team for winning the accolade. Iranian powerlifter Ruhollah Rostami, who won a gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, and Hashemiyeh Motaghian, the first ever Iranian female Para athlete to win a gold medal in athletic in the Paralympic Games, have been previously nominated for the Best Male and Best Female awards, respectively.





SPORTS MINISTER SAJADI HAILS POTENTIAL OF IRANIAN WOMEN ATHLETES

February 8, 2022

TEHRAN - Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs Hamid Sajadi praised Atefeh Ahmadi as the Iran's youngest ever woman skier in Winter Olympics and also said they pay special attention to women in the country.



Ahmadi will represent Iran in the Alpine skiing in Beijing. Sajadi lauded the woman, saying the sports officials are well aware of the potential of the Iranian female athletes.

“Atefeh Ahmadi carried Iran's flag in the opening ceremony. Ahmadi had dream of bearing Iran's flag when she was 17 and her dream came true in the 2022 Winter Olympics,” Sajadi said in an interview with Beijing Daily.

“We have Deputy Minister of women's development in our country's sports. Every Iranian federation has a women vice president. This is included in the Statutes of the federations,” he added.

“In Iran, we have 52 sports federations and more than 100 associations and a woman vice president works in each federation.

“In Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) we also have a woman deputy because we believe in potential of our country's women,” the former athlete added.

IRAN STILL 21ST IN FIFA RANKING



February 10, 2022

TEHRAN - Iran national football team remained unchanged in the FIFA World Ranking released.

The 'Persian Leopards' are 21st in the world and first in Asia, followed by Japan and Korea Republic.

Dragan Skocic's side booked their place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup as the first Asian team in late January.

Belgium remains top of the updated international football teams' ratings list, followed by Brazil, France, Argentina and England.

The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on March 31.



ECONOMY

- **Industry minister expresses determination for eliminating shortcomings.....39**
- **Iran Plast expo running in Tehran.....40**
- **Free trade, special economic zones account for 40-45% of Iran's export....41**



INDUSTRY MINISTER EXPRESSES **DETERMINATION FOR** **ELIMINATING SHORTCOMINGS**



February 1, 2022

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin, in a letter to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, has expressed his ministry’s determination for eliminating the recent years’ shortcomings, the Industry Ministry’s news portal Shata reported.

“Your wise and strategic statements made us at the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade more determined to work harder for reforming our governance and management structures in order to eliminate the shortcomings of recent years.”

The official further stressed the need for accelerating the movement toward achieving the goals set in the Vision 1404 (begins in March 2025) document and the realization of the ideals of the Islamic Revolution.



IRAN PLAST EXPO RUNNING IN TEHRAN



February 7, 2022

TEHRAN – Iran's 15th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST) was opened at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground on Monday, Shana reported.

The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials including Oil Minister Javad Oji, Head of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shah-Mirzaei, as well as some parliament members, and ambassadors of various countries in Tehran.

As reported, more than 430 domestic and foreign companies from various countries including China, Taiwan, and Italy are participating in this four-day exhibition.

The exhibition which is held in full compliance with health and safety protocols covers four major areas including raw materials, machinery and equipment, final and semi-finished products as well as services.

Over 300 foreign businessmen and company representatives from 15 different countries are also scheduled to visit the international event.



FREE TRADE, SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES **ACCOUNT FOR 45-40% OF IRAN'S EXPORT**



February 13, 2022

TEHRAN- The secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council said that 40-45 percent of Iran's export is from the country's free trade zones (FTZs) and special economic zones.

Saeed Mohammad also mentioned investment making in these zones and said that about 110 trillion rials (about \$423 million) plus \$300 million of investment has been made in the free trade zones, and 700 trillion rials (about \$2.692 billion) plus \$530 million in the special economic zones during the past five years.

The mentioned investment resulted in the establishment of 2,500 industrial units in these zones, leading to the export of \$1 billion of products from the free zones and \$15 billion from the special zones per annum, which equals 40-45 percent of Iran's export.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azarbaijan Province, and Maku in West-Azarbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.







Islamic Culture and Relations
Organization


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

350 Cameron Street Brooklyn, Pretoria 0181

Tel : 3180 346 012

<http://pretoria.icro.ir/>

Cciran.africa@gmail.com

 [icro.sa](https://www.instagram.com/icro.sa)