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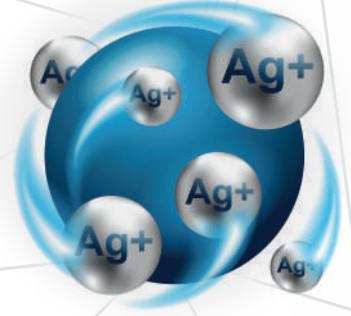
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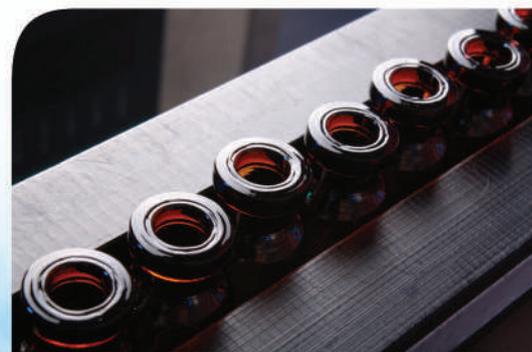
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Happy Nowruz

At the arrival of the colourful Nowruz celebrations, the ancient Iranian heritage, I would like to offer my good wishes to all the Iranians and admirers of Nowruz ceremonies, and wish for health, peace and friendship.

The upcoming Nowruz ceremonies are going to be held while the world, more than ever, is struggling with national and regional adversities, war and homelessness. And the people of the world are living with horror of the darkness of a world war, but no doubt light will overcome darkness.

Dr. Amir Houshang Amini

Iran's Foreign Trade during the Ten Months of the Year 1400

(20 March to 20 December 2021)

According to the statistics of the IR of Iran's Customs Department, the Iran's foreign trades volume during the Ten

month of the year 1400 are as indicated in the following tables:

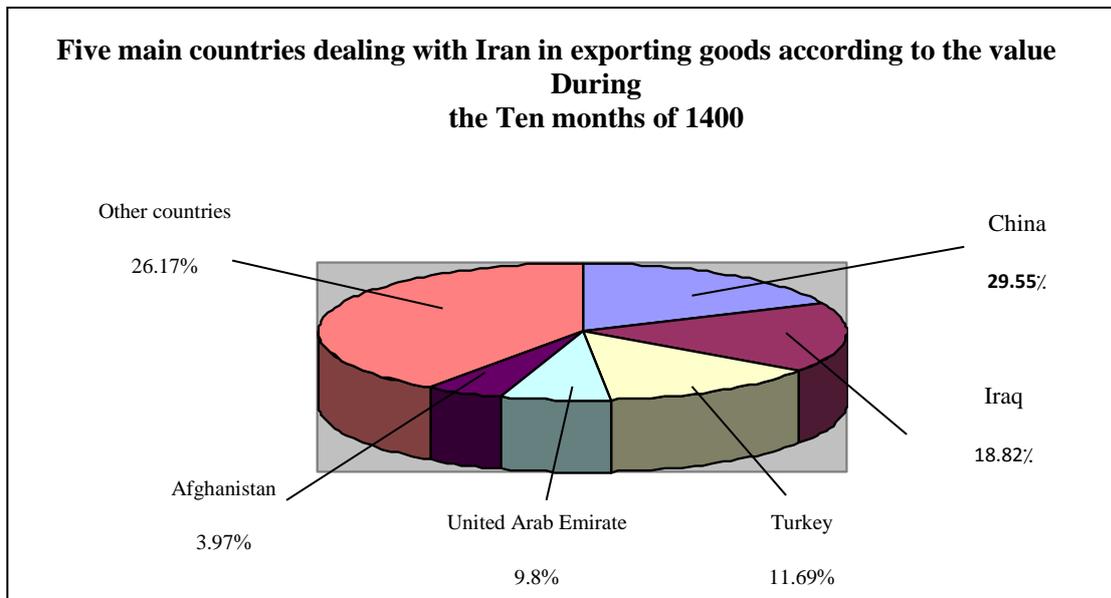
Primary import/export statistics of non-oil goods with the calculation of gas's Liquidities during the Ten month of 1400

| Activity | Ten months of the year 1400 | | Ten months of the year 1399 | | Percent of changes | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | Weight (Thousand tons) | Value (Million Dollars) | Weight (Thousand tons) | Value (Million Dollars) | Weight | Value |
| Import | 33.211 | 41.473 | 28.375 | 30.746 | 17.04 | 34.89 |
| Export | 100.425 | 38.763 | 94.329 | 28.208 | 6.46 | 37.42 |

Exports:

The most important exports during the Ten months of 1400, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "China" with 11.454 million Dollars and 29.55 percent of value, 2) "Iraq" with 7.295 million Dollars and 18.82 per-

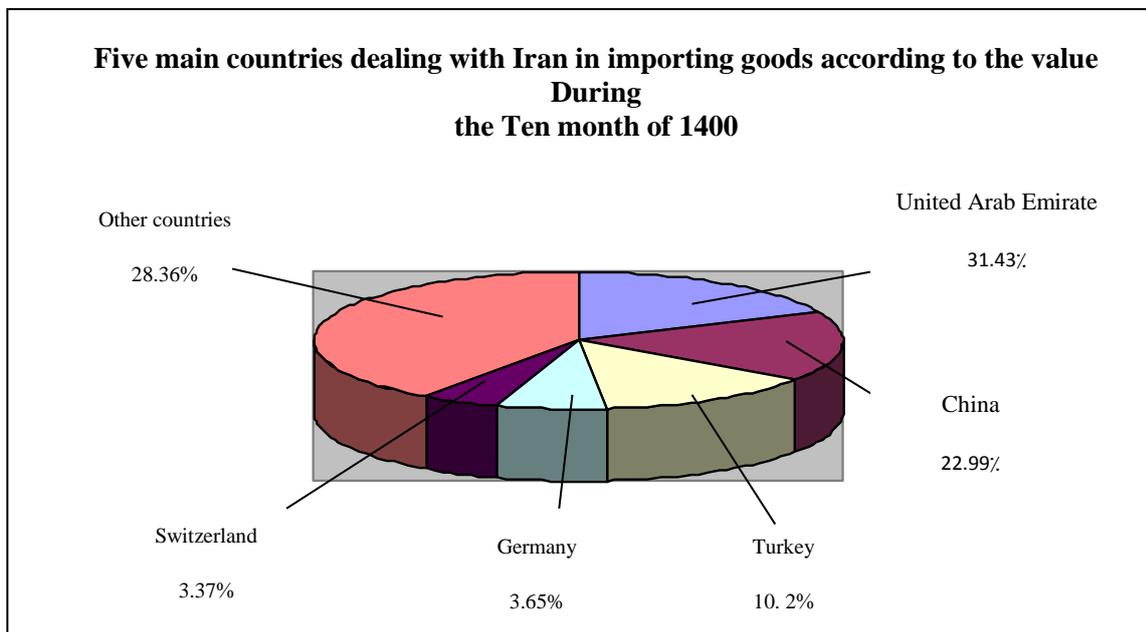
cent of value, 3) "Turkey" with 4.531 million Dollars and 11.69 percent of value, 4) "United Arab Emirates" with 3.800 million Dollars and 9.8 percent of value and 5) "Afghanistan" with 1.539 million Dollars and 3.97 percent of value.



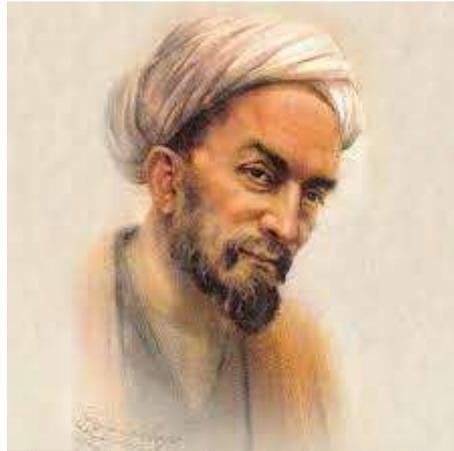
Imports:

The most important imports during the Ten month of 1400, have been done with countries, as follows: 1) "United Arab Emirate" with 13.37 million Dollars and 31.43 percent of value, 2) "China" with 9.534 million Dollars and 22.99 percent of value,

3) "Turkey" with 4.231 million Dollars and 10.2 percent of value, 4) "Germany" with 1.512 million Dollars and 3.65 percent of value and 5) "Switzerland" with 1.396 million Dollars and 3.37 percent of value.



SA'DI



Sa'dī, Abu Mohammad Mošarref-al-Din Mošleḥ Shirazi, Persian poet and prose writer, widely recognized as one of the greatest masters of the classical literary tradition. The present article examines the sources for his biography, including his major works; for the articles on these in detail, see the links given below.

Little about Sa'di's life is known with absolute certainty. Even the earliest references to him in external sources differ in important details, and although Sa'di's own writings, especially the *Bustān* and *Golestān*, contain many purportedly autobiographical reminiscences, a good number of these are historically implausible and are probably fictionalized or cast in the first-person for rhetorical effect. Uncertainty begins with the proper form of his name. In reporting his full name—comprising given name, honorific (*laqab*), agnomen (*konya*), and patronymic—the historical sources seem to present every possible permutation of several basic

elements. The earliest available record is the *Talkiṣ al-majma' al-ādāb fi mo'jam al-alqāb* (Summary of the gathering of refinements concerning the lexicon of honorifics) by Ebn al-Fowaṭi (d. 1323). He wrote to Sa'di in 1262 to request samples of the poet's Arabic verses and gives the full form of his name as: Mošleḥ-al-Din Abu Moḥammad 'Abd-Allāh b. Mošarref b. Mošleḥ b. Mošarref. S. Nafisi (p. 65) considers

this source definitive. But most other scholars have turned to the evidence of early manuscripts of Sa'di's works. E. G. Browne (II, p. 526), for example, appeals to an early manuscript (BL, India Office Library MS pers. 876, dated 728/1328) to give

the poet's name as Mošarref-al-Din b. Mošleḥ-al-Din 'Abd-Allāh. Most later Western scholars, such as A. J. Arberry, J. Rypka, and R. Davis, make 'Abd-Allāh part of Sa'di's patronymic: Abu 'Abd-Allāh Mošarref-al-Din b. Mošleḥ. Finally, based on the introduction to one of the earliest



surviving compilations of Sa'di's collected works written by his fellow townsman 'Ali b. Aḥmad b. Abu Bakr Bisotun in 1326 (Sa'di, *Kolliāt*, p. 847), Šafā (III/1, p. 587) concludes that Mošleh was the poet's given name and presents his full name as Abu Moḥammad Mošarref-al-Din (or Šaraf-al-Din) Mošleh b. 'Abd-Allāh b. Mošarref. Jāmī (1414-92; q.v.) gives essentially the same form of the name in his *Nafaḥat al-ons* (p. 598), and this is the version tentatively accepted here.

There is no such uncertainty about Sa'di's pen name; it serves as his signature (*takalloş*) in all of his ghazals (*ḡazal*, q.v.) and appears repeatedly elsewhere in his work. But questions have been raised about its origin. There is no doubt that it is based on the poet's service to the Salghurid atabegs (*atābak*, q.v.) that governed Shiraz for most of his lifetime, since two members of this dynasty were named Sa'd. Ebn al-Fowaṭī associates the pen name with Sa'di's connections to the younger of the two, Sa'd b. Abi Bakr. But this attribution creates chronological difficulties; Sa'di would have been about 50 years old when he first had the opportunity to meet the younger Sa'd, and it is highly unlikely that he started composing the hundreds of ghazals bearing his pen name only after this time. Later sources are probably more reliable on this point. Dawlatšāh Samarqandi (d. after 1487; q.v.) states that Sa'dī took this *nom de plume* due to his father's service in the court of SaAd b. Abi Bakr's grandfather, **Sa'd b. Zangi**

National Saadi-Shirazi's commemoration day



Annually, on April 21 crowd of foreign tourists and Iranians gather at Saadia's tomb in order to mark the day.

references to the elder Sa'd. 'A. Zarrinkub (pp. 66-67) resolves these difficulties by arguing that Sa'd or Banu Sa'd served as the name of the dynasty as a whole, as well as the personal name of

its founder and his grandson, and the pen name marks the poet's allegiance to all members of the royal house.

The two most reliable dates in Sa'di's biography are the dates of the completion of his two best-known books, the *Bustān* and the *Golestān*. The *Bustān* was completed late in the year of 1257, after Sa'di's return to Shiraz following an extended absence. The *Golestān* was completed a year later in 1258. Sa'di opens his account of his reasons for composing the latter work with verses that "correspond to my circumstances": "Every moment a breath of life passes. When I look, not much remains. / O you who sleep as 50 [years] pass, can you seize these five days?" (*Golestān*, p. 52). Even though 50 is a conventional age at which to reflect on life's transience and one's life's work, these verses seem to provide an approximate starting point for establishing a chronology of Sa'di's life. They place the date of Sa'di's birth around 1209-10, which is the modern scholarly consensus., however, notes that the second of these verses also appears as the first verse in one of Sa'di's *qaşidas* and discounts its evidentiary value. He argues for a slightly later date between 1213 and 1218 based on the identity of the Abu'l-Faraj b. al-Jowzi mentioned in a story in the second chapter of the *Golestān*

In this story, Sa'dī relates that as a young student in Baghdad he ignored the advice of his teacher, Ebn Jowzi, to shun musical entertainments. The identity of this Ebn Jowzi, however, has itself been a bone of contention and points to the general difficulty of relying on the first-person anecdotes in the *Bustān* and *Golestān* as historical sources. Earlier scholars identified this Ebn Jowzi with 'Abd-al-Raḥmān b. 'Ali Abu'l-Faraj b. al-Jowzi, the famous preacher and prolific polymath of Baghdad, who wrote dozens of works on history and religious studies. Since this Ebn al-Jowzi died in 1200, Sa'di must have been born around 1184 in order to have met him as a student (Mas-sé, pp. 6, 20). A similarly early birth date is indicated by another first-person anecdote in the *Golestān* (pp. 141-42), where Sa'di tells of his visit to a mosque in Kashgar (q.v.) in the year that "Mohammad K̄ārazmšāh made peace with K̄atā'," an event that took place between 1210 and 1211. But given the likely year of Sa'di's death, a birth date before 1200 would require an implausibly long life span of well over a century. M. Qazvini clears up this conundrum by noting that Abu'l-Faraj b. Jowzi was also the name of

the famous author's grandson, himself a preacher, market inspector of Baghdad, and well-respected teacher. He died during the Mongol sack of the city in 1258, and this identification provides Sa'di with a more natural life span. The anecdote set in Kashgar is not so easily resolved. Sa'di was undoubtedly absent from Shiraz for many years, as he states in the introductions to both the *Bustān* and *Golestān* and in a ghazal composed after his return to the city, in which he apologizes for his prodigal ways. It is also certain that he traveled widely during this period, and some of the many first-person stories in his works probably have a basis in biographical reality. But it is a mistake to identify the life of the author too closely with the literary persona. As a literary artist, Sa'di needs to create a narrative voice that fits his purposes: experienced, yet fallible, worldly wise, but committed to certain fundamental values. Casting himself as an actor in his tales contributes to their immediacy and is crucial to establishing his ethical authority and empathy. His didactic, artistic purposes far supersede the demands of historical or autobiographical fidelity. The very first story of the *Golestān*, after all, praises the virtues of the beneficent falsehood, and elsewhere, the narrator warns us that "one who has seen the world tells many lies".

Since there are no contemporary external sources to confirm what Sa'di's works tell us of their author's life before his return to Shiraz, any account of these years is necessarily tentative. As Zarinkub (pp. 68-69) observes, Sa'di's father is "a nameless shadow in his works, but not without weight." He was apparently responsible for his son's early education and taught him lessons in tolerance that would remain with him throughout his life but his death left Sa'di an orphan (*Bustān*, p. 58). Still an adolescent, Sa'di left his native city to continue his studies in Baghdad, probably around 1223-24, when Sa'd b. Zangi was temporarily ousted from power by Sultan Ġiāt-al-Din Pir Sāh. He was for a time a fellowship student in Neẓāmiya madrasa in Baghdad (*Bustān*, p. 153), where, as we have seen, his instructors included the Hanbalite scholar 'Abd-al-Raḥmān b. 'Alī Abu'l-Faraj b. al-Jowzi. He may have also been associated with the Sufi master Šehāb-al-Din Abu Ḥafṣ 'Omar b. Mohammad Shorewardi (d. 1234); although the verses from the *Bustān* that would support this are of dubious authenticity, B. Foruzānfar has documented significant similarities between Sa'di's teachings and those of this influ-



ential shaikh. An extended period of travel around the Islamic world followed his course of studies. First-person anecdotes have the narrator taken prisoner by the Crusaders in Syria (*Golestān*, pp. 99-100) and murdering a temple priest in India (*Bustān*, pp. 176-80). Despite efforts of scholars such as H. Massé and J. A. Boyle, the effort to re-create an exact itinerary of his travels from his works is misguided. After a careful sifting of the evidence, H. Katuzian concludes that it is probable that Sa'di visited Iraq, Syria, Palestine, and the Arabian Peninsula, but unlikely that he ever traveled east to Khorasan, India.

When Sa'di returned to Shiraz around 1257 after some 30 years of travel, he was apparently already a famous and highly respected poet, a fame that must have been based on the wide circulation of his masterful ghazals.

As the quick publication and dedications of the *Bustān* and *Golestān* indicate, he was eager to re-establish his ties to the house of Sa'd. In a short qasida, Sa'di credits Abu Bakr b. Sa'd with creating the stability and prosperity that encouraged him to return to Shiraz. The Salghurid dynasty, however, did not long outlast the poet's return. Abu Bakr died in 1260, and his eldest son, Abi Bakr, died only 12 days later, events that Sa'di (memorialized in several elegies. Sa'd's 12-

year-old son, Mohammad (r. 1260-62), ruled briefly under the guidance of his mother, Tarkān Kātun; both are praised in poems that serve as dedications to Sa'di's collected, and the latter, according to Qazvini (pp. 27-28), is the subject of another *qaṣida*. Under steadily increasing Mongol pressure, the fortunes of the dynasty quickly unraveled. Two of Abu Bakr's nephews were installed as rulers after the death of Mohammad, and Sa'di (*Kolliāt*, pp. 661, 676, 687) wrote three poems in praise of the second of these, Moẓaffar-al-Din Saljuqšāh, during his short, 5-month reign in 1263. When he was killed by the Mongols after an ill-advised, alcohol-induced rebellion, rule officially passed to the youngest daughter of Sa'd b. Abi Bakr, Ābaš Kātun, but her forced marriage to Mengü Teimür, the son of the Mongol Il-khan Hülegü, assured the de facto integration of Shiraz into Mongol dominion. Ābaš Kātun is probably the subject of another dedicatory *ghazal*. Sa'di cannot have welcomed the imposition of direct Mongol rule. He had written two *qaṣidas*, one in Arabic and one in Persian (*Kolliāt*, pp. 703-04, 705-08), to mourn the death of the last 'Abbasid caliph al-Mosta'ṣem be'llāh (d. 1258), during the Mongol sack of Baghdad and to lament the fall of the caliphate. Sa'di (*Kolliāt*, pp. 678-79) nevertheless wrote a poem to commemorate the transfer of power from the Salghurids to the Mongols, and his collected works contain numerous poems dedicated to both the Mongol governors and their Persian administrators. Among the most notable of these is Amir Ankyānu, who served as governor of Shiraz between 1268 and 1272; he is the subject of four *qaṣidas* and is thought to be the addressee of one of Sa'di's prose treatises, *Dar tarbiat-e yaki az moluk* (*Kolliāt*, pp. 820-82). None of these works can be considered panegyrics in the usual sense of the word, since they consist mostly of counsel and warnings concerning the proper conduct of rulers. Less admonitory in tone are the poems that Sa'di (*Kolliāt*, pp. 661-62, 683-84, 680) addressed to the long-time head of the chancery in Shiraz, Šams-al-Din Ḥosayn 'Alakāni (d. ca. 1289). He had been appointed to this post by the Il-khanid general finance minister, Šams-al-Din Moḥammad Jovayni Šāḥeb Divān. He is celebrated some of Sa'di's finest *qaṣidas* (*Kolliāt*, pp. 650-51, 660, 664-67, 671-72, 680-83, 684-86), along with his brother, 'Alā'-al-Din 'Aṭā'-Malek Jovayni (d. 1283; q.v.), the author of the *Mahaguas-ye Jovayni* (q.v.). Two treatises commonly included in Sa'di's collected

works (though clearly not by his hand) discuss his meeting with the Jovayni brothers and the Il-khan Abaqa (q.v.) in Tabriz during the poet's return home from a pilgrimage to Mecca (Sa'di, *Kolliāt*, pp. 842-45). In several older manuscripts of Sa'di's works, there is also a collection of poetic fragments entitled the *Šāḥebiya* in honor of Šams-al-Din Moḥammad.

Although Sa'di spent the final decades of his life in Shiraz, his poetry and reputation spread throughout the Persephone world, traveling even to places that he probably never visited in person. In India, his lyric poetry in particular made a significant impression on the two master poets of Delhi in the late 12th and early 13th centuries, Amir Kōsrow (1253-1325; q.v.) and Ḥasan Sijzi (d. 1336). In his *Qerān al-sa'dayn*, Kōsrow chides himself for aspiring to write poetry during Sa'di's lifetime: "In the age of Sa'di—may it never grow old—aren't you ashamed to compose poetry?" (Šafā, III/1, p. 600). Ḥasan (p. 158) concludes a *ghazal* with a signature verse that plays on the name of Sa'di's most famous work and acknowledges his pervasive influence on all lovers: "Ḥasan has brought a flower from Sa'di's *Golestān*, for the true of heart are all plucking flowers from that garden." In Anatolia, Sayf-al-Din Moḥammad al-Farḡāni (d. first quarter of 14th century) not only translated Sa'di's *Golestān* into Turkish, but also composed several Persian *qaṣidas* in his honor. In a poem that Sayf composed on sending some samples of his poetry to Sa'di, he confesses that in his eagerness to please, "I didn't realize that it is foolishness to send copper to a gold mine" (Šafā, III/1, p. 601).

Perhaps the last dateable poem in Sa'di's works is the short *qaṣida* (*Kolliāt*, p. 655) dedicated to Majd-al-Din Rumi, who served as an administrative official in Shiraz under the Il-khan Arḡun between 1287 and 1289 (Qazvini, pp. 50-51). Sa'di died a few years later. Early sources give death dates ranging from 1291 to 1299. In a detailed review of the evidence, Nafisi concludes that Sa'di died on 691/9 December 1292..

Although Sa'di's works are an unreliable guide to his biography, his biography, at least in its general outlines, may tell us something about his works and the worldview that informs them. Sa'di lived through one of the most eventful and traumatic centuries in the history of Asia and the Middle East. The expansion and consolidation of Mongol power was marked by the destruction of



old centers of culture and civilization, the upheaval of established political institutions, and the mass migration of populations. Mere survival demanded luck, wit, determination, and practical savvy. Sa'di met the challenges of his age by adept and constant motion. In his early years, this motion was physical; as an itinerant scholar and increasingly respected poet, his mastery of language and literate culture allowed him to move from place to place and in and out of mosques, markets, and palaces. He maintained a social mobility even after settling in Shiraz.

His works show that he was in regular contact with the ruling circles of the city, but he apparently never joined the court in a formal capacity, and reports (Şafā, III/1, p. 597) that he resided in a Sufi hospice (*kānagāh*, q.v.) despite his influence, status, and access to the wealthy seem plausible. These circumstances help account for the breadth and variety of the world depicted in his work from the mansions of the elite to street life among the poor.

More importantly, the course of his life also seems to have contributed to the attitude of detached engagement that characterizes his work. The irony, humor, and charity of judgment that

are often found in his writings result from an ability to maintain multiple perspectives and an awareness of his own fallibility.

This detachment is nevertheless informed by a commitment to certain core values: concern for the suffering of others (especially the less privileged), awareness of the fragility of life, and faith in a moral reckoning both in this life and the next. Sa'di's concern for social welfare requires an engagement with the politically powerful, but also a circumspect caution and a willingness to adapt principle to the particular situation at hand. Similarly, the works acknowledge the need for religious authority, but also recognize the hypocrisy and self-righteousness that often accompany it. Despite the dire times through which the author lived, Sa'di's works project a joy and vitality that seems to grow from his full participation in two capacities that most make us human: love and language. His works celebrate love in its manifold forms—social solidarity, friendship, amorous desire, and religious devotion—and they do so in a language that revels in the full capacities of the linguistic medium to range from dignified balance and aphoristic concision to playful punning and raucous excess.

Iran Marks National day of Nasir Al-Din Tusi



TEHRAN, Feb. 24 (MNA) – Today is the National Commemoration Day of the outstanding Iranian philosopher, scientist, and mathematician Nasir al-Din Tusi.

Tusi was born in Tus in 1201 and died in Baghdad in 1274. Very little is known about his childhood and early education, apart from what he writes in his autobiography, *Contemplation and Action* (Sayr wa suluk).

As a young boy, Nasir al-Din was encouraged by his father to study all “the branches of knowledge and to listen to the opinions of the followers of various sects and doctrines”; as such, Tusi travelled widely to study with teachers of his choice.

Tusi studied mathematics with Kamal al-Din Hasib about whom we have no authentic knowledge. In Nishabur he met Farid al-Din ‘Attar, the legendary Sufi master who was later

killed in the hand of Mongol invaders and attended the lectures of Qutb al-Din Misri and Farid al-Din Damad. In Mawsil he studied mathematics and astronomy with Kamal al-Din Yunus (d. 1242).

At the age of twenty-two or a while later, Tusi joined the court of Nasir al-Din Muhtashim, the Ismaili governor of Quhistan, Northeast Iran, where he was accepted into the Ismaili community as a novice.

A sign of close personal relationship with Muhtashim’s family is to be seen in the dedication of a number of his scholarly works such as *Akhlaq-e Naseri* and *Akhlaq-i Muhtashimi* to Nasir al-Din himself and *Risala-yi Mu‘iniyya* to his son Mu‘in al-Din.

Around 1236, he was in Alamut, the center of Nizari Ismaili government. In Alamut, apart from teaching, editing, dictating and compiling



Nasir al-Din Tusi statue in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan

scholarly works, Tusi climbed the ranks of the Ismaili da'wat ascending to the position of chief missionary.

Through constant visits with scholars and tireless correspondence, Tusi kept his contact with the academic world outside Ismaili circles and was addressed as 'the scholar' from a very early period in his life.

The Mongol invasion and the turmoil it caused in the eastern Islamic territories hardly left the life of any of its citizens untouched. With the fall of Alamut in 1256 CE, Tusi became an advisor to the Mongol ruler Holaku and was later made a wazir and placed in charge of waqf (religious endowments).

Among the major events of Tusi's sojourn with the Mongols was the building of an observatory in Azerbaijan at Maragha under his direction, where the most renowned scientists of the time, including astronomers from China, participated in research and scientific observations. In 1274 CE, Tusi left Maragha with a group of his students for Baghdad, where he died in the same year.

Nasir al-Din al-Tusi's contribution to the post-13th century intellectual history of Islam is monumental, and many of his works became the standard in a variety of disciplines up to

modern times. Among his works on astronomy is al-Tadhkira fi 'elm al-hay't ('Memoir on the Science of Astronomy'), in which Tusi attempts to give a coherent and unified account of astronomy that would be useful both for students of the subject as well as non-specialists. The Tadhkira is modeled after one of Tusi's Persian works, the Resaleh-e Mu'iniyya, which he wrote during the early period of his residence at the Ismaili stronghold in Quhistan.

The ensemble of Tusi's writings amounts to approximately 165 titles on a wide variety

of subjects. Some of them are simply a page or even half a page, but the majority with few exceptions, are well prepared scholarly works on astronomy, ethics, history, jurisprudence, logic, mathematics, medicine, philosophy, theology, poetry and the popular sciences. Tusi's fame in his own lifetime guaranteed the survival of almost all of his scholarly output. The adverse effect of his fame is also the attribution of a number of works that neither match his style nor have the quality of his writings.

The 5th day of Esfand, the twelfth month on the Iranian calendar, which fell on February 24, has been designated as Engineer's Day in Iran to commemorate Nasir al-Din Tusi, the most celebrated scholar of the 13th century.



Tomb of Nasir al-Din al-Tusi in Kadhimiya, Iraq

*AFM**Ukraine war: Boris Johnson urges renewed world push to halt Russia's invasion*

Boris Johnson held talks with Ukrainian Ambassador Vadym Prystaiko at Downing Street last week.

World leaders must mount a renewed effort to ensure Russia's "horrific" invasion of Ukraine fails, Boris Johnson has said.

Writing in the New York Times, the prime minister said "it is not future historians but the people of Ukraine who will be our judge".

Mr Johnson set out a six-point plan, including rapidly strengthening defences in Nato countries. But Labour criticised the PM for not acting more quickly over sanctions.

Ahead of a series of meetings with international leaders, the prime minister said: "Putin must fail and must be seen to fail in this act of aggression. "It is not enough to express our support for the rules-based international order - we must defend it against a sustained attempt to rewrite the rules by military force."

The invasion was condemned by 141 nations at the UN General Assembly this week while 39 countries, co-ordinated by the UK, made the largest-ever referral for war crimes to the International Criminal Court. But Mr Johnson is set

to call on world leaders to make a "renewed and concerted effort" to stop Russian President Vladimir Putin, Downing Street said.

In his six-point plan to maintain pressure on Mr. Putin, the prime minister said:

- World leaders should mobilise an "international humanitarian coalition" for Ukraine
- They should also support Ukraine "in its efforts to provide for its own self-defence"
- Economic pressure on Russia should be ratcheted up
- The international community must resist Russia's "creeping normalisation" of its actions in Ukraine
- Diplomatic resolutions to the war must be pursued, but only with the full participation of Ukraine's legitimate government
- There should be a "rapid campaign to strengthen security and resilience" among Nato countries

The prime minister is also expected to deliver his message at meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte at Downing Street on Monday.



Source: UK MoD / Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT, 4 March)

BBC

On Tuesday, he will host leaders of the V4 group of central European nations: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

Downing Street says these countries are already experiencing a humanitarian crisis, with 1.4 million people fleeing Ukraine to neighbouring nations in just 10 days. Mr Johnson said: "The world is watching."

'Break morale'

In its daily assessment posted on Twitter, the Ministry of Defence said the scale and strength of Ukrainian resistance continued to surprise Russia.

It was likely Russia was trying to break Ukrainian morale by targeting multiple populated areas, including Kharkiv, Chernihiv and Mariupol, it added.

It went on to say the reported targeting of Russian supply lines was slowing the advance of their ground forces and there was a "realistic possibility" that Russia was concealing fuel trucks as regular support trucks.

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has warned Mr Putin not to "test" the UK.

In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, Mr Wallace said: "History is littered with authoritarian leaders underestimating the wider West and the United Kingdom. He clearly underestimated the international community."

He added: "If we stick together and refuse to be intimidated then I believe he will fail."

Shadow foreign secretary David Lammy said Labour fully supported the UK joining international efforts to help Ukraine, but he called on the government to move faster on sanctioning oligarchs and politicians linked to the Kremlin. He said: "It is inexcusable that we have fallen behind the EU and the US on the number of individuals and entities sanctioned. Ministers must move faster, acting against Putin's cronies in days not months."

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer is calling on the government to work with him on new laws to prevent Russian oligarchs and other very wealthy people misusing the courts to avoid criticism or sanctions.

He wants legislation to prevent so-called strategic lawsuits against public participation (Slapp) - legal challenges which aim to drain the resources of opponents or intimidate them from using the courts - which Sir Keir said he fears could be used to buy time to move oligarchs' money out of reach and avoid sanctions.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has said she has received letters from lawyers representing people sanctioned by Britain threatening legal challenges, while Justice Secretary Dominic Raab has called such cases an "abuse of our system" and promised to address them.

It comes as the government says it is to change the law to make it easier to introduce sanctions against Russian oligarchs, after criticism the UK is acting too slowly.

War in Ukraine: Russia says it may cut gas supplies if oil ban goes ahead

By Daniel Thomas & Michael Ra
Business reporters, BBC News



The Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline was inaugurated just over a decade ago

Russia has said it may close its main gas pipeline to Germany if the West goes ahead with a ban on Russian oil.

Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said a "rejection of Russian oil would lead to catastrophic consequences for the global market", causing prices to more than double to \$300 a barrel.

The US has been exploring a potential ban with allies as a way of punishing Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

But Germany and the Netherlands rejected the plan on Monday.

The EU gets about 40% of its gas and 30% of its oil from Russia, and has no easy substitutes if supplies are disrupted.

While the UK would not be directly impacted by supply disruption, as it imports less than 5% of its gas from Russia, it would be affected by prices rising in the global markets as demand in Europe increases.

Iain Conn, the former boss of British Gas owner Centrica, said natural gas was "less freely" traded compared to oil, and it would be "much more difficult" to replace Russian gas if supplies are affected as it is transported through fixed pipelines from country to country.

In an address on Russian state television, Mr Novak said it would be "impossible to quickly find a replacement for Russian oil on the European market".

"It will take years, and it will still be much more expensive for European consumers. Ultimately,

they will be hurt the worst by this outcome," he said.

Pointing to Germany's decision last month to freeze certification of Nord Stream 2, a new gas pipeline connecting the two countries, he added that an oil embargo could prompt retaliation.

"We have every right to take a matching decision and impose an embargo on gas pumping through the [existing] Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline," he said. Russia is the world's second largest gas producer and third largest oil exporter, and any move to impose sanctions on its energy industry would badly damage its own economy.

Nathan Piper, head of oil and gas research at Investec, said although imposing sanctions on Russia's oil and gas exports was attractive, "practically it is challenging".

He said both the global oil and gas markets were tight ahead of the war in Ukraine "with limited spare capacity to replace any disrupted Russian volumes".

"The question is now whether US and European leaders are prepared to endure high oil and gas prices to add energy exports to the sanctions list," he told the BBC.

"The threat of this action is almost the worst of both worlds, forcing prices up but doing nothing to limit Russian volumes or the revenues flowing to Moscow."

Analysts at Capital Economics have forecast oil prices could rise to \$160 a barrel if the West imposed sanctions on Russian exports, but David Oxley, senior global economist at the consultancy, told the BBC it was disruption to Russian gas that would hit countries harder, describing it as a "completely different kettle of fish".

He said energy intensive industries across Europe could be hit, with "vast swathes of heavy industry being switched off" as it is much harder finding replacement gas suppliers compared with oil.

EU countries heavily reliant on Russian gas, such as Germany, could switch from gas to coal, he said, but that would run counter to the bloc's climate ambitions and would not be a long-term solution.

Short Economic News

Iran Short Economic News:

Iran ready to build dams, power plants for Armenia



TEHRAN –Iran has expressed readiness for conducting various infrastructure projects including dams, roads, and power plants in Armenia, the portal of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported.

The announcement was made during a meeting between Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and TPO Head Ali-reza Peyman-Pak with Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan.

In this meeting, while expressing the capabilities of Iranian companies in the field of technical and engineering services, Peyman-Pak expressed the readiness of Iranian companies for providing power plant services as well as the supply of fuel including gasoline and diesel to Armenia.

As reported, during the meetings the two sides also discussed cooperation in other areas including transportation, mining, and transit.

Peyman-Pak further suggested that Iran and Armenia could also cooperate in the mining sector

since Armenia has large copper and molybdenum mines and exports the minerals in the form of concentrate to other countries.

According to the official, considering high gas prices in Armenia it is not economically justifiable to melt minerals and create products with more added value, so Iranian companies that have bio-leaching technology can cooperate with Armenia in this regard to jointly produce copper ingots using the mentioned technology that does not require heat and

melting.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin traveled to Armenia on top of a delegation on March 3, seeking to strengthen the economic ties between the two countries.

Upon arrival, Fatemi-Amin met with Armenian Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan to discuss mutual areas for economic cooperation.

During the visit of the Iranian delegation to Armenia, several specialized meetings were also held between the businessmen of the two countries, and the representatives of the two sides’ private sectors held B2B meetings to exchange ideas and learn about potential areas for mutual cooperation.

Trade relations between Iran and Armenia have dramatically expanded after Iran signed a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in October 2019.

The Republic of Armenia is a landlocked country located in northwestern Iran. The two countries share a 44-kilometer border.

Housing rental rises 48% in Tehran city in a month on year

TEHRAN- Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that the rental price has increased 48.4 percent in Tehran city during the eleventh Iranian calendar month Bahman (ended on February 19), as compared to the same month in the past year.

The CBI has also announced that the average housing price has increased 0.4 percent in the capital Tehran during the eleventh month, from its previous month, and 16.4 percent from the same month of the past year.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past year due to various internal and external factors.

And, for the upcoming months, a number of factors are mentioned to affect the housing market in Iran.

One factor is the possibility of reviving a 2015 nuclear deal signed between Iran and world powers.

Some experts believe that if the mentioned deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is revived, housing price will experience its biggest historical drop.



As Mostafa Gholi Khosravi, the head of Iran's Property Advisers Union, has recently stated, "The housing market is waiting for the results of the [JCPOA] negotiations, and with the positive shock that the agreements bring to the market, sales will increase in the coming months."

He believes that the market will stabilize towards the buyer and the price will decrease.

Export from Bushehr Province increases 66%



TEHRAN – The value of export from Bushehr province in the southwest of Iran rose 66 percent during the first 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-February 19, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Behrouz Qarebeygi, the director-general of the province's customs administration, said that 23.309 million tons of products worth \$8.928 bil-

lion were exported from the province in the 11-month period, indicating also four percent growth in terms of weight.

Petrochemicals and gas condensate were the major exported products, while China, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, the Netherlands, Pakistan, South Africa, Brazil, and Persian Gulf littoral states were the major trade partners of the province in the said time span, the official stated.

He also announced that 460,000 tons of commodities worth \$1.257 billion were imported to the province in the first eleven months of this year, up 20 percent in terms of value and one percent in terms of weight as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As previously announced by the deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent during the first 11 months of the current year. Foroud Asgari said that Iran traded over 149.4 million tons of non-oil products worth \$90

billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

He noted that the weight of trade in the mentioned period also grew by 12 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous year's same 11 months.

The official put the 11-month non-oil exports at 112.658 million tons valued at \$43.517 billion, with a 40-percent rise in value and 10 percent growth in weight.

The Islamic Republic imported 36.777 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$46.577 billion in the first 11 months of the present year, with a 36 percent growth in value and a 19 percent rise in weight year on year, according to the official.

IRICA has previously announced that the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

IRICA former Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi had put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons and said that the figure showed a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates the third with importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as China with exporting \$9.7 billion worth of products to the Islamic Republic, the UAE with \$9.6 billion, Turkey with \$4.3 billion, India with \$2.1 billion, and Germany with \$1.8 billion, respectively, and mentioned corn, cellphone, rice, oil meal, and oilseeds, wheat, and raw oil as the major imported items.

Iran's UN envoy:

Resolution against impartial Russia not

TEHRAN- Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has explained why Tehran abstained from voting on an anti-Russian UN General Assembly resolution.

"We believe that the current text of the resolution before the General Assembly lacks impartiality and realistic mechanisms for resolving the crisis through peaceful means.

Furthermore, not all member states of the United Nations were given the opportunity to engage in negotiations on the text of the resolution," Takht Ravanchi said on Wednesday.

"The current text of the resolution before the General Assembly lacks impartiality and realistic mechanisms, there was not the equal opportunity to engage in opportunity for all members," he said.

He stated that Iran is deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and reaffirmed Tehran's principled stance on the need for a peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, as well as for all parties to



fully respect the well-established provisions of the UN Charter and international humanitarian law.

"The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is of great importance for Iran," he said, adding that "sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be fully respected."

"We note that the current complexities in the fragile region of Eastern Europe have been exacerbated by the provocative actions and decisions of the U.S. and NATO," he said, emphasizing the need to address the underlying causes of such crises in

order to find long-term and permanent solutions. “The security concerns of Russia must be respected,” he added.

“The provocative actions and decisions of the U.S. and NATO makes the current situation in region of Eastern Europe more complex.”

Takht Ravanchi reiterated Iran's opposition to all conflicts and damage perpetrated on civilian lives and infrastructures.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran calls for urgent cessation of hostilities and de-escalation of tensions in the current conflict. In this regard, Iran underlines the essentiality of dialogue to address issues of concerns to all sides leading to long-lasting results,” Takht Ravanchi added.

He encouraged the UN to avoid using double standards, especially when it comes to maintaining international peace and security, stating, “It is unfortunate to note that the UN, in particular the Security Council, has at times neglected this principle which has undermined its credibility. A case in point is the Security Council’s handling of the conflict in Yemen.”

Takht Ravanchi went on to say that the Iranian government will continue to advocate for a “com-

prehensive, peaceful, and sustained” resolution to the current conflict “including an immediate ceasefire and start of the dialogue as well as provision of humanitarian assistance to the people in need.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran calls for urgent cessation of hostilities and de-escalation of tensions in the current conflict.

In this regard, Iran underlines the essentiality of dialogue to address issues of concerns to all sides leading to long-lasting results,” Takht Ravanchi added.

On Wednesday, the United Nations General Assembly approved an anti-Russian resolution sponsored by the United States and Albania. An earlier resolution by UN Security Council was rejected by Russia, a permanent member of the council.

The resolution was approved by the Assembly with 141 votes in favor, five votes against, and 35 abstentions.

It "deplores" Russia's continued military action in Ukraine and demands that Moscow cease fighting and withdraw its soldiers.

Iran responds to ‘provocative’ remarks by U.S. senator



TEHRAN – Iran has sent a message to the president of the United Nations Security Council to protest “provocative” and “terror-inciting” remarks by U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham.

“Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to the recent provocative and terror-inciting statement made by US Senator Lindsey Graham in which he stated sup-

port for further terrorist acts against Iranian nuclear scientists,” the letter, dated 1 March 2022, said. It added, “In an interview on 14 February 2022 during his tour of occupied Palestinian territories, Senator Lindsey Graham referred to the assassination of Iran's top nuclear scientist in late 2020 and, in an invitation for additional terrorist acts against Iranian scientists, remarked, ‘You know, a lot of Iranian scientists have had a lot of accidents, he said. ‘I would expect there’ll be more accidents to come’.”

Iran described the remarks as “repulsive” and “abhorrent” and said it reserves its right to defend its citizens.

“This repulsive, abhorrent and reprehensible remark, which serves as a green light to the Israeli regime to perpetrate further terrorist acts against Iranian nuclear scientists, is a clear breach of the US’ international obligations, particularly those under UN resolutions that call on States to prohibit incitement to terrorist acts and refrain from

providing any kind of support for terrorist activities,” the letter stated.

It further said, “Recalling the Israeli regime's long history of sabotage operations against Iran’s peaceful nuclear activities, including the cowardly assassination of several Iranian nuclear scientists in recent years as well as joint US-Israeli cyberoperations against Iran's nuclear facilities using a malicious computer worm known as Stuxnet, the international community in general and the Security Council in particular must vigorously condemn such provocation and incitement for ter-

rorist acts which threaten to further destabilize an already volatile region.” It pointed out, “While warning against the Israeli regime’s adventurism as well as its ramifications for the region's peace and security, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right under international law to take all necessary measures to protect and defend its citizens, interests and installations against any terrorist or disruptive acts.”

Iran also asked the president of the UN Security Council to circulate the letter as a document of the Security Council.

Tehran, Tashkent hold immense potential to deepen museum ties: ambassador

TEHRAN – Iranian ambassador to Uzbekistan Hamid Nayyerabadi has said the two countries have immense potential to broaden museum ties due to deep cultural and historical commonalities.

“Deep cultural and historical commonalities between Iran and Uzbekistan has provided a rich ground for interactions between the museums of the two countries in holding cultural events and exhibitions,” Nayyerabadi said.

He made the remarks on Friday during a meeting with National Museum of Iran Director Jebrael Nokandeh at the embassy in Tashkent.

The officials exchanged views on how to deepen cultural cooperation between the two nations.

They stressed the importance of expanding the cultural relations between the two countries and emphasized the efforts to implement cooperation in the realm of museology.

Referring to the interest and desire of the government and people of the Republic of Uzbekistan to have more relations with Iran, Nayyerabadi said the two nations enjoy profound cultural and historical commonalities.

Welcoming the expansion of cultural ties between the two countries, Nokandeh said: “The National Museum of Iran is ready to cooperate with [major] museums in Uzbekistan.

“We hope to hold a reciprocal exhibition of the cultural heritage of the two countries in the near future,” Nokandeh said.



Furthermore, the Iranian envoy announced his readiness to help with the translation of the guidebook of the National Museum of Iran into Uzbek. This important reference of Iranian culture, art, and civilization has been translated into various languages such as English, Italian, Japanese, French, and German in addition to Persian.

The National Museum of Iran is somewhat chock-full of priceless relics that represent various eras of the country’s juicy history. Massive and tiny statues, ceramics, potteries, stone figures, bas-relief carvings, metal objects, textile remains, rare books, and coins are amongst objects that build up the innumerable collections inside.

Plane, Pistacia trees made national heritage

TEHRAN –Collections of planes and Pistacia trees across Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Saturday in separate letters to the governor-general of the southwestern province, IRNA reported.

For millennia, Iranian gardens have combined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth. UNESCO describes the Persian Garden as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

In 2011, a selection of nine Iranian gardens, which bear important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, was collectively inscribed on the



UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of “The Persian Garden.”

Centuries-old tree in eastern Iran made national heritage



TEHRAN –A 600-year-old Pistacia tree in Qaenat county, eastern South Khorasan province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list, a local tourism official has said. At a distance, this

tree shows its greatness, strength, and stability, as well as its almost symmetrical crown, Zahra Rezaei explained on Friday.

At 5.1 meters above the ground, the trunk is divided into sub-branches, and its largest branch has a circumference of 40.2 centimeters, the official noted.

This tree has a diameter of 6.5 meters and a height of 8 meters and the knots and twists on its trunk indicate that it is an old tree, she mentioned.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

The province is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Berlin shows features 5,000 years of Iranian arts and culture

TEHRAN - For the first time in a Berlin institution the cultural history of Iran – from the early civilizations through to the modern era – is the focus of a major art-historical survey exhibition. The exhibition shows around 320 objects from the Sarikhani



Collection as well as numerous collections of the National Museums in Berlin, highlighting Iran's outstanding importance as a source of inspiration and center of intercultural exchange between the Mediterranean, China, and India from the first advanced civilizations of the 3rd millennium BC to the end of the Safavid Empire in the early 18th century. The tightly-selected works on exhibit bear witness to the central role that Iran played as a site of innovation, as a melting pot and cultural powerhouse connecting Africa, Asia, and Europe, according to organizers. The objects, many of which have never been shown before, illustrate the outstanding importance of Iran as a driving force for intercultural exchange and provide insights into the art of the courts and urban elites. In a chronologically structured course with seven stations, they illustrate incisions, adaptations, and transformations. Highlights are the pre-Islamic empires of the Achaemenids and Sassanids, the formation of a Persian-Islamic culture, and the artistic masterpieces of the 9th to 13th centuries as well as the heyday of the Safavids. It takes visitors on a journey through time and the country's rich cultural heritage. Some of the highlights along the way include the empires of the Achaemenids and Sassanids, the formation of a Persian Islamic culture, the extraordinary artistic achievements of the 9th to 13th centuries, and the Golden Age of the Safavids. Furthermore, the exhibition will explore the central role that Iran has played in the context of cross regional political, economic, and cultural relations. As a "cultural highway" connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe, Persia is a place of extraordinary ethnic and linguistic diversity. Situat-

ed between deserts, mountain ranges, and bodies of water, Iran is home to great historical civilizations, yet its artistic achievements are unknown to many outsiders of scholarly circles. Not only situated in one of the oldest and most important cultural

regions in the world but Iran has also been home to key cultural, artistic, and scientific trends and discoveries that have had wide-ranging impacts, reaching all the way to Europe. As mentioned by organizers, the exhibition – a must-see for lovers of painting and ceramics in particular – shows how, over the course of several thousand years, a specifically Iranian cultural identity emerged from Persian as a language of instruction and cultural production, an identity that was continuously transforming, particularly among the cross-regional networks of traders and scholars and at moments of radical change, such as war or forced migration. Time and again, invaders and invaded alike adopted the language and culture, renewing and reforming it as they went. Time and again, migration and the exchange of cultural knowledge and technologies along the Silk Road(s) have formed the foundations for innovation and creativity. From the early civilizations, Elam and the ancient Kings of Persis with their seat in Persepolis to the incursions of Genghis Khan and the important imperial city of Isfahan right through to the beginning of the modern era, the evolution of Iran is arranged into a chronological tour, illustrated with traditions, transformations, and complex relationships. Additionally, the event which will be running through March 20, 2022, presents a rich kaleidoscope of the cultural creativity of urban societies. It seeks to independently showcase – though without losing sight of the present – a longstanding national culture that is of the utmost importance for us too. Indeed, it might be one of the most important cultures anywhere in the world.

Iranian goldsmiths to show off skills at Bukhara festival

TEHRAN – Several Iranian goldsmiths and experts of personal ornamentations will be taking part in an international festival of gold embroidery and jewelry, which will be held in Bukhara, Uzbekistan from May 21 to 25.

The event seeks to promote gold embroidery as a tool to create job opportunities for young people in particular. Moreover, it will embrace folk festivals, folklore and drama groups, theatrical performances of musicians and comedians, concert programs of artists and master classes by masters, artists' squares, excursion routes.

According to organizers, the jury consists of seven people of art critics, specialists, scientists, folk masters, academics and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city administrations, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, and the "Craftsmen" Association and the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

All expenses related to the preparation for the festival are covered from additional sources of the local budget of the Bukhara region, sponsorship donations of legal entities and individuals, as well as other legal sources, organizers say.

Winners will be awarded by the Organizing Committee with a diploma, a souvenir, and prizes



which include \$5,000 for the best gold embroider, \$5,000 for the best jeweler, \$3,000 for best master of embroidery school.

Goldsmiths, a metalworker who specializes in working with gold and other precious metals, must be skilled in forming metal through filing, soldering, sawing, forging, casting, and polishing. Traditionally, these skills had been passed along through apprenticeships; however, more recently jewelry arts schools, specializing in teaching goldsmithing and a multitude of skills falling under the jewelry arts umbrella, are available. Many universities and junior colleges also offer goldsmithing, silversmithing, and metal art fabrication as a part of their fine arts curriculum.

Iranian capital getting ready to host new year travelers



TEHRAN – Tehran municipality has formulated several plans and programs to make the Iranian capital ready to host new year travelers during the Nowruz holidays.

For the new Iranian year 1401 (starting on March 21), various programs have been set up to promote Tehran tourism, an official with Tehran Municipality said on Friday.

The city will be equipped with tourist buses with the presence of tour guides, particularly in areas with tourist centers, and free tours will be offered, ILNA quoted Mehrshad Kazemi as saying.

Most of the recreational, historical and cultural centers and museums are scheduled to be open to the public during the holidays, he mentioned.

Meanwhile, carnivals featuring fictional figures from Iranian folklore, such as Uncle Noruz, the herald of spring, and his companion Haji Firuz, will be held and traditional rituals will be performed throughout the city, he added. He also noted that in collaboration with Kurdistan prov-

ince, some 300 Kurdish daf players will perform on Tabiat Bridge in the heart of the capital.

Milad Tower will also host an ethnic exhibition, and Iranian tribes will set up booths in different parts of Tehran with ethnic products, he mentioned.

It is not the first year that Tehran offers special programs for Noruz travelers, as attempts had been made in previous years to position Tehran as a tourist destination, but the outbreak of the coronavirus and restrictions on travel in the past two years thwarted efforts, he concluded.

Back in January, the deputy tourism minister announced that the Iranian government should get fully prepared for a surge and potential tsunami of tourism when COVID-restrictions are over.

“Despite not knowing how the coronavirus outbreak will evolve in the future, we ought to plan on hosting tourists during the upcoming holidays of Noruz (Iranian new year).”

Travel and tourism will increase as vaccination becomes a priority around the world and lifestyles

align, the official added. Hugging the lower slopes of the magnificent, snowcapped Alborz Mountains, Tehran is much more than a chaotic jumble of concrete and crazy traffic blanketed by a miasma of air pollution.

This is the nation's dynamic beating heart and the place to get a handle on modern Iran and what its future will likely be.

The metropolis has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

PETZONE petrochemical output seen to hit 19m ton by late March

TEHRAN-Managing Director of Iran's Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone (PETZONE) said the output of this zone is expected to reach 19 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

According to Omid Shahidi-Nia, so far over one billion dollars have been invested to develop the infrastructure in the mentioned zone, Shana reported.

The official noted that continuous development of the region is always considered a top priority for PETZONE, adding: “Our most important task in this region is to provide the ground for energy investment and management.”

PETZONE currently accounts for 26 million tons of the country's current 90-million-ton petrochemical capacity, according to Shahidi-Nia.

He pointed to the diversity of the petrochemicals produced in the Mahshahr region and said: “Currently, several new projects worth over seven billion dollars are underway in

this region, which will create more than 4,800 new jobs.”

Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan Province is one of the major petrochemical zones of the country.

Back in September 2020, Shahidi-Nia had said that 29 development projects were underway in



this zone to complete the petrochemical industry's value chain and also reduce the exports of raw materials.

According to the official, four of the mentioned projects went operational in upstream and mid-stream sectors, while the other 25 were related to the downstream industries.

In July 2019, the former managing director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) had unveiled a plan for the construction of a new petrochemical hub in Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone in order to add up to six million tons of new capacity to the zone.

Speaking in the annual general assembly of the Petrochemical Special Economic Zone at that time, Behzad Mohammadi noted that NPC was seeking two main goals in the Mahshahr's zone, one of which was maintaining the current output

levels and the other was the development of the zone and attracting and facilitating investment.

"In Mahshahr's grand scheme, development of downstream and midstream industries is given great importance," he said adding that the zone's development plan was going through revision and preparation.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

The Islamic Republic has been highly developing this sector over the recent years as the development of the giant South Pars gas field (Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) has been supplying more feedstock to the petrochemical units.

Austria updates travel regulations for Iranian visitors



TEHRAN – Vienna has updated travel regulations for Iranian nationals and visitors arriving in Austria as of February 22.

To enter Austria, proof of vaccination/recovery or a negative COVID test is mandatory as two-dose vaccinations are currently valid for 270 days after the second or any additional dose.

Moreover, there need to be at least 14 days in between the first and second jab and 90 days between the second and third one.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccination is valid for 270 days, 22 days after the first dose. Furthermore, Sinopharm, BioNTech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Covishield, Covaxin, Covovax, Johnson & John-

son, Moderna, Nuvaxovid (Novavax), and Sinovac are valid for ENTERING Austria.

Only BioNTech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, and Nuvaxovid (Novavax) are currently recognized for the "3-G" rule when in Austria. To prove "3-G" status, travelers can use the NHS COVID app or the EU COVID Pass. In that rearguard, printed versions and medical certificates of vaccination or recovery are also accepted.

Additionally, proof of recovery can be used for 180 days to enter Austria. A medical certificate including the date of recovery is needed. Please note if traveling from the UK: An NHS email/text of a positive test is not sufficient.

The PCR test is valid for 72 hours. The certificate needs to be issued by an official medical authority (such as a test center or a pharmacy) and include the date and time the test was taken. Children under the age of 12 do not need to show proof of vaccination/recovery or a test.

For people traveling to Austria without proof of vaccination/recovery or a negative test, they need to be self-isolated immediately.

Travelers entering Austria with "3-G" proof do NOT need pre-travel clearance so pre-travel clearance is required when entering without "3-G" proof.

World Short Economic News:

Visa and Mastercard suspend Russian

Visa and Mastercard have announced they will suspend all operations in Russia in protest at its invasion of Ukraine.

Cards issued by Russian banks will no longer be supported by their networks, the payments giants said on Saturday.

Both firms have also said that cards issued abroad will no longer work at businesses or ATMs in Russia.

But Russia's major banks, including state-backed Sberbank, have already downplayed the impact the move will have on their clients.

"This war and the ongoing threat to peace and stability demand we respond in line with our values," Visa's chief executive, **Al Kelly, said.**

In a statement, Mastercard also described the ongoing invasion of Ukraine as "shocking and devastating".

"Noting the unprecedented nature of the current conflict and the uncertain economic environment," **Mastercard said** it had "decided to suspend our network services in Russia" on Saturday. Together, the two companies control about 90% of credit and debit payments in the world, outside of China.

Russia's central bank insisted, however, that all Visa and Mastercard bank cards issued by Russian banks would continue to operate normally on Russian territory.

Russia's biggest state-backed bank, Sberbank, said similar, adding the cards would work "to withdraw cash, make transfers using the card number, and for payment at offline as well as at online Russian stores".

Cards will continue to work on Russian territory, the bank said, because all payments in Russia are made through a national system and don't depend on foreign systems.

Several Russian banks also suggested that they would start issuing cards that use the Chinese UnionPay system, coupled with Russia's Mir payment network, to avoid any impact for consumers.



Both Visa and Mastercard had already announced that they would comply with sanctions introduced by Western countries since the start of the conflict.

"Our colleagues, our customers and our partners have been affected in ways that most of us could not imagine," Mastercard said.

The card company has operated in Russia for more than 25 years. It confirmed that it would continue to pay the wages of its 200 staff members there.

Visa added: "We regret the impact this will have on our valued colleagues, and on the clients, partners, merchants and cardholders we serve in Russia."

US President Joe Biden "welcomed the decision" during a phone call with Ukrainian leader, Volodymyr Zelensky, according to a **White House readout.**

'Adding to financial turmoil'

Susannah Streeter, senior markets analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, pointed out that the move came **after the disconnection of Russian banks from the Swift** international payments system and a dramatic plunge in the Rouble.

"Bank customers in Russia may be able to keep using the cards until they expire, but the boycott means Russians abroad will see their payments rejected, with the shutting out of some big



spenders also likely to hurt a raft of businesses reliant on their custom," she said.

She added that China's UnionPay is likely to be the alternative "system of choice" for Russian banks as it's already accepted around the world, although not as widely as Visa and Mastercard.

Putin says sanctions over Ukraine are like a declaration of war

Mr. Putin was meeting Aeroflot flight attendants near Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin has described sanctions imposed by Western nations over his invasion of Ukraine as "akin to a declaration of war".

"But thank God it has not come to that," he added. Mr Putin also warned that any attempt to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine would be seen as participation in the armed conflict. And he rejected suggestions that he would introduce a state of emergency or martial law in Russia.

Mr Putin made the remarks while speaking to a group of women flight attendants at an Aeroflot training centre near Moscow.

Since the start of Russia's invasion 10 days ago, the West has imposed a raft of sanctions on Russia, including the freezing of Mr Putin's foreign assets and the exclusion of a number of Russian banks from the Swift international payments system.

In addition, many multinational firms have ceased operations in Russia, On Saturday, **Zara, Paypal and Samsung** became the latest global brands to suspend trading there.

The economic measures have already caused the rouble to plunge in value and forced the Russian central bank to double interest rates.

"But it will take significant time to re-issue millions of cards, and will add to the financial turmoil in the country."

The payments giants' announcement comes amid a widening corporate backlash to Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Inditex-owner Zara and French fashion houses LVMH, Kering and Chanel have all said in recent days that they would stop sales temporarily in Russia.

PayPal also said on Saturday that it had shut down services in Russia but that it would support withdrawals "for a period of time".

This would ensure that account balances were dispersed "in line with applicable laws and regulations", it said.

The Ukrainian government had been calling on Paypal to quit Russia and help its officials with fundraising.



In his latest comments, Mr Putin sought to justify the war in Ukraine, repeating his assertion that he was seeking to defend Russian speaking communities there through the "demilitarisation and de-Nazification" of the country.

Responding to Western defence analysts' allegations that the Russian military campaign was going less well than expected, he said: "Our army will fulfil all the tasks. I don't doubt that at all. Everything is going to plan."

He added that only professional soldiers were taking part in the hostilities and there were no conscripts involved, despite reports to the contrary.

IBCCIM's New Members

Member Companies:

Aryansan Co.: Pharmaceuticals and food supplements and Medical Suppliers, M.D.: Hossein Akbarinabi, Address: Postal Code: 1586748551, No. 25, Azadegan Alley, Ghaem-Magham-Farahani St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88102240, Fax: +98 (21) 88707743, Email: drnabi@aryansana.com.

Atrin Eshtad Co.: Manufacturer and supplier of equipment required in the transfer of materials in the cement, mining and steel industries, M.D.: Masoumeh Kheirollahi, Address: Postal Code: 1397114481, No. 13, Seviom Sharghi Dead-end, 63 St., 18 Kilometer Karaj Highway, Tel: +98 (21) 44985977, Fax: +98 (21) 44986079, Email: kheirollahi@atrineshtad.com.

Ertebatat & Toseh Rahkar Afarin Beynolmellal Co.: Information technology and business developer, M.D.: Afshin Nobakht Dastjerdi, Address: Postal Code: 575611529, No. 104,

opposite Nazloo University, Sarv Road 11 Kilometer, Uroumiyeh, Tel: +98 (21) 41197, Fax: +98 (44) 32750416, Email: info@etraab.com.

Zhik System Co.: Audit and management systems evaluation training with issuing related certificates, M.D.: Yasin Ramin, Address: Postal Code 1417763384, Flat No. 7, Forth Floor, No. 220, in the corner of Ghods St., Keshavarz Bulevard, Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88965114, Fax: +98 (21) 88965114, Email: iran@zhikcert.com .

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Individual Members:

Mohammadreza Amini.: Investment in Energy, Oil and Petrochemicals, M.D.: Mohsen Bahrami, Address: Postal Code: 1511739741, No. 23, Del Afrooz St., Vali-e-Asr St., Tehran, Tel: +98 (21) 88557045 .

Mehdi Amini: Food Industries, Address: Zar Group Building, in the corner of Danesh Doost St., North Sheikh bahaie St., Tehran

Key Economic Indicators

Population and Labor Force

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Population (1400) | 85.0 million |
| Urban | 64.4 million |
| Rural ¹ | 20.6 million |
| Population Growth | 1.1 percent |
| Population Density | 51.6 per sq km |
| Economically Active Population (1400, Q2) | 25.9 million |
| Unemployment Rate (1400, Q2) | 9.6 percent |
| Urban | 10.7 percent |
| Rural | 6.5 percent |
| Female | 17.7 percent |
| Male | 8.1 percent |
| 18-35 years old | 17.6 percent |
| 15-24 years old | 25.7 percent |

Source: Statistical Center of Iran (SCI)

¹ Includes non-resident population.

External Sector (million USD) (1400, First six months)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Current Account Balance | 5,997 |
| Trade Balance (goods account) | 8,073 |
| Exports (FOB) | 36,108 |
| Imports (FOB) | 28,035 |
| Total External Debt (end of period) | 9,031 |
| Exchange Rate (USD/Iranian rial) | 42,000 |
| Official Rate | |

Growth in Monetary and Credit Aggregates (percent) (Shahrivar 1400 compared with Esfand 1399)

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Broad Money (M2) | 17.0 |
| Money (M1) | 18.2 |
| Non-sight Deposits (Quasi-money) | 16.7 |
| Deposits of Non-public Sector | 17.4 |

Real Sector (1400, Q2)

| | |
|--|-------------|
| GDP Growth (1395=100) | |
| Oil | 1.0 percent |
| Non-oil | 0.5 percent |
| Performance of 1400, Q2 (current prices; trillion rials) | |
| GDP (at basic price) | 17,570 |
| Gross Fixed Capital Formation | 3,896 |
| Private Consumption Expenditures | 7,025 |
| Public Consumption Expenditures | 2,286 |

Tehran Stock Exchange (1400, Q2)

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Tehran Stock Exchange Price Index (TEPIX) | |
| (end of period) | 1,386,451 |
| Value of Shares and Rights Traded | Rls. 3,412.3 trillion |
| Number of Shares and Rights Traded | 483.3 billion |

Source: Central Bank

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Parham Information

Registration Information

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Web Site: www.parhamco.com

Email Address: Info@parhamco.com

Date of Establishment: Nov. 1959



Board of Directors & Senior Management:

Managing Director: Ali Akbar Khodabakhshi, M.Sc. in Civil Engineering, Tehran University, 1971

Chairman of the Board: Sadeh Adib Samii

Vice Chairman: Mohammed Reza Moussavi Kermani

Profile

Parham Construction Company, is one of most prestigious Iranian construction company was established in 1959, ever since it has been a leading and reliable heavy civil engineering contractor in the Iranian market. With having at its disposal, large fleet of construction plants and deep foundation machinery as well as technical expertises, Parham is capable of conducting all types of deep foundation works (even at the hardest conditions onshore and offshore).

Parham Construction Company, is also applying Dywidag System International of Germany (DSI) specifications; equipment and material for pre-stressing and post-tensioning works, related to Tie rods, Bridges, Buildings, Towers, Tunnels, Slope stabilization and other civil application above and underground.

Parham Construction Company, is the first Iranian Contractor for execution of in situ concrete piles with different types of excavation and also piling with soldier pile system, and equipped with different kind of machinery for deep foundation, piling, excavation, and insitu piles.

Parham Construction Company, has successfully completed a jetty and one of the most advanced Caspian Sea rail ferry link-span.

This system has been installed in basin No. 1 of Amirabad commercial port and all complementary design and construction stages were supervised & implemented by Parham's technical staff.

In recent years, Parham with emphasize on his experiences and technical staff, exerted the value engineering and offered optimum plan in big and important national projects, and caused quality improvement, cost benefit and reduction in time of projects. In this regard, Anzali port development (10 wharfs), Amirabad commercial port (9 wharfs) and multi purposes berth in South Pars Energy Special Economic Zone (5 wharfs) could be mentioned.

Field of Activities:

1- Construction of marine structures. 2- Piling & Drilling . 3- Pre-stressed reinforced concrete structures. 4- Heavy reinforced concrete structures.
5- Civil and road construction works. 6- Oil & Gaz.

Qualification:

Class1: In The Field Of Water, Subfield Of Marine Structures.

Class1: In The Field Of Road & Transportation.

Class5: Oil & Gaz.

