

IRAN AT A GLANCE MIRROR

PUBLICATION OF THE CULTURAL COUNCIL OF THE EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, NIAIROBI-KENYA

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Profile

The Cultural Council of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nairobi promotes mutual understanding and cultural co-operation among peoples in Kenya and Iran in line with the principles of cultural heritage.

The Council's aim is to create enduring partnership between Iran and other cultures, and we do this by creating opportunities to connect with the latest skills, ideas and experience from Iran.

Activities

Library:

The Cultural Council has a very rich library consisting of myriad of books in the field of Persian language and literature. Besides books on human sciences, history of Iran, Islamic studies, world history, religions, Islamic philosophy, a large number of books on social sciences, political science, culture and art are also available for readers and scholars. Besides a good number of bilingual and multilingual Persian dictionaries have also been obtained for the benefit of scholars. The membership of the library is open to all.

Film and Art Division:

The film and art division of the Cultural Council consists of video and audio tapes of classical Persian music, art books, calligraphy models, attractive sceneries, handicrafts and various prominent Iranian films. In addition, film festivals and cultural exhibitions in various parts of Kenya are also organised by this Office.

Public Relations Department:

The department arranges meetings with prominent personalities from the domain of Kenya art and culture. Organising seminars, round table discussions and cultural programmes.

Information Centre:

The centre provides necessary information about Iranian art, culture and all other facets of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Distribution Unit:

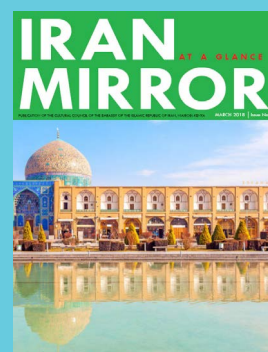
This unit is responsible for providing Persian books, periodicals, magazines to the Persian loving people.

Persian Language Teaching Centre:

This unit is responsible for organising Beginners, Intermediate and advance level Persian courses for interested students. Besides, the unit has introduced Persian language teaching programme in one of the Universities in Kenya known as Jamiatus Saifia University located in Karen.

Apart from the above the Cultural Council also organize religious programs, offers Scholarship for Kenyan Students, Seminars and Conferences and translation of books among others.

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CULTURAL COUNCIL

EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

NAIROBI-KENYA

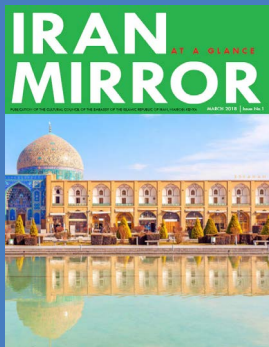
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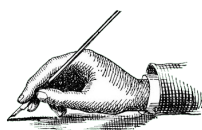
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Editorial



Dear reader, allow me to share the good news, our first edition of Iran Mirror is here with us, Finally we have the opportunity to offer a panoramic view of the stories and perspectives that are emerging from the Rich Iranian Culture.

This year marks the thirty-ninth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution; a revolution that transformed Islamic Republic of Iran into a powerhouse in not only Middle Eastern Map but also the World equation.

What is even more remarkable with Islamic Republic of Iran is that it has made enormous progress in many vital fields despite facing many challenges.

Iran has achieved remarkable breakthroughs in numerous scientific arenas, all thanks to the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Today, Iran is one of the top ten countries in the world in stem cell research, Nanotechnology, nuclear technology, and space. Iran recently launched its fourth satellite into orbit.

As the Google CEO mentioned, Iran is so advanced in technology that it can hack into a US drone system and land it safely.

Who helped science progress to such a degree in Iran? Who founded the scientific movement in Iran? Who has put the inherited Iranian talent in the service of innovation and invention? Of course it was the Islamic establishment that proved both its perpetuity and its capability to make Iran progress.

Persian art and architecture reflects a 5,000-year-old cultural tradition shaped by the diverse cultures that have flourished on the vast Iranian

plateau.

Throughout its development, Persian artistic achievement has normally been imperial in nature, with impressive majestic monuments or associated with royal patronage in book illustration. Countless painters, weavers, potters, calligraphers, metalworkers, stone masons etc. have produced some of the most beautiful works ever created, and contributed to the Persian artistic heritage that is known throughout the world.

One such artistic prowess is that of an extremely talented Iranian painter, Mahmoud Farschian world-renown for his distinctive and creative style of painting. His paintings are a joy to admire and have such an intense depth to them. You really do get carried away into some kind of fantasy land admiring this man's work.

Iran is a land of vast discovery through the ancient and historical Tourist attractions, preserved in the Great Persepolis, Tehran, Beautiful Esfahan and Lovely Shiraz and a Desert beauty like Yazd, Iran is a land that everyone should visit and experience at least once in a life-time. There is no shortage of touristic sites for any first time traveler to Iran.

Iran Mirror is a monthly informative e-magazine of the Cultural Council of the Embassy of Iran Nairobi, which will strive to give an incisive view of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Enjoy your read.

Mahmoud Majlesain
Cultural Counsellor Embassy I.R.I
Nairobi-Kenya

Islamic Revolution in Iran



The Islamic Revolution of Iran: Glory and Honor

Each and Every February Iranians around the World celebrate the Victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran; a revolution that brought about the Islamic system of governance in Iran.

Undoubtedly, the Islamic Revolution of Iran is the most significant and the greatest political, social and cultural event of the present era. This Revolution has brought about the most profound and most extensive cultural and socio-political developments in the life of the Iranian nation and being based on humane values and virtues, has called not only the other Muslim peoples, but also all the oppressed world nations to awakening and rising in the face of the world arrogant powers.

The impressions made by the Islamic Revolution upon Islamic countries are undeniable facts. In fact, the Islamic Revolution has been practically exported to the whole world, and the waves of Islamic and human awareness are quite visible not only among the Muslim nations in the region, but also among all other world nations.

Truly Imam Khomeini (ra) - the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, inspired by the lessons from Imam Hussein (AS) and his 'Ashura uprising, stood up against the tyrant of his time most courageously, disclosed the true nature of the despotic rule, removed ignorance from the people's minds, so the sun of Islam could shine upon Iran and through the light and implementation of Islam's reviving decrees and teachings, the Iranian nation would be revived and would move towards lofty values and

salvation.

A very important point to be mentioned here is that from the start of the Islamic Revolution on Khordad 1342 (1963) till its victory in Bahman 1357 (1979), Iranian women had outstanding participation; their activities in the struggling against the oppressive policies of the corrupt anti-human Pahlavi regime, their exemplary resistance in the face of the constant threats as well as arrests and tortures at the hands of the mercenary agents of Shah's SAVAK, their selfless support for their husbands and sons in their revolutionary tasks and their tolerating the exile, imprisonment and martyrdom of their dear ones, besides their courageous participation in all anti-Shah demonstrations have been really marked, so much so that the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini(ra) would on various occasions emphasize that "The share of the women in the Revolution was greater than that of men." and "Today also Iranian ladies have greater share of participation in this Movement and Revolution than men.

Likewise, in the political-religious will of Imam Khomeini(ra) we read: "We pride ourselves for the fact that the Iranian ladies, both young and old and from various walks of life are actively present in cultural, economic and military scenes working shoulder-to-shoulder with men or even better than men to support Islam and the goals of the Holy Qur'an."

Based on the Islamic decrees, in the Islamic Republic system women enjoy a supreme position and receive particular attention regarding their rights, whereas in the past and during

the monarchial, puppet rule of the hireling Pahlavi regime, women were in fact humiliated most, so much so that they were encouraged by the regime to set aside all religious values and instead make themselves like painted dolls for the pleasure of men and/or for their material gains through movies and advertisements. Under such deplorable conditions, many religious families were even afraid to let their daughters go to universities, for fear of the corrupting influences. And when by Allah's grace, the Islamic Revolution gained victory, conditions became favorable for the fruitful presence of chaste, pious women in various social areas, including in universities. Before the Revolution, there was a marked shortage of physicians in Iran, even male physicians, let alone female ones, while now after about 39 years, Iran is proud of having many competent knowledgeable physicians, both male and female as well as many others who have studied in other useful fields, including engineering.

These are just a part of the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran attained with the marked, admirable presence and cooperation of women and sure the lists include many others too. Thanks to the enlightening teachings of Islam and the wise leadership of Imam Khomeini(ra) today in Iran the doors to all useful activities are open to women and also they can fulfill their social duties while observing their hijab and protecting their chastity.



(from left) Diellan Morteza , Commercial Attache, Ahmed Kalandari, Dr. Hadi Farajvand, Ambassador Embassy of I.R.I, Mohammed Javad Emamian, Political and Economic Attache and Mahmoud Majlesain, Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of I.R.I

39th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran

On 12th February 2018 the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E Dr. Hadi Farajvand hosted a reception at the Embassy premises located at lower Kabete to mark the 39th anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution and The National Day of Iran.

The National Day in Iran is celebrated in February each year to mark the Iranian revolution in 1979. It is also known as Islamic Revolution or the 1979 Revolution.

The National Day of Iran was established to commemorate overthrowing a dictatorial monarchical government led by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. After the overthrow of Pahlavi's government, it was replaced by an Islamic republic under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Since the Victory of the Islamic

Revolution, Iran has emerged as a key player in international politics and has been shaping independent policies without caving in to any pressure from any superpower.

The function was attended by ambassadors, diplomats, and businessmen

The Iranian ambassador delivered his speech in which he underlined the cordial relations between Iran and Kenya.

Today the Islamic Republic of Iran has gained a lot of great achievements in various fields. One of the proudest achievements is rapid growth and active presence in scientific fields with thousands of patents being registered.

Iranian researchers have been among the world's top scientists elevating Iran to a country with high position in scientific products.

Other achievements which Iran

never had before can be seen in mastering technology of Peaceful nuclear fuel cycle and being among the world's top 5 countries in that field, successful entry into new sciences such as nanotechnology, laser, microelectronic, robot manufacturing science, software, hardware development and building supercomputer, unprecedented increase in capacity of universities, number of scholars & students, significant increase of doctors transforming the country into regional hub of medical tourism, acquiring knowledge in stem cells, being among top countries in kidney, heart transplantation and eye diseases treatment, being first in pharmaceutical production, export in the Middle East, self-sufficiency in producing different vaccines.

Women in Islam

Ayatullah Khamenei Opinion on Women's Issues





Supreme Leader, Ayatullah Sayyid Ali Khamenei

On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Hazrat Fatimah az-Zahra (as) and the celebration of the international Women's Day, below are some famous opinions of the Supreme Leader of Islamic Republic of Iran on Women issues.

Islam ensures women's growth in all aspects

The Islamic view of women brings about dignity, honor, growth and an independent identity for women. This is our claim and we can prove it with very compelling reasons. In an Islamic environment, a woman achieves scholarly growth. She achieves personal growth. She achieves ethical growth. She achieves political growth. She becomes a pioneer in the most essential social issues. Yet she remains a woman. Being a woman is an advantage, a source of pride.

Isolating women from womanly environments and characteristics will not bring about any honor for women. Housekeeping, raising children and

taking care of one's husband must not be considered a source of disgrace for women. Western culture made the family collapse. Today one of the great problems of the Western world is the breakup of the family and the increase in the number of abandoned children. The West will suffer from the consequences. Social developments build up over time. The West will be harmed most by this problem and the flashy materialistic civilization of the West will collapse along the fault lines of this problem.

The post-Revolution's progress of Iranian women has been unprecedented

Today, when we take a look, we see that the name of our women have been written on many books including scientific, research-based, historical, literature, political and artistic books. The writings of our women - whether articles or books - are among the best writings in the Islamic Republic today. This is really a source of honor and it is unprecedented in our history.

Women are best suited to solve

women's issues

The issue of women is an important issue. The best people who can follow up and solve this issue are women themselves. We do not suffer from a lack of educated, broad-minded, talented, literary and artistic women. Thankfully today, there are many such women in our country. As I mentioned before, we had never had such a large number of educated, knowledgeable and outstanding women in the history of our country, neither in seminary nor in academic environments.

We had never had so many woman writers, poets and researchers in different fields of study. Fortunately today, we have such women thanks to the Islamic Republic. These things have been achieved in the shade of Islam, the Islamic Republic and Imam's (r.a.) enlightening outlook towards the issue of women. This was pointed out in the statements of the lady who delivered a speech as well. We had never enjoyed such a condition in our country.

We should thank God for His blessings and we should ask Him to increase these blessings. We should thank Him for these blessings and the

way to thank Him is what I pointed out in this meeting. We should look at the divine guidance and forget about the materialistic views which are promoted today by westerners and the Americans. They are very vile and they make extravagant claims. Besides, they have a propagandist outlook. If someone speaks against them, they launch a propagandist attack. But you should not pay attention to their propaganda and, by Allah's favor, you should move forward.

Women are not of secondary importance and are not servants

The typical image of women at home is the image of a creature of secondary importance who is responsible for rendering services to others. This image is shared by many people. Some people openly express it and some people do not, although they believe it in their hearts. This is the exact opposite of what Islam has mentioned.

I have repeatedly quoted this well-known hadith: "Women are like flowers. They are not servants" [Nahjul Balaghah, Letter 31]. The Arabic word "*ghahraman*" means one's employee

or servant. One example is: "*He said to his ghahraman to do such and such a task*" [Speaking in Arabic].

Another example is that a person who has many properties and lands orders his ghahraman to carry out such and such a task. This is the meaning of ghahraman. This hadith says that we should not think women are the servants of the house and that they should only do household chores. This is not the case. Well, notice that this is one of the several chapters about women: the issue of respecting women's work at home. They are not obligated to do household chores and their work can be bought. That is to say, they can receive money for the work that they do at home. These are the things which exist in Islam and Islamic fiqh. As the lady who delivered a speech in this meeting pointed out, our fiqh is really advanced and outstanding. Some people highlight some aspects of it and forget about the rest. Besides, they completely distort certain aspects of it in order to make it compatible with western deceitful and fallacious thoughts. We have witnessed this as well.

Women's health, security, tranquility

and respect should be ensured in the family

Paying attention to the issue of family - particularly the issue of women's health, security, tranquility and respect in the family environment - is one of the main issues. We have a number of main issues. This is one of them. You should see what factors take away women's tranquility and peace of mind inside the family. You should try to remove these factors with legal ways and with promotional and different other methods. This is the basis of the issue.

Women are a source of tranquility at home. They are a source of tranquility for men and children including girls and boys. If women themselves do not enjoy psychological tranquility, they cannot share their tranquility with their family.

A woman who is humiliated, insulted and pressured because of her job cannot be the lady of the house. She cannot be the manager of the family. This is while women are, in fact, managers of the family. This is the main issue. This is one of the main issues which has not received enough attention in our living environments - whether in the past or in the present





time. This issue should receive enough attention.

No difference between men and women

If we adopt a comprehensive outlook, we see that there is no difference between men and women. Certain privileges have been granted to women and certain other privileges have been granted to men and this is based on their natural characteristics which Allah the Exalted has bestowed on them.

each gender certain characteristics. Each gender benefits from certain outstanding qualities. Therefore, they have no differences in terms of human qualities. They have no differences which Allah the Exalted has bestowed on humanity such as human rights, social rights, spiritual values and spiritual perfection. That is to say, a man can become Ali ibn Abi Talib (a.s.) and a woman can become Fatima Zahra (s.a.). A man can become Jesus (a.s.) and a woman can become Mary (s.a.). They are not different from each other.

“If we adopt a comprehensive outlook, we see that there is no difference between men and women”

in terms of the privileges Allah the Exalted has bestowed on

Islam does not prevent women from economic and social activities

It is wrong to assume, we should prevent women from partaking in economic and social activities with reference to Islam. Islam has not prescribed such a thing. However, Islam has not recommended imposing hard works, tough businesses, social and political tasks on women, either. Islam

has adopted a moderate viewpoint; that is to say, if women have the opportunity and the time, and if it does not prevent them from bringing up their children, if they are enthusiastic and eager and have the physical

strength and energy and if they are willing to take part in social, political and economic activities, they should not be prevented. But if they are forced to take a job and work certain hours per day so that they can have a share in covering the household expenses, this is not what Islam has asked women. Islam considers this as a form of imposition on women.





Iranians usher in the Persian New Year

March 20th, marks the grand festival of Nowruz in the Islamic Republic of Iran. On this day, Iranians usher in the Persian New Year at the exact moment of the vernal equinox which marks the start of spring.

Being originally a festival of Persian origin, Nowruz is also celebrated by hundreds of millions of people from other ethno-linguistic groups in a dozen countries.

Nowruz is widely celebrated in Iran's neighboring countries Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey. It is also observed by communities in countries as far away as Georgia, Albania, Kosovo, China and India.

Nowruz festivities last for two weeks and are preceded by "**Chaharshanbeh Suri**" or the Festival of Fire during which people make bonfires and jump over them. The symbolic tradition is meant to trade one's ailments and problems

with the flames' warmth, energy and power of life.

The Persian New Year comes with its own special rituals. Families take advantage of the two-week holidays to join together for house visits and outdoor fun events.

One of the special observances of the occasion is the table setting known as Haft Sin, which means the seven S's in Persian. The table features seven items all of which start with the letter S in Persian. Families gather around the table and pray while waiting for the exact moment of the spring equinox. These symbolic items represent health, prosperity, longevity, reproduction and happiness for the family members throughout the year.

One of the customs of Nowruz is to exchange house visits during which guests are served tea, pastries, nuts and fruits. People also exchange gifts and money to congratulate each other on the advent of the New Year.

Literally translated into New Day, Nowruz is the first day of the Iranian solar calendar.

The UN's General Assembly recognized the International Day of Nowruz in 2010, describing it as a spring festival of Iranian origin, which has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. Also in 2009, Nowruz was officially registered on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Nowruz festivities culminate in *Sizdebedar*, the last day of the holidays which falls on the 13th day of the New Year. This is a day that has to be spent outdoors. Families leave their houses for picnics, outdoor games and strolls in nature.

Persian **carpet:** artistic narrative of Iranian history





Persian carpet has been considered as a sublime embodiment of timeless beauty and elegance over thousands of years in human history and it has constantly evolved into a more elegant artistic creation throughout its existence.

The artistic creation reached its zenith during the rule of Safavid Dynasty (1501–1736) when royal court manufactories in the central city of Esfahan created countless masterpieces in terms of their elaborate colors and designs, most of which are currently treasured in museums and private collections all over the world.

The world's oldest hand-woven carpet, the Pazyryk rug, which dates back to 2,500 years ago, includes Iranian and Achaemenid motifs. The carpet is currently kept at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

The value of the Persian carpet is determined by various factors, including the beauty, intricacy and authenticity of designs, durability of colors, the quality of materials and the knots as well as the years of labor spent for producing each carpet.

Wool is the main material of the Persian rug and it is used due to its luminescent texture which reflects the colors more accurately. Silk is also used in more decorative carpets which are normally framed or hanged from walls.

In the Persian weaving technique, the knots are tied to the base string in such a way that it makes the texture of the carpet more resistant and durable compared with other types of rugs woven in the other parts of the world.

Designs and symbols

Every city and province of Iran has its own unique style of rug which represents the heritage and culture of that city.

There are mainly 19 types of designs in both nomadic and classic Persian rugs, with ancient motifs passed down from one generation to another.

While classic Persian rugs are generally woven through pre-planned sophisticated refined repertory, rural and nomadic rugs are based on improvised rustic simple designs generated by the imagination of the weaver.

The classic city rugs are characterized by recognizable floral rug forms articulated with undulating curves or rhythms. Nomad and village rugs, however, tend to depict more abstract forms using bold, more rectilinear graphic effects and repetitions.

Almost all Persian carpets have a number of elements in common, including the field, a border or multiple borders and some form of medallion or pattern.

Every carpet design narrates a unique story, inspired by the daily lives of the people, natural surroundings as well as the epics of Iranian culture, religion and mythology.

Some of the key motifs in Persian rug include the tree of life which symbolizes the path from earth to heaven, lily for spirituality, cypress for serenity, Botteh (a teardrop-shaped motif) for universe, diamond for women and Mehrab (altar) for the gateway to paradise.

Persian rugs normally use natural dyes made from vegetables and plants to produce the most durable, luminous and warm shades.

Nomadic colors mainly blend a harmonious composition of bold and daring colors to reflect the courageous spirit of the people.

Contrary to chemical colors, organic dye is significantly durable and does not fade after washing or due to the elements.

In Iran, rose is used for red color, pistachio for green, indigo for blue, carbonates for black and saffron for 39 different colors.

The number of colors in a Persian carpet ranges from 15 to 25 and each color signifies a special meaning.

Green stands for hope and life; red for wealth, beauty and courage; blue for heavens and solitude; yellow for the sun and joy of life; white for purity; gold for wealth and brown for fertility.

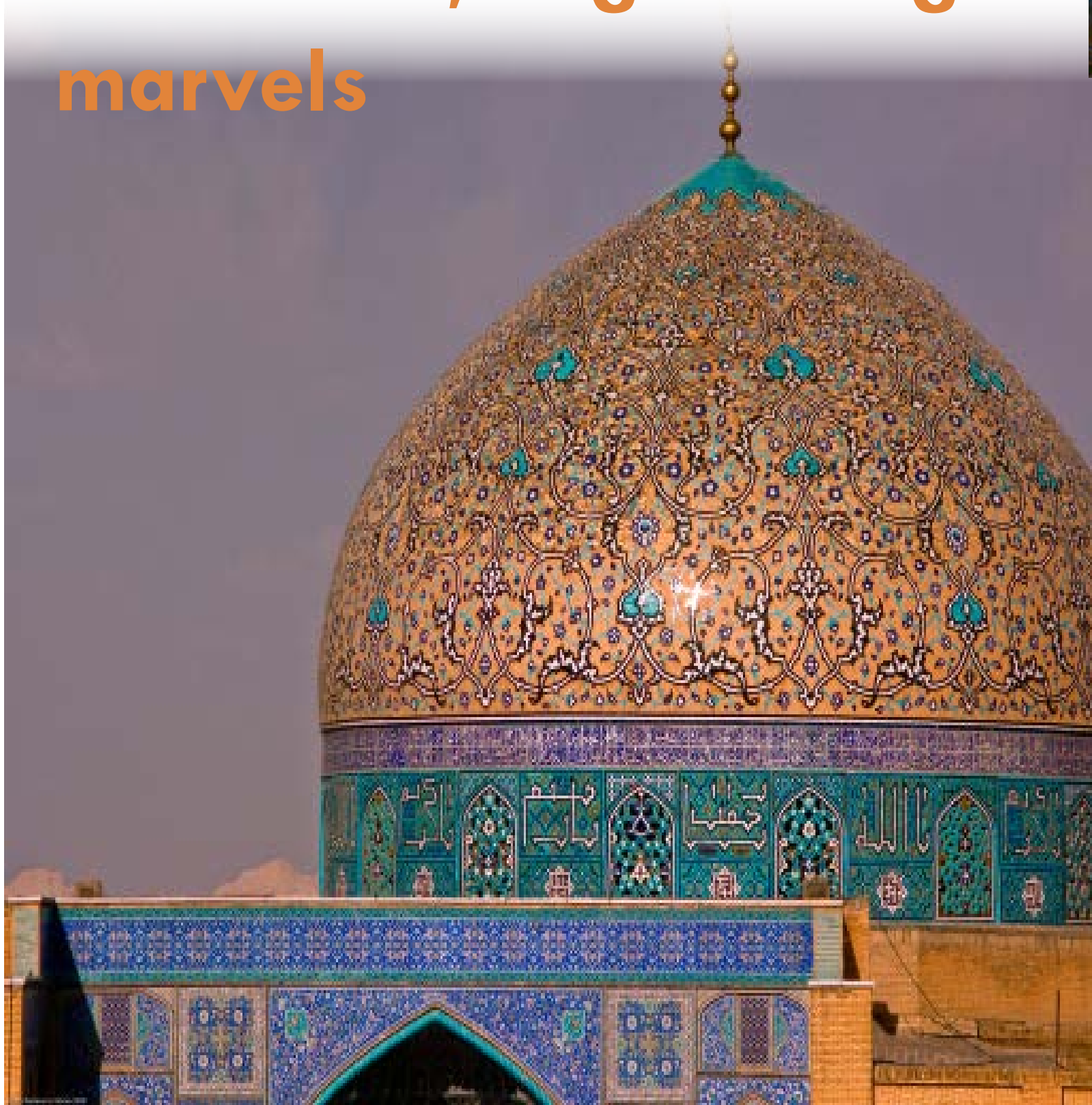
Hand-woven carpet is one of Iran's key non-oil exports and the country makes three quarters of the world's hand-woven carpets.

Iran currently produces five million square meters of hand-woven carpet each year, of which 3.5 million square meters are exported to foreign markets.

There are currently nearly 1.2 million carpet weavers in Iran, whose family-business handicrafts are both sold in the domestic market and exported to international customers, with the UAE, Germany, Japan, Lebanon and Qatar being the major destinations.

Persian

Domes: Embodiment of fine art, engineering marvels





A phenomenal architectural innovation in human history, the design of Persian domes has for thousands of years embodied the combination of sustainable engineering marvels and sublime artistic heritage.

The Persian tradition of dome-building dates back to the earliest Mesopotamian architecture (3,000 BC) when domes became an integral part of buildings due to the scarcity of wood in many areas of the Iranian plateau.

In Ancient Persia, domes were associated with the divine side of life, as their circular shape represented perfection, eternity and the heavens.

The Persian domes then became the inspiration for the domed baldachin of Roman and Byzantine practice, after Alexander the Great conquered the Achaemenid Empire.

Domes moved to the forefront of Persian architecture during the Sasanian period (224 to 651 AD) and they evolved through different eras until the Safavid dynasty (1501–1732) when the last generation of Persian domes were characterized by a distinctive bulbous profile and astonishing tileworks.

In the Persian urban designing, domes in places of worship and public places, including traditional bazars, caravansaries, schools and baths, are designed in such a way that can be

seen from different parts of urban or rural area.

The domes are normally double-shelled. While the interior shell is designed to carry the weight of the structure, the exterior shell serves as both a decorative element and as insulation against the elements. The aerodynamic shape of the domes also makes the structures more sustainable.

In Esfahan's Imam Mosque, due to its unique architectural design, if somebody makes a small sound exactly under the dome, the sound strongly resonates throughout the entire vast hall of the grand mosque. The quality has turned the mosque into one of the wonders among outstanding Iranian monuments.

The UNESCO World Heritage mosque is a hub for many tourists from different parts of the world who are eager to directly witness the phenomenon at the site.

In the following video, a tourist hums a tune under the dome of the mosque, with her voice echoing throughout the chamber.

Domes also make the warm weather inside the building move up, allowing fresh air to flow inside the structure.

The symmetric geometric design of the domes also makes the buildings resistant against seismic activities and other pressures on the structure.

Decoration

The use of decorative ornaments in

Persian domes blossomed in the Islamic period and it reached its zenith during the Safavid period, especially in the 16th century.

While bricks, tileworks and gold coating or a combination of them are used for the exterior shell of the domes, Persian artists also use breathtaking mirror works to decorate the interior shell which also serves as the ceiling of the structure.

The principle colors used in tileworks are blue, yellow, black, turquoise, pink, aubergine and green, mainly referred to as haft rang - which literally means "seven colors."

Mosaic patterns include imaginative and creative geometric patterns, including triangles, semi-circles and circles in harmony with the structures they are placed on. The patterns later evolved into design of natural subjects, such as plants, trees, animals and human beings, combined with calligraphy works of famous maestros.

The interior shell of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, which is considered as one of the most famous architectural masterpieces in Iran, includes the patterns of Peafowl feathers.

Mirror works at the domes of Imam Reza shrine in the northeastern city of Mashhad are also viewed as other examples of glorious artistic creations in Persian architecture.

Persian Miniature

Mahmoud Farshchian the Maestro of persian miniature



Over the past five decades, the globally renowned master of Persian painting and miniature, Mahmoud Farshchian, has transcended the traditional concepts of the art form and portrayed an ethereal interpretation of human existence through his unique style of dynamic hues and colors.

Farshchian was born on January 24, 1930 in the Iranian central city of Esfahan, the capital of Persian art. Growing up in the hub of Iran's artistic masterpieces enabled the prodigy to discover his creative talent in painting at an early age.

His father, who was a prominent Persian carpet merchant and an art aficionado, instilled the passion into his son and

signed him up at the workshops of prominent painting maestros Haji Mirza-Agha Emami and Isa Bahadori at the age of seven, where he learned painting techniques of Timurid (1370–1507) and Safavid (1501–1736) eras.

In 1945, he continued studying miniature and designing tileworks at Esfahan high school for the fine arts. Farshchian then travelled to Europe to study the works of Western painters at European museums for several years, where he developed an innovative artistic style with universal appeal.

After returning to Iran, the maestro started working at the National Institute of Fine Arts and was appointed director of the Department of National Arts and professor



at the University of Tehran's School of Fine Arts.

The painting master has displayed his works in nearly 150 individual and group exhibitions and many of his works are at display in several museums and major collections worldwide, including the British Library, Freer Gallery of Art, Bibliotheque Nationale, Metropolitan Museum and Harvard University.

"The Museum of Master Mahmoud Farshchian" in Tehran's Sa'ad Abad Palace, has been devoted to the works of the master since 2001.

Farshchian was chosen as an outstanding 21st century intellectual by Cambridge in 2000 and he has received several prestigious international awards, including DeviantART (2009 & 2010), Golden Palm of Europe (1987), Oscar D'Italia (1985), Vessillo Europa Delle Arte (1984) and International Art Festival (1958).

Combining the classic Persian miniature with modern painting techniques, the maestro founded a new school in Iranian Painting, which makes the art form independent from the symbiotic relationship it has traditionally had with poetry and literature.

At the same time, the imaginative works are still deeply inspired with Persian literature, mysticism, myths and religious stories. Farshchian's works communicate with modern viewers from a timeless world, touching upon fundamental life questions, paradoxical elements of existence, spirituality, peace, love, sorrow and death.

"Whenever I decide to start a new work, I try to fully expose myself to the mood, the excitement and the state of the idea itself. This creates a deeper connection and

intimacy between myself, the art work and the viewer," Farshchian says in a 2012 interview. The infinite curves depicted all over the paintings create a vibrant dynamism which is reminiscent of a world in which every particle is dancing.

The maestro is well-known for his boldness in using enormous variety of colors and creating mesmerizing hues which captivate the viewers.

"An artist, with the blessing of his art, can be in a state of constant love and connection with the One. The internal transformation that follows this experience, can take the artist into a much wider realm, where the exterior qualities of the physical beloved lose color and meaning for the artist. That is how the artist finds the essence of the Creator, for whom s/he has created this physical object of love," he said in a 2012 interview with Russian news agency Sputnik.

"Praising the physical qualities of an earthly love which will certainly age and decay can only go so far. All expressions of earthly love are in fact praising the One," he added.

"Molana (Rumi) and Shams" is among Farshchian's most famous works unveiled in the summer of 2007. The painting depicts Shams in the midst of countless curved images resembling the sun with Molana (Rumi) in the center.

"Here both Shams and Rumi are creating each other. The beloved becomes so significant for the lover that the lover becomes the beloved and vice versa; the guiding light and the emancipating presence of Shams and the hands that he has extended towards Molana. Was Shams God's light or was he an ordinary human being?"

Religion

Churches in Iran



According to historians, divine religions have always gained their due respect in Iran. Christians too have been living freely in Iran since the pre-Islamic era. The history of Iranian Christians bears testimony to this fact. The Church of Holy Mary is also considered as one of the oldest churches in the world. Many old churches in Iran are said to have been built since the early days of Christianity.

During the reign of Shah Abbas, the Safavid king, his sagacious policies caused a sizable number of Armenians from Armenia and Azerbaijan to transfer and settle in Isfahan and other regions of Iran. A place called Jolfa was built at the banks of Zayande-rud River in Isfahan and became the residence of these migrating people. Meanwhile, after a short lapse of time, some Armenians moved to the northern province of Gilan and some resided in Shiraz in southern end of the country. Although Isfahan is world famous for Islamic architecture, it has one of the most fascinating Christian churches in the Middle East, i.e., the Armenian cathedral. When the Armenian populations migrated to live in Isfahan by the invitation of Safavid king, Abbas I, Persian architects were ordered to build churches for the new inhabitants.

They inevitably borrowed elements from mosque architecture yet built noteworthy churches. After the death of Shah Abbas the 1st, his successor, Shah Abbas the 2nd, also paid close attention to the welfare of the Armenians and more churches were erected in Jolfa. The influx of many Europeans during the reign of the Qajar led to the flourishing of other churches, in addition to those that were constructed previously. A number of these edifices have

lasted and acquired architectural and artistic significance. Azerbaijan is host to the oldest churches in Iran. Among the most significant are the Tatavous (St. Tatavous Cathedral), which is also called the Ghara Kelissa (the black monastery). This is located at the Siahcheshmeh (Ghara-Eini) border area south of Makou. There is also the church known as Saint Stepanous, which stands 24 kilometers south of Azerbaijan's Jolfa town. Generally, each church has a large hall for congregational prayers, it's for most parts is raised like a dais, adorned with the pictures or images of religious figures and it also serves as an altar. Hence, candles are lighted and the church mass is conducted by the priest.

On the foreground is the praying congregation which faces the platform where the priest is leading the rites in the church. While the mass is being said, the people stand, kneel, or sit depending on what the rites require. The structure of churches in Iran follows more or less the pattern of Iranian architecture, or they are a mixture of Iranian and non-Iranian designs.

Church of Holy Mary

The Church of Holy Mary in Orumieh is considered one of the most ancient churches in the world. The church is said to have been in this city shortly after the departure of Jesus. In the Assyrian language the Church is called "Mart Maryam" or "Holy Virgin".

Some historians consider this church as the second oldest church after the Church of Bethlehem in Palestine.



The square-shaped church building is highly firm and simple. The thick bases of the church are made of stone and mortar. The interior of the church includes a worship hall, an altar, some rooms and vestibules. As in the past, various aromatic and wild plants ornament the interior of the church. No icons or drawing of saints can be seen in the church, for members of the Eastern Church do not believe in their use.

A Chinese princess who visited the church in 642 A.D. contributed to its reconstruction. Her name was then engraved on a stone installed on the church wall. The famous Italian traveler, Marco Polo, is another visitor of the Church of Holy Mary who has described the church in his travelogue. In 1903, the prominent American Orientalist Professor Abraham Jackson, visited and photographed the church. Based on some accounts, the church was in the past surrounded by a beautiful garden and the fragrance of flowers and blossoms permeated the air.

St. Stepanous Church

This is an old church located in an intersection, west of Marand –Jolfa highway and east of Khoy-Jolfa road in North-West Iran. Also having a pyramidal dome, it is, nevertheless, quite beautiful and far more pleasant to behold than the Saint Tatavous Church. The general structure mostly resembles Armenian and Georgian architecture and the inside of the building is adorned with beautiful paintings by Honatanian , a renowned Armenian scholar and historian, recorded that the church was originally built in the 9th century AD, but repeated earthquake in Azerbaijan completely eroded the previous structure. They church was rebuilt during the rule of Shah Abbas the second.

Historical Churches of Jolfa – Isfahan

The most important historical church in Iran is the old cathedral, commonly

referred to as the Vank (which means cathedral in Armenian language). This large building was constructed during the reign of Shah Abbas the first and completely reflects Iranian architecture. It has a double-layer brick dome that is very much similar to those built by the Safavids. The interior of the church is decorated with glorious and beautiful paintings and miniature works that represented biblical traditions and the image of angels and apostles, all of which have been executed in a mixture of the

Iranian and Italian styles. This ceiling and walls are coated with tiles from Safavid epoch.

The Armenian Church in Shiraz

In the eastern section of Ghaani Avenue, in a District called ‘Sare Jouye Aramaneh’, an interesting building has survived from the era of Shah Abbas the second. Its principal structure stands in the midst of a garden-like compound and consists of a prayer hall with a lofty flat ceiling at several





cells flanking the two sides of the building. The ceiling is decorated with original paintings from Safavid era and the adjoining cells are adorned with niches and arches and plaster molding, also in the Safavid style. This is considered a historical monument at Shiraz and definitely worth a visit.

Saint Simmons Church in Shiraz

This is another relatively important, but not so old church in Shiraz. The large hall is completely done in Iranian style while the roof is Roman. Small barrel-shaped vaults, many Iranian art work and stained glass window panes adorn the church. Meanwhile, another church called the Glory of Christ, stands at Ghalat, 34 km from Shiraz. This building has survived from the Qajar period and is surrounded by charming gardens.

Saint Tatavous Church, Tehran

This Edifice is located at the Chale Meidan district,

one of the oldest districts in Tehran. It stands south of the Seyed Esmail Mausoleum, at the beginning of the northern part of the so-called Armenians' Street. The oldest church of Tehran was built during the reign of the Qajar King, Fathalishah. The building has a dome-shaped roof and four alcoves, an altar and a special chair reserved for the Armenian religious leader or prelate. The vestibule leading to the church contains the graves of prominent non-Iranian Christians who have died in Iran.

Meanwhile, in Bushehr, there is a church from the Qajar period that is a good specimen of Iranian architecture. All the windows are modeled after old Iranian buildings and the coloured panes are purely Iranian art work.

There are also many other churches in Ourumieh, in hamlets surrounding Arasbaran, Ardebil, Maragheh, Naqadeh, Qazvin, Hamedan, Khyzestan, Chaharmahal, Arak, in the Vanak Village north of Tehran.

Economy

According to the Central Bank of Iran's recent report, Iran economy grew 12.5% during April 2016 - March 2017 in comparison to the previous year, under an OPEC deal with the aim of eroding global inventories and lifting crude prices.





Following the lifting of international sanctions against Iran in January 2016, oil production is allocated the largest share of economy growth. The Central Bank of Iran announced 61.6% growth in the oil sector during last year. Also noted that without taking oil production into account, the GDP growth stood at 3.3%.

Iran's crude oil output reached to 3.8 million barrels per day as of the end of the preceding fiscal year from 3 million barrels per day in the previous year, according to the government data. During sanctions, crude oil production reduced to 2.5 million bpd. Also exports of crude were limited to around 1 million bpd and to a few Asian buyers.

During the fiscal year 01.04.2016 - 31.03.2017, Iran exported approximately 400,000 bpd of oil by-products to customers in the Middle and Far East. This rate in the previous year was around 220,000 bpd.

According to the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company's report, exports of oil by-products are expected to reach to 600,000 bpd in the current fiscal year.

The CBI also reported growth in industry sector up to 6.9% during previous year compared to the 4.6% contraction registered a year before. The CBI indicated the following:

- Agricultural sector has expanded production by 4.2%
- Government sector recorded 3.8% growth
- Private consumption reported

3.7% growth

- Gross fixed capital formation contracted by 3.7%
- Exports of goods and services grew 41.3%
- Imports of goods and services recorded a 6.1% growth
- The only sector that contracted previous year and registered a -13.1% growth was construction sector

According to the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI)'s report released late May and before the report of the CBI, last year's growth has announced 8.3% and without taking the oil sector into consideration, the economic growth has estimated 6.3%.

The SCI also reported growth in the following sectors:

- Agriculture sector grew by 5%
- Industry sector including mines, manufacturing, energy and construction, expanded by 11.3%
- Services sector registered a 7.1% growth

Different figures between CBI and SCI periodical reports is because they use different base years for calculation of data.

According to the CBI, Iran's economy grew by 3% during the fiscal year 01.04.2014 - 31.03.2015, after two years of recession when the economy contracted 5.8% and 1.9% back to back.

Statistical report from CBI pointed growth of -1.6% for the fiscal year 01.04.2015 - 31.03.2016, while SCI

reported 0.9% growth for the same period.

As stated by The World Bank's Economic Monitor, Iran's economy growth is estimated to reach 6.4% in 2016, following a contraction of 1.8% in the preceding year. This report shows higher growth in the mining, manufacturing, services and agriculture sectors.

Also the report noted that in the medium term growth prospects are expected to be modest because of close capacity oil production and non-oil sector's weak activity. It continued by saying that this will lift just by improving the foreign direct investment, reconnecting to the international banking system and making further progress in implementing national reforms.

"Iran growth is projected at 3.3% for 2017, which will rise to 4.3% in 2018. The fund put the country's growth for 2016 at 6.5%" The International Monetary Fund said in its recent World Economic Outlook.

As a result of its well rooted experience in Middle East countries, including Iran, Shanda Consult maintains a strong local presence and an effective network in Iran.

Our firm offers various services to mainly Germany and Chinese investors in Iran, from seminars for Ministries to the facilitation of Foreign Direct Investment into Iran, from intercultural communication coaching for Joint Venture partners to market surveys and project implementation in Iran.



Iran reports huge rise in imports from Europe

As Iran is celebrating the second anniversary of the removal of sanctions, figures show the country's imports have been picking up significantly even though there have been certain changes in the overall pattern of trade.

Figures released by the country's Customs Administration show China remained Iran's biggest exporter over a period of nine months starting 21 March 2017 – the start of the Iranian calendar year. It was followed by the UAE through a moderately large margin. Turkey, South Korea and Germany were the next top exporters to Iran albeit at scales lower than that of the UAE and much smaller than China's.

Figures also showed that imports from Europe specifically saw a significant surge from March to December. However, Iran's exports to Europe declined over the same period for reasons that remain unknown.

Britain led the surge in EU exports to Iran by recording a whopping rise of 117 percent compared to the same period last year. It was followed by Sweden (107 percent), Belgium (50 percent), Switzerland (39 percent), the

Netherlands (37.7 percent), Italy (29.5 percent), and Spain (25 percent).

Among the above countries, the value of exports made by Switzerland, France and Italy were the highest among the rest and stood at \$1.47 billion, \$1.22 billion and \$1.02 billion, respectively. Britain's exports amount to \$0.8 billion.

Figures also show that Russia's exports to Iran saw a major decline of 54.6 percent over the period under study to stand at around \$0.46 billion. Furthermore, US exports to Iran dropped by 43.3 percent to reach \$0.1 billion.

The most important goods exported to Iran over the period under study included vehicle parts for semi-knocked down (SKD) projects. The next top imported items were cattle feedstock (\$1.11 billion), semi milled rice (\$0.98 billion), soy beans (\$0.74 billion) and vehicles (\$0.65 billion). Iran's imports of the four categories were higher than last year by 8.3 percent, 86.4 percent, 4.7 percent and 20.8 percent.

Figures released by Iran's Customs Administration show China also remained Iran's top export destination from March to December. It was

followed by Iraq, the UAE, South Korea, Afghanistan, India and Turkey as the next top importers of Iranian goods.

As Iran's imports from Europe saw a major rise over the period under study, the country's exports to East Asia to the same degree went on a huge rise compared to last year. The largest leaps occurred in exports to the Philippines (630 percent), Hong Kong (569 percent), and Malaysia (330 percent).

Exports to several European countries also surged over the period. The highest rise occurred in exports to Slovakia at 960 percent with a total value of \$73 million. Other EU top importers were Slovenia, and Switzerland whose imports from Iran were higher than last year by 778 percent and 369 percent with total values of \$11 million and \$61 million, respectively.

Exports to Qatar – under a strict Saudi-led trade embargo since August – also rose by 97.6 percent with a total value of \$0.16 billion.

Mercedes to resume Iran production soon

Mercedes-Benz, a division of Daimler AG, will resume production of cars in Iran from the beginning of the new Persian year in March, ISNA news agency has reported.

The company is about to produce 2,500 middle of the pack E-class cars in the year, with 20% of the production to be done inside Iran and the rest supplied to the country in the form of CKD (completely knocked down) kits.

Mercedes-Benz has a long track record in Iran with a business dating back to the 1950s, where it sold up to 10,000 vehicles a year. However, the company stopped business in Iran after the US and Europeans intensified sanctions on the country in 2012.

According to ISNA, the production line for Mercedes cars in Iran is currently being updated and prepared for resuming assembly.

The contract goes back to January

2016 when Daimler signed letters of intent with local partners Iran Khodro Diesel and Mammut Group to arrange a "comprehensive re-entry" into Iran.

In September, Mercedes-Benz signed a contract with Iran Khodro to resume distribution of its trucks in the country. The deal included creating a joint venture to provide sales and after-sale services in the Islamic Republic.

Daimler has also indicated interest to return as a shareholder in the former engine joint venture Iranian Diesel Engine Manufacturing Co (IDEM) based in Tabriz to build diesel engines.

Other German automaker Volkswagen started exporting cars to Iran in August after signing an agreement with Mammut Khodro for sales of VW brand models Tiguan and Passat.

Iran is an extremely attractive

market for international automakers. Since the lifting of sanctions on the country in early 2016, French carmakers PSA and Renault have pushed hard to regain lost ground after leaving the country when sanctions were imposed.

On Tuesday, Peugeot said its global sales jumped by 15% last year on strong growth in Iran where the company sold 444,600 vehicles.

Fars news agency meanwhile cited data released by Renault as showing year-on-year growth of 54% in sales to Iran where the automaker sold 144,862 cars in the year up to November.

However, both Renault and Peugeot as well as other European automakers withdrew from Iran in 2012 when the country came under the Western sanctions.





Iranian job market shifting toward female workforce

An investigation into the job market in Iran shows that employment among women has decreased in comparison with men during 2006-2013, but the trend has reversed over the past three years.

Although women's participation rate has reached 17 percent in recent years, but the rate of women's entrance to the job market is now more than 50 percent, according to Masoud Nili, a top economic aide of President Hassan Rouhani.

Speaking at the First International Workshop on Labor Market Studies which was held in Tehran recently, Nili said that gender gap is a characteristic of the Iranian job market.

Considering investments made in the higher education sector, women will play a key role in the Iranian job market in coming years, he added.

The lowest and the highest participation rates of women in Iran were related to 1996 and 2016, respectively, Nili said, adding, women and educated youths are entering the job market and women of 30 years of age and above are more active in the labor market.

If there is an intention to create 100,000 jobs for every one percent of economic growth, there should be a quality growth, Nili emphasized.

"We have been witnessing developments in the labor market since 2013. Now, entry to the market is increasing while the number of university students is decreasing and many youths are not interested in entering the universities, he stated.

Jobless rate among women increased in past decade: minister

The unemployment rate in Iran has reached 12.6 percent which is two times more than the average world unemployment rate (5.7 percent).

In other words, out of the 200 million jobless population of the world, Iran has a share of 1.6 percent of unemployed people making up a population of 3.2 million jobless, Ali Rabiei, Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare said here on Sunday in the opening ceremony of the First International Workshop on Labor Market Studies.

Since the past four years, employment has been the focus of all economic discussions and women's employment situation had a considerable change during the past 2 decades, the minister added.

Women's unemployment was not considered in the unemployment statistics during the past four years because there was no interest for their presence in labor market and women were considered as the inactive economic population, Rabiei stated.

The growing number of women entering universities, and improvement of working environment for women, have changed the unemployment rate of women and made its number higher than men's unemployment rate, he noted.

Women's unemployment rate in 1996 was four percent while it reached to 20 percent in 2016, the minister of labor announced.

The unemployment rate is much higher among educated women and it has reached to 31 percent, Rabiei expressed.

Iran is facing with low investment rate and low production rate. Smuggling, regional security problems, and oil price change influence the labor market directly or indirectly, the minister concluded.



Tehran metro ranks 25 among world's busiest subways

With an annual ridership of 459 million, Tehran metro has attained the rank of 25 among busiest subway systems in the world.

As per a report by thoughtco.com published in March 2017 Tokyo metro with 3.6 billion annual passenger rides, Moscow metro with 2.4 billion annual passenger rides and Seoul metro with 2.04 billion annual passenger rides top the list of world's busiest subways among 30 cities.

Tehran holds the 25th place above Nagoya in Japan, Buenos Aires in Argentina, Athens in Greece, Barcelona in Spain, and Munich in Germany.

Tehran metro has 6 operational lines and has a total length route of 221 kilometers. Overall, 118 stations are active now, delivering hundreds of thousands daily rides.

According to a report published in June 2017 in Donya-e Eqtesad Persian language daily newspaper the average time for departures in Tehran subway system is fluctuating between 4 to 8 minutes in different lines and different hours of the day. However, the report highlights that the best subway systems in the world have reduced this time to 2.5 minutes.

It is not deniable that there has been developments both in terms of constructing new subway lines and adding wagons but it seems that Tehran Metro needs more budget and support for further boosting its capacity to satisfy the growing need for public transportation in the metropolitan of Tehran. Subways are efficient and convenient and can positively affect air pollution by decreasing the use of personal cars.

Iran attracts \$12bn foreign investment since New Year

Iran's economy minister said that during the past 10 months of Iranian year (beginning on March 20) Iran has attracted \$12 billion worth of foreign investment.

Visiting Semnan province in the center of Iran to inaugurate several economic projects in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Masoud Karbasian told reporters that the economic growth rate without oil revenues is estimated at 6% and with oil revenues at 7%.

Saying that \$30 billion worth of foreign investment was predicted for the current Iranian year, Karbasian added "an amount of \$12 billion has been attracted so far."

Education

Literacy is a right and a means of Empowerment





Literacy empowers individuals, families, communities, and the whole nation.

With a goal of eradicating illiteracy from Iran, Literacy Movement Organization was established in the country as per an order issued by Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the leader of the Iranian Revolution, on December 28, 1979.

The organization aims to eradicate illiteracy by educating illiterate adults and also children who don't have access to decent education facilities particularly in underprivileged areas.

While Knowledge occupies a significant position within Islam, as evidenced by numerous references to it in Islam's most revered book, the holy Quran, learning and education was a privilege granted to aristocrats in the past in Iran.

However, as revealed by official figures released by the Statistical Center of Iran over the past few years literacy rate in Iran have increased. The figures which are published in March 2017, indicate that some 87.6 percent of the Iranian population aging over 6 are literate. The number reflects a 2.8-rise compared to the 2011 census results.

Despite the rise still some 5.8 million people are purely illiterate and 11 million are functionally illiterate.

Compared to the years 1956 with only 15 percent of the population being literate in the country the organization have made a huge improvement but there is still a long way to achieve the zero illiteracy.

In a general sense literacy empower individuals and as a result the whole nation. Literacy improves self-esteem and confidence, inspires creativity and critical thinking.

By effecting and accelerating cultural transformation literacy would help nations to combat and eliminate widespread discriminations.

Moreover, improving literacy levels also has potentially large health benefits, such as increased life expectancy, reduced child mortality, improved health, etc.

Illiteracy traps us in poverty

Education has been consistently shown to be a major determinant of individual income, alongside professional experience.

Nearly a billion people are unable to read a book or sign their names worldwide and two thirds of them are women. And they will live, as now, in more desperate poverty and poorer health than those who can.

Illiterate adults face serious employability issues, given their low level of knowledge and expertise. This is attributable to a lack of formal schooling, caused either by an early departure from school to enter the labor market or the loss over time of the ability to read and write.

In addition, illiterate persons have little awareness of their rights and duties, and may thus be inclined to accept precarious, low-quality employment contracts.

According the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) this increases the likelihood of remaining in poverty. Completion of 12 years of schooling provides an 80% chance of earning an income high enough to escape poverty.

Moreover, adult illiteracy not only affects income and awareness of rights, but also leads to poor nutrition and health, due to illiterates' lack of knowledge regarding their own health and hygiene and that of their families.

Having said that, while no one can deny the effectiveness of schooling since early childhood, investing on adult programs, like the one that has been conducted in Iran for about 40 years, is also a worthwhile cause.

Dar ul-Funun: A Journey Through Iranian Education





Dar ul-Funun (a polytechnic), established in 1851, was the first modern university and modern institution of higher learning which marked the beginning of modern education in Iran.

Within two years of Amir Kabir's appointment as grand vizier in October 1848 the first steps were taken to establish the educational institution that subsequently became known as Dar al-funun. In his initial letter of instruction to Jan Dawud, first secretary at the Persian legation in St. Petersburg, in August 1850, Amir Kabir stressed the military and technical nature of the subjects to be taught at the new academy, which in subsequent letters and in the official newspaper "Waqaye'-e ettefaqiya" he referred to variously as Ta'lim-kana, Madrasa-ye jadid, Madrasa-ye nezamiya.

It was originally conceived as a polytechnic to train upper-class Persian youth in medicine, engineering, military science, and geology. It was similar in scope and purpose to American land grant colleges like Purdue and Texas A&M. Like them, it developed and expanded over the next hundred years, eventually becoming the University of Tehran.

The teaching establishments' first instructors were seven professors from Austria. Dar ul-Funun was turned into an official state run university. The dean was the foreign minister of the time, Mirza Mohammad Ali Khan.

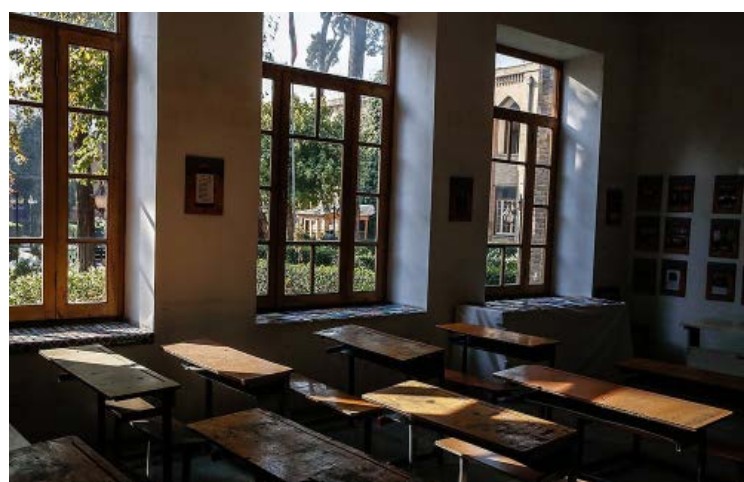
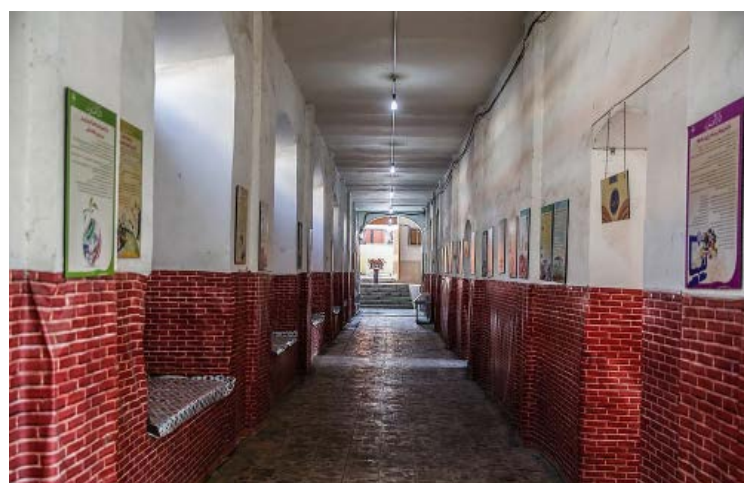
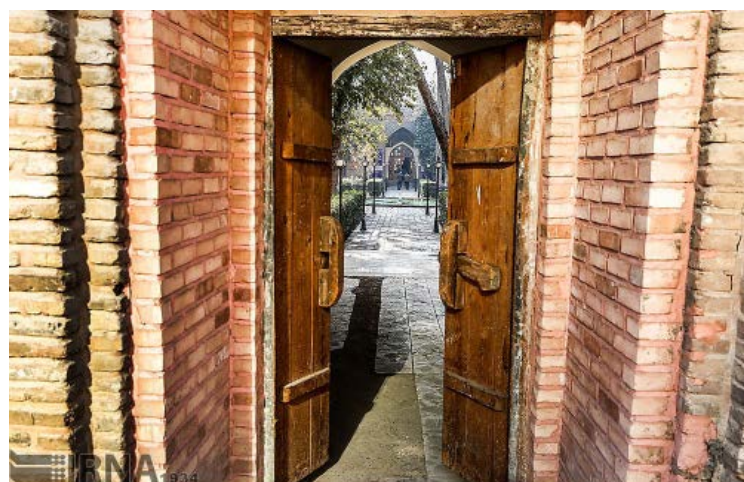
The institute was designed by the Iranian educated Mirza Reza Mohandes, and built by the architect Muhammad Taqi Khan Memar Bashi. Facilities included an assembly hall, a theater, library, cafeteria, and a publishing house.

The elite school was training 287 students by 1889, and had educated 1100 students by 1891. During this time, the faculty consisted of 16 European, and 26 Iranian professors.

Many parts of the institute were later incorporated and merged into the newly established Tehran University. The Faculty of Medicine for example, was particularly the successor to the Dar ul-Funun Department of Medicine, established in 1851, which had become the School of Medicine in 1919.

Many of the departments were incorporated into the University of Tehran from the Dar al-Funun established in 1851 and the Tehran School of Political Sciences established in 1899.

Some of Dar ul-Funun notable alumni include royal painter Mohammad Khan Ghaffari (Kamal-ol-Molk) (1847-1940), journalist and political activist Jahangir-Khan Sur-e-Esrafil (1874-1908), musician Gholam-Hossein Darvish Khan (1872- 1926), prime minister and scholar Mohammad-Ali Foroughi (Zoka-ol-Molk) (1877-1942), author and linguist Ali-Akbar Dehkhoda (1879-1956), novelist Sadeq Hedayat (1903-1951), and prime minister Ali Amini (1905-1992).



Healthcare





Islamic Republic of Iran's health system

Iran's health sector is a regional leader in the Middle East and Central Asia. Pride in medical skill and healthcare has roots in Iran's antiquity: the Academy of Gondishapur in south-western Persia was the model for early hospital and medical schools the world over. In the Islamic Golden Age, Iran still boasted the greatest physicians of the time. The Canon of Medicine, written in Arabic by Persian Renaissance man Avicenna, was the standard medical textbook in East and West up until the 17th Century. This legacy of Persian medical skill remains a point of pride for many Iranians and still underpins the country's significant indigenous capabilities in health and medicine.

Health is a valuable asset which paves the way for the development of personal capabilities and helps the steady development of the society. Promoting health is not only a responsibility but also a right and as mentioned by the Iranian constitution and the intra- and inter-department health documents, the government is responsible to guarantee the provision of high quality care to every Iranian and reduce their personal and social health risks.

Islamic Republic of Iran's health system has, during the past three decades since the Islamic revolution, experienced profound developments in its different missions including education, research and health care; this comes while it has also faced several challenges during this time as a result of the population and epidemiologic changes in the country. As a result, in order to achieve the Islamic Republic of Iran's vision in 2025, the country's strategies have been illustrated as the Comprehensive Scientific Health Plan and Health Innovation and Science Development Plan.

The Comprehensive Scientific Health Plan, which is based on the country's Comprehensive Scientific Plan, shows road to education, research and technology excellence, whereas the Health Innovation and Science Development Plan provides the knowledge and research application strategies needed to provide different classes of the society with high quality healthcare in a way that evidence-based health policies are formulated in accordance with the country's indigenous conditions and the Islamic-Iranian values.

Nowadays, the influence of social

factors such as income, education, job, environment and education in the first years of life on health and health equity has been completely realized. Hence, high quality care and health equity needs close collaboration between different levels of policymaking, management and supervision, outside the Ministry of Health. And justice in health has been considered as a main policy by policymakers in all their strategies. This issue is so important that the Islamic Republic of Iran's health system for the first time in the country issued a 52-point index of justice in health, which is approved by the Iranian Cabinet. These indices are now a national document used by authorities and policymakers in all decision makings. Also in the composition of the country's fifth economic, social and cultural development plan, in the health section which is a 5-year period in the overall health plans of the country, this issue has been carefully taken into consideration and in many of the drafting stages of this plan representatives from different fields have been present

In order to execute the overall and developmental plans of the system,



the vice-chancellor of management and resources has made great efforts to revise the budgeting system and action plans to allocate resources, including human resources, based on regional needs and with maximum efficiency. Skilled and motivated work force is one of the most important necessities in revolutionizing the health system. In the Islamic Republic of Iran's health system, work force is not only responsible for providing the society with healthcare but also given the system's unique characteristics in incorporating educational and research services in the healthcare system, achieving scientific excellence and expanding scientific boundaries is only possible by creative and innovative healthcare personnel.


In this regard, medical education division has performed exceptional

accomplishments, such as developing medical education and serving document, extending medical universities to all the Iranian provinces, expanding graduate education in medical sciences by 50%, and establishing new disciplines, and increasing the number of scientific hubs to 30.

Research is another important field in Iran's health system. In order to accomplish the objectives of the Comprehensive Scientific Health Plan, exceptional achievements have been crowned. Iran has published 20,065 articles last year and 0.44% of its studies are considered as the 1% best articles of the world. The country has also gained the first place in the Middle East regarding science production. As for healthcare, the country has ranked 17 in the world

in science production in the field of medicine and 42 for its citations. Iranian medical articles account for 21.63% of the Middle East's scientific production in the field of medicine, and 46% of the citations received by the Iranian articles in general. The country has also achieved the scientific knowledge needed to produce more than 30 high-tech medications.

Under President Rouhani, healthcare has received renewed attention as a priority policy area with significant funding increases. A major new countrywide scheme called Tarh-e Salaamat – dubbed the 'Health Plan' or Rouhani-Care – has reinvigorated the sector and brought new hope for strides forward.



Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine a route to healthier life

While today medical approaches applied in hospitals and used by doctors are conventionally acceptable for the treatment of diseases alternative therapies are getting more popular among the public regarding the side effects of drugs and invasive surgeries.

Alternative therapies such as acupuncture, chiropractic, and massage therapy most often practiced by licensed practitioners have become widely accepted while herbal medicine, Chinese medicine, homeopathic medicine, mind-body medicine (namely yoga, meditation, and music therapy), and faith healing are becoming fairly widespread as well.

Personalized medicine

The term personalized medicine is rather a new proposed medical

model which individualizes healthcare including all preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical interventions which is believed to result in the best optimal effect on one's health.

As hard and far-fetched as it may sound personalized medicine can be a path to a healthier life with experiencing less medical condition by recognizing one's individual and distinguishing biological characteristics.

Ancient paradigm of personalized medicine

The concept of the Iranian traditional medicine have mingled with the Islamic doctrine originated from both Holy Quran and Ahl-ul-Bayt (the successors of prophet Muhammad (PBUH)) education and great ancient Iranian physicians such as Avicenna.

In the Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine an ancient paradigm for

personalized medicine has been described based on the excess or lack of body fluids (called "humors") including blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm defining four temperaments of "sanguine", "choleric", "melancholic" and "phlegmatic" respectively.

It is believed that an even combination of the four aforesaid bodily fluids would result in a person's health and an imbalance would lead to different health conditions.

Although such attitude toward medicine and its individualization has been also attributed to Hippocrates, an ancient medical scientist in about 2400 years ago, apparently there has been an ancient comprehensive paradigm of personalized medicine in Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine.

Mizaj, (temperament) a determinant factor

As thoroughly explained in National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine website Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine is a holistic medicine which has been based on individual differences, a determinant basic concept named as Mizaj (temperament). According to Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine, everybody has a distinctive Mizaj which is determinant to construct all physical or mental characteristics. Mizaj is a quality concluded of compounding every four basic elements (Arkan) with each other in a specific proportion and their interaction. These basic elements are: Water, fire, soil, and wind, producing kinetic energy (warmness) and fluidity (humidity) in the body. Human health depends on the maintenance of the Mizaj in a balanced state. Every mal-temperament or Sou-e-mizaj could lead to illness.

The tempers (Amzajeh) are classified totally into nine categories: Moderate, warm, cold, wet, dry, warm

and dry, warm and wet, cold and dry, cold and wet. Different intrinsic and extrinsic factors, like age, gender, ethnicity, environmental conditions, weather, and different seasons can influence on these tempers. Moreover, every natural substance like food and drink has a specific nature (Tabé) which can affect individual temperament. The Mizaj is in a balanced state if all effects influencing on temper would be compatible with it.

Health is a lifestyle process

Now that health care has merely turned into an industry that people are mostly treated once they get sick, the Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine offers practices with regard to an individual temperament and internal and external factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, season, and environment to help them to treat or even avoid any possible diseases.

In other words the traditional medicine would offer more natural, less drug-oriented therapies, sometimes as an alternative to conventional

medicine, sometimes in a team approach along with it by being more in touch with a person who is receiving the treatments and making them more responsible for their own health.

Once one gets the hang of the Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine and manage to discover their true temper they would be able to take care of their wellness rather than finding treatments for their illnesses which is the ultimate end of the traditional Iranian medical practices.

Therefore, in case you find it believable, finding out about one's temperament and acting in accordance with it and in general a change in lifestyle can for sure help to keep a steady health and avoid any infirmities.

Over the next weeks the Tehran Times would strive to dig deeper into the tempers and introduce food stuff which could help each individual with their definite temper to maintain a physical and mental health.



Healthcare city aims to boost Iran's medical tourism prospects

The first phase of an enormous healthcare city was officially inaugurated in the city of Isfahan, central Iran, on Monday as the country avidly seeks to surge its global share of the medical tourism market.

Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi accompanied by several provincial officials cut the ribbon on Isfahan Healthcare City which is comprised of orthopedic, obstetrics and gynecology clinics, as well as medical offices.

Once the complex becomes fully operational, it will create around four thousand direct jobs in the province, according to project managers. The whole project is estimated to cost a total of 19.65 trillion rials (about \$260 million) which will be secured by the private sector, YJC reported on Monday.

Ground was broken for the healthcare center in 2012 and it is projected to become fully operational by the next three years.

The first phase covers 84,000

square meters of superstructure costing 4 trillion rials (about \$108 million) to be built.

Some 2 trillion rials (about \$54 million) has been allocated to the second phase of the complex that will be comprised of a comprehensive radiation hub, a conference hall and vast laboratory center for PET scan, CT scan and MRI amongst others.

A hospital with one thousand beds, measuring 124,000 square meters in area, has been projected for the third phase under a budget of 12 trillion rials (about \$315 million).

The final phase will be capped by constructing a 12-story four-star hotel measuring 33,000 square meters in area, to which 1.65 trillion rials (about \$44 million) has been allotted.

Isfahan Healthcare City is aimed to become a widely-known international medical complex for offering quality clinical, health, and education services.

Earlier this month, Ali Rabiei, the minister of cooperatives, labor and social welfare said the country has a

potential to earn \$7 billion in revenues through attracting one million health tourists on a yearly basis.

Relative wallet-friendly services can be considered as the main advantage of medical tourism in Iran, the minister said in an address to a Tehran conference to which business representatives from over 30 countries attended.

Moreover, the state-run Tourism Holding Company, affiliated with the Social Security Organization, is to unveil a comprehensive plan, which will be implemented with the participation of 22 hospitals and over 200 physicians, specialists, and surgeons.

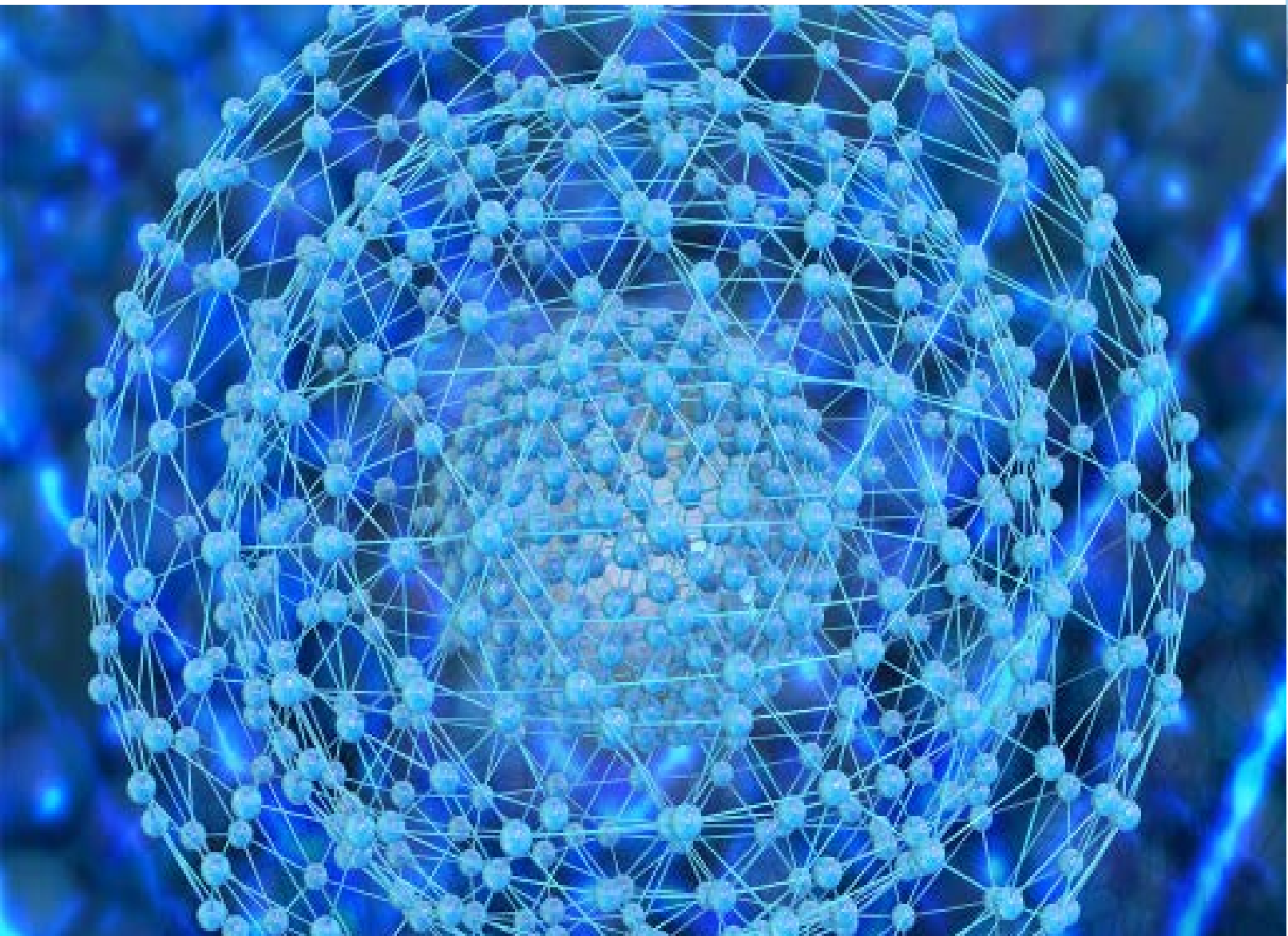
The Ministry of Health registered some 105,000 inbound patients over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2016-March 2017), a majority of them came from neighboring countries including Iraq, Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Isfahan Healthcare City

www.isfahanhealthcarecity.com



Science and Technology





Islamic Republic of Iran Superior Scientific Prowess

In recent decades, the world watched dramatic developments in the field of Science and Technology

Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) as one of the countries in the field of superior technology in the last decade has witnessed remarkable scientific achievements. Below are some of remarkable areas of success:-

Nanoparticles Increase Durability of Concrete Decorations in Cold Areas

Iranian researchers from Isfahan University of Technology studied the effect of nanoparticles on increasing the durability and lifetime of concrete decorations in cold areas. Outcomes of the research have applications in road construction industry. Results of the research have been published in construction and Building Materials, vol. 48, 2013, pp. 580-584.

Elimination of bacterial microorganisms by Nanoparticles

Iranian researchers from Kerman University of Medical Sciences studied the effect of nanoparticles on bacterial biofilms (groups of bacterial microorganisms in which cells stick to each other on a surface) to find new methods for the treatment of bacteria infectious diseases. Results of the research have been published in Journal of Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology, vol. 29, issue 1, 2015, pp. 235-241.

Iran Designs Nano Medicine-Career Easing Chemotherapy Side Effects

Iranian researchers at the Amirkabir University of Technology produced a Nano medicine-career for prostate cancer, expected to reduce chemotherapy side effects. Using the medicine-career produced for prostate cancer treatment, the medicine remains in blood and activates smartly especially for patients suffering cancer genetically.

The system does not release poison in body when released.

Self-sufficiency in producing cryogenic oil pumps

Iran has achieved self-sufficiency in designing and producing cryogenic pumps of gas, oil and petrochemical industries. The most important function of these pumps is pumping the liquid propane gas in a temperature of -50 c from refineries to the tankers to be loaded and exported. Iran, after US, Japan and Germany, is the fourth country to reach the technological knowledge of producing these industrial pumps. Self-sufficiency in the production of these pumps would save more than \$400 million annually for the country and its production cost is cut by half.

Iranians invent soft tissue dental laser

Researchers at the Iranian

National Center of Laser Science and Technology have invented a laser with application in soft tissue dentistry surgeries. Soft tissue dental laser

differs from traditional methods in that it is more efficient and often faster. There is less post-operative discomfort for the patient and bacteria levels in affected areas are reduced and there is virtually no collateral damage to healthy tissue.

Researchers Boost Solar Cells Efficiency Using Anti-Aggregates

Iranian researchers designed and built solar cells doing well in converting solar energy into electricity, using Nano-technology. In the project low-price and available materials has been used. The product can be used in centers using powers and solar cells. The results of the project have been published in Materials Technology Journal.

Nano Drug Delivery System Helps Efforts to Cure Bacterial Infections

Iranian researchers from Mashhad

University of Medical Sciences applied nanotechnology to treat bacterial infections. A nano drug delivery system was designed in this research, which has successful performance against antibiotic-resistant infections. After the completion of animal and human tests, the results of the research can be used in pharmaceutical industries. Results of the research have been published in Pharmaceutical Biology, vol. 52, issue 11, 2014, pp. 1423-1428.

Iranian Researchers Planning to Produce Edible Insulin

Iranian researchers of Tehran University of Medical Sciences studied and produced a Nano drug system at laboratorial scale to achieve edible insulin. The results showed that the medical nano-drug prevents insulin destruction and improves permeability of insulin large molecules into monolayer cells of the intestinal wall. The nano-carrier delays insulin release and boosts its permeability into intestinal wall.

Iran produces laser device boosting

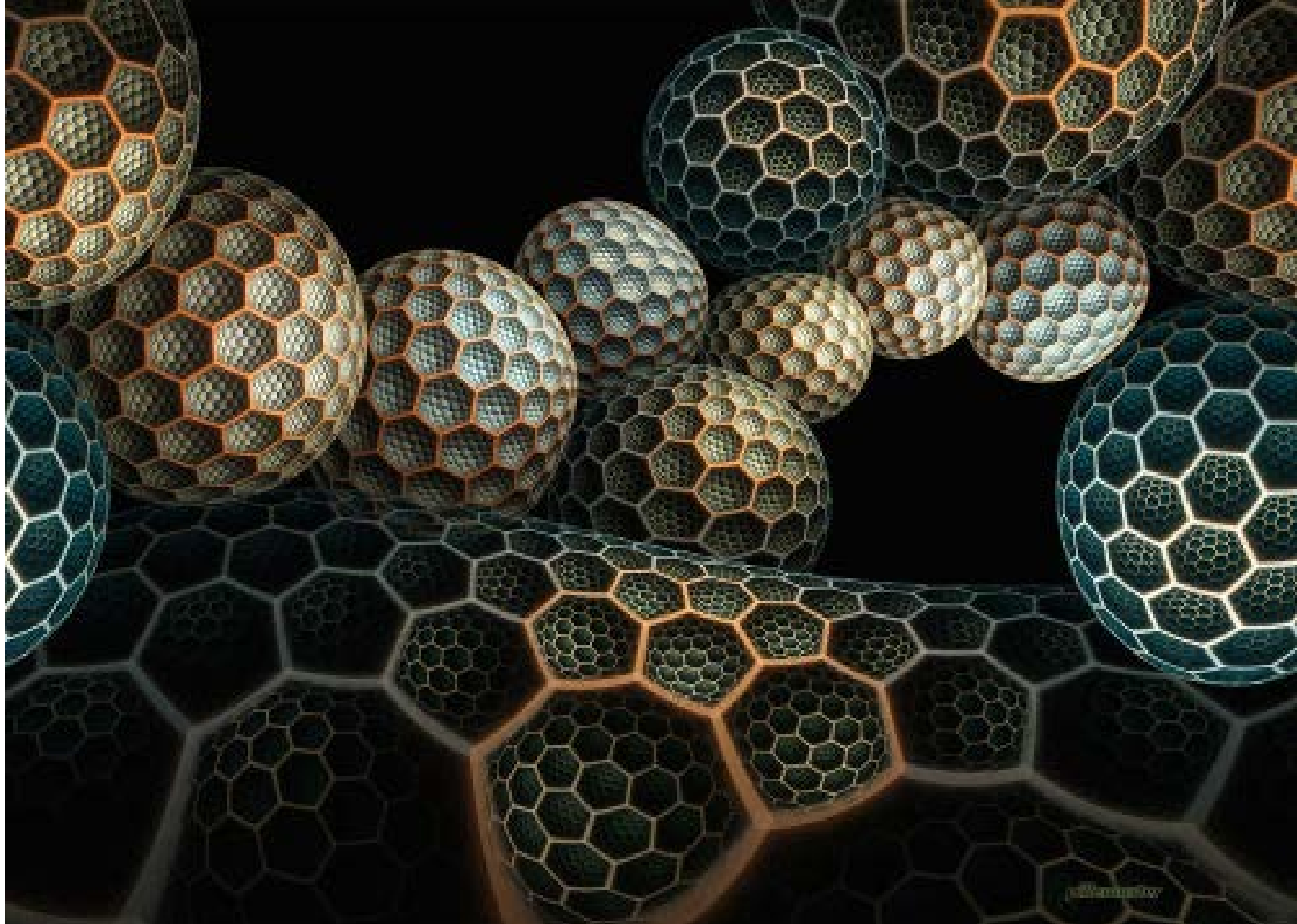
natural cell healing

Iranian researchers at the National Center for Laser Science and Technology managed to produce a device to eliminate certain types of pain, including any post-surgery pains. The device is in low-level laser function which is a kind of cold laser therapy and makes positive changes at the cellular level of the body. Low level laser therapy device can be applied for burns, keloids, post-surgical pains and is useful to accelerate wound healing, to reduce inflammation and infection and to increase the life of skin grafts. This device, since low-powered, should be used continuously for up to two months to show its efficacy.

Performance Drop in Solar Cells Prevented by Nanotechnology

Iranian researchers used nanotechnology to produce solar cells that have high efficiency in the conversion of solar energy to electricity. Efforts have been made in this research to use cheap and available raw materials. In this study





adding some anti-accumulation agent increases the sorption of organic dye materials and decreases their accumulation on the surface of titanium dioxide nanoparticles. In addition, it also increases the efficiency of the conversion of light to electricity. Results of the research have been published in *Materials Technology*, vol. 30, issue 3, 2015, pp. 189-192.

Iran designs 3D system imaging drug distribution in animals' body

Iranian researchers have developed a 3D device to image drug distribution in animals, hoping that they can mass produce the system with receiving European standard certificate. The device has been designed for investigation of distributing drugs and medicines and early diagnosis of cancer in animals' body too. The device scans and images animals' body layer by layer using laser. Researchers working on fundamental science, biochemistry and immunology can use results of

the study. The device can be used for small animals, including rat and not for large ones such as rabbit. It has got Conformity European certificate.

Nanomaterials Used to Reduce Heat Generated by LED Panels

Iranian researchers from Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman in a joint research with their counterparts from Amirkabir University of Technology produced nanostructures that can be used in LED panels of TVs and computers. The nanostructure can be produced through a simple and cost-effective method. Results of the research have been published in *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, vol. 21, issue 1, 2015, pp. 1132-1136.

Iran sends 4th satellite to space

On the eve of the National Day of Space Technology, Iran's 4th domestically manufactured satellite named 'Fajr' was launched into space and successfully put into orbit.

The satellite which developed by indigenous technology and know-how indicates the high capabilities of Iran's satellite-carriers. By the chance to develop and design a new generation of satellite-carriers Iran has already entered the world market of space services.

Breaking US monopoly in prostate cancer drug

Iranian researchers in Polymer and Petrochemical Institute could set up the production line of prostate cancer drug which was exclusively confined to the US. Iran is the world's second producer of this type of medication and the produced drug in Iran is equivalent to the American version. The drug is also used to treat diseases related to uterine fibroids and infertility in women. Iran now in addition to providing the domestic needs, can export the drug to other countries such as Yemen and Syria too.

Iranian Scientists Apply Nanofibers to Produce Light Thermal Insulators

Iranian researchers from Amirkabir University of Technology studied the application of nanofibers in the structure of thermal insulators to increase their performance and decrease the final price. Results of the research increase the efficiency of the product but decrease its thickness and weight, and the product can be applied in construction industries. Although the sample produced in this research has higher performance and lower price in comparison with common thermal insulators, the researchers are still focusing on the improvement of the performance and decreasing the price. Results of the research have been published in *Advances in Polymer Technology*, vol. 33, issue S1, 2014, pp. 21440-1 to 21440-8.

Iran builds self-charging wheelchair

Alireza Khodakaramzadeh, a chemical engineering student at Sharif University and has invented a wheelchair which stores energy to provide longer travel distance for users. The flywheel used in this type of wheelchair can store energy from pedaling and releases it gradually so that the person can go greater distance without rolling the wheels. The newly invented wheelchair has been participated in Tehran and Alborz Invention & Innovation Festival and holds three levels of National Elites Foundation.

Production of New Nanocatalyst with Numerous Applications

Iranian researchers from Birjand University used nanotechnology and produced a magnetic nanocatalyst that can be used many times without any reduction in its activity. The nanocatalyst will have applications in industries, including production of chemicals such as pharmaceuticals, oil and petrochemicals. Results of the research have been published in *RSC Advances*, vol. 4, issue 105, 2014, pp. 60702-60710.

Iran breaks German monopoly in type 2 diabetes drug

A pharmaceutical company of Iran has produced a drug to treat type 2 diabetes which has exclusively been confined to Germany. Each German package of the drug, which is called Ziptin is sold \$77 on the market with no importing company in charge; however, the domestic drug is now sold for only \$8.

New Anti-Alzheimer's Drug from Saffron for 1st time

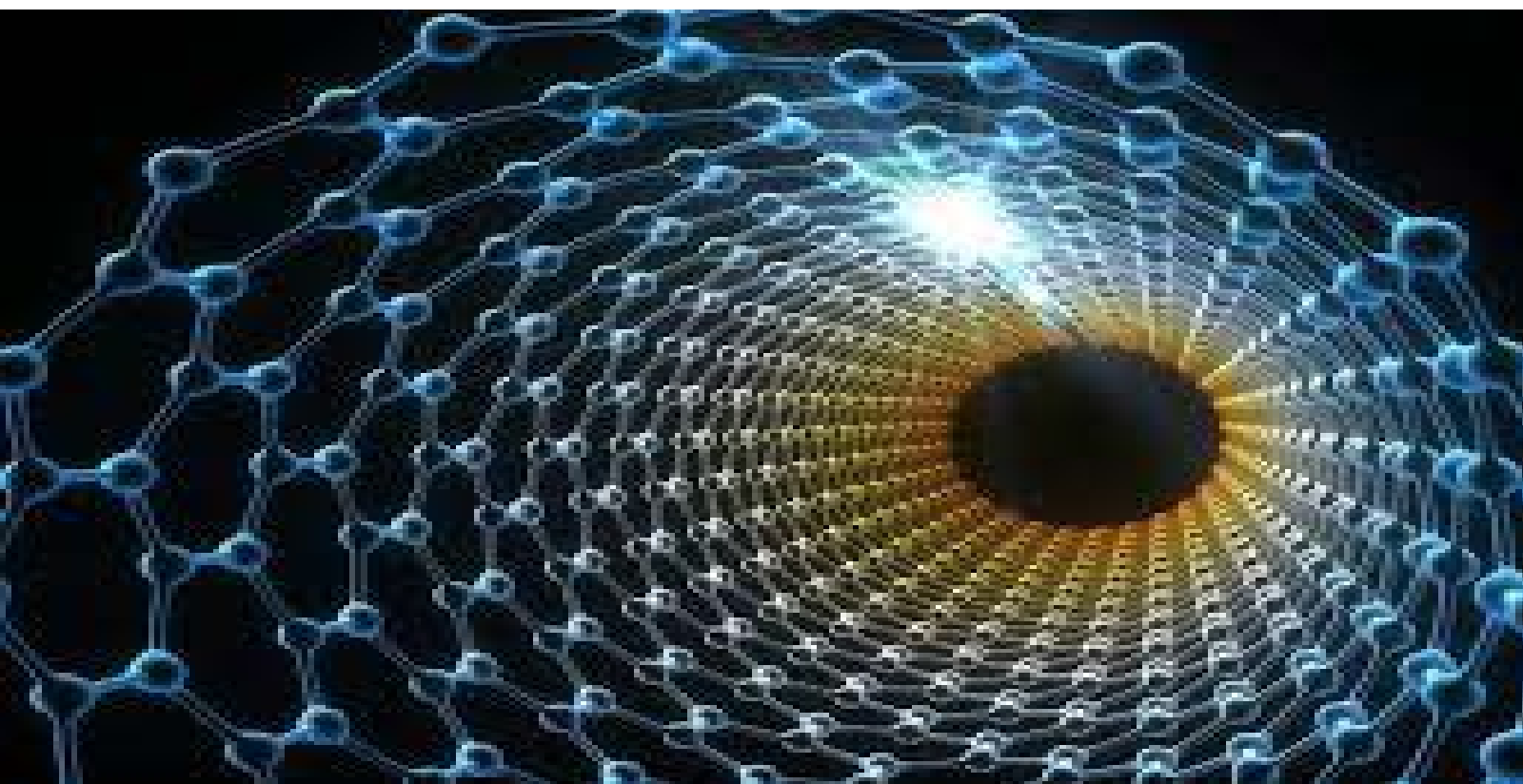
Researchers of Tehran Medical Sciences University cooperating with a science-based company for the 1st time in world have made a new kind of anti-Alzheimer's disease medicine from saffron following a ten-year research studies. There are only five effective medicines for the Alzheimer's disease in the world today and Saffrotin's effects exactly match those of the best of its foreign equivalent medicines, minus their side-effects. The drug has also anti-cancer effects which have been approved by world medical circles.

Using Nanotechnology to Boost Oil Extraction

Iranian researchers from Sahand University of Technology and Islamic Azad University studied the effect of using nanoparticles on increasing oil extraction from reservoirs. According to the researchers, the use of nanoparticles increases oil extraction and decreases the costs of the process. Results of the research have been published in *Petroleum Science and Technology*, vol. 33, issue 1, 2015, pp. 79-85.

Low-Price Nano-Method for Water Treatment

Iranian researchers designed a new cost-effective method for water purification, separating heavy metals from water using nano-technology. The method uses nano-cavitation and activated alumina with the capacity of 40 liters per second. Nano-cavitation method eliminates arsenic from soft water and reduces the costs to one third.



Iranian researchers build versatile robotic arm

Two Iranian researchers named “Sadegh and Hossein Tabatabaei” from US-based Texas and Illinois universities managed to build versatile and precise robotic arm dubbed “DORNA” which are able to implement a wide spectrum of commands.

This robot can be used in preparing salad in the kitchen, taking photograph in a very complex and sensitive situation and conducting laboratory activities, etc., the report added.

The said robot has competitive price which is more powerful and precise than its rivals. Generally speaking, this robot is able to tolerate a maximum weight of 1.1 kg with a precision of 25.4 micrometers.

As equipped with five hinges, this sophisticated robotic arm can move at 150-degree speed/second horizontally and vertically, researchers maintained.

The body of the robot is made up of 1st grade aluminum used in aerospace industry. This robot has fair and reasonable price that can be provided easily by students, university lecturers, artists, researchers and other enthusiasts.

“this sophisticated robotic arm can move at 150-degree speed/second horizontally and vertically...”

The use of this robot does not need sophisticated and complex computer information, so that simple software called “Dorna Lab” makes it possible to control and plan the movements of the robot. Of course, professional users can

use it to do more professional activities, the report added.

Hereunder are the tools that can be installed on the robotic arm: camera, a variety of clamps and grips, laser engraving tools, etc.

It should be noted that versatile robotic arm will hit the consumer market in coming year at \$890. Researchers put the cost of industrial robots similar to this robot at approx. \$50,000.



Rouhani predicts 'better future' for Iran's scientific progress



President Dr. Hassan Rouhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran

While hailing the country's new tech. achievements in recent years, President Rouhani predicted a "better future" ahead of Iran's research and scientific progress.

The Iranian president made the remarks at the 31st Khwarizmi International Award (KIA), which is currently underway at the IRIB International Conference Center in Tehran, with a number of Iranian and foreign researchers in attendance.

The event aims at recognizing outstanding scientific achievements made by researchers, inventors and innovators from all over the world.

Fields of participation included: Aerospace, agriculture, natural resources, animal sciences & veterinary medicine, civil engineering, basic sciences, electrical & computer, basic sciences, biotechnology, environment & basic medical sciences, chemical technology, industry & technology management, information technology, materials & metallurgy, mechanics, mechatronics, medical sciences, and nanotechnology.

The president hailed the country's remarkable progress in aerospace, nuclear and nano technologies, and called on his administration, the Parliament and ministries to provide the necessary conditions and proper atmosphere for 'free'

and unrestricted research.

"We will not make much progress if we limit our relations with the world," Rouhani stressed, calling for further scientific cooperation with the world as the only feasible way for the country to make remarkable progress.

The president then criticized efforts and expenses wasted on defining an 'Islamic' version of various fields of science, saying that "science is science; there is no difference."

He went on to add, however, that there is a difference between materialistic science and spiritual science, saying "science built on a materialistic ideology is nothing but a way to gain more power and dominance, a way to colonize and exploit, but science built on a spiritual and Islamic ideology is in the service of humankind."

"We must take advantage of what the world has already achieved in scientific fields and continue the same path," Rouhani said.

He further noted that combating air pollution is a top priority for his administration, with good recourses allocated to it in the next fiscal year's budget, adding that any research with a focus on reducing air pollution and combating dust storms, as well as the water shortage, will be prioritized for funding by the government.



Pasteur Institute of Iran exports vaccines to region

Head of the Pasteur Institute of Iran (PII) Dr. Alireza Biglari says that the Iranian institute exports its medical products such as new rabies vaccines to the countries of the region.

The head of Iranian leading institute for health products and medical sciences recounted his institute's latest achievements in producing new vaccines and exporting to the countries of the region, the Public Relations Department of Iran's Ministry of Health reported on Saturday.

"Equipping the production lines of the human rabies vaccine with the system of quality control and the export of the products of this institute to the countries of the region are the new accomplishments of the Pasteur Institute of Iran," said Dr. Alireza Biglari, the PII Head, on Saturday.

"In the last 6 months, good measures have been undertaken to enhance the infrastructures of production in the institute and the PII has managed to obtain the standard

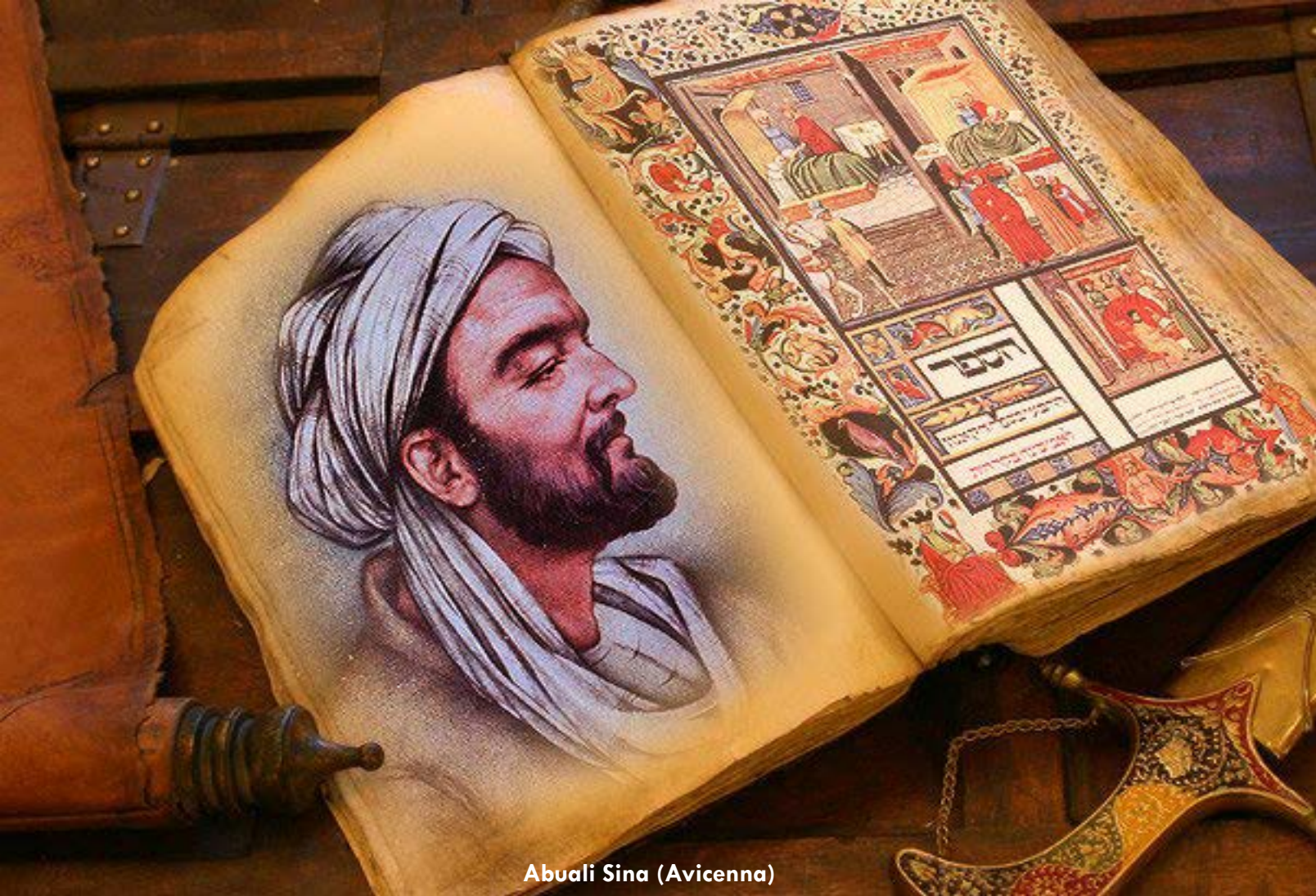
of pharmaceutical equipment in the section of antigen production and we have also planned to increase the production of hepatitis B vaccine," recounted the official.

He also referred to obtaining the licenses for the production of Brucella and Salmonella diagnostic agents as the PII's breakthroughs in the field of quality.

"The institute has succeeded in registering 11 patents domestically and is following the process to patent another case in abroad," the head of the Pasteur Institute of Iran stated.

He also added that the institute is negotiating with Chinese, Turkish, and Syrian partners to export technical knowledge, patent products, and invest in their countries.

"The institute has succeeded in registering 11 patents domestically ..."



Abuali Sina (Avicenna)

The Unrivalled Legacy of Avicenna

Historically, Iran has been a land of prominent, influential figures in science, letters, arts and literature whose impact on the global civilization will remain in place forever.

Throughout its ancient history, Iran has introduced numerous people to the world who have been among the most impressive, notable and valuable figures in their own field of expertise.

Although the European nations usually boast of being the foremost pioneers and harbingers in various fields of science and arts, they know well that they owe to the Persians the achievement of many peaks and breakthroughs which they introduce as being theirs. Persians have been traditionally skilful and dexterous in different branches of astronomy, mathematics, physics, medicine, psychiatry, architecture, philosophy, theology and literature and the unparalleled names of Ferdowsi, Rumi, Rhazes, Rudaki, Biruni, Al-Farabi, Al-Khawrizmi and Avicenna attest to the fact that Iran has been perpetually a land of science, knowledge and conscience in which cleverness grows and talent develops.

Although we are customarily grappling with our daily concerns and rarely find the opportunity to study about the figures who have shaped our civilization and our

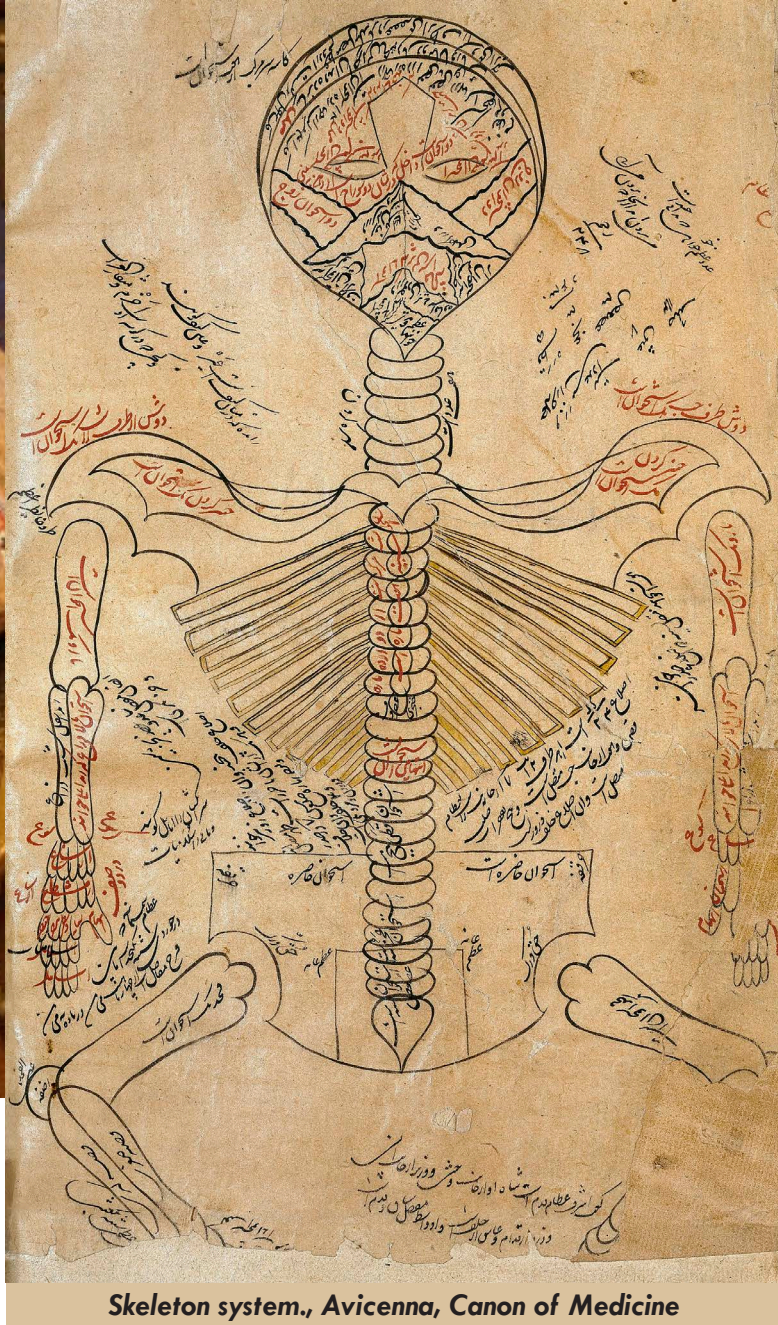
knowledge of the external world, it's vitally necessary to have a basic acquaintance with these great men and know the reasons why they did become eternal and everlasting in the annals of history.

Avicenna is one out of hundreds of Iranian intellectuals whose contributions to science and literature has made him an unforgettable name in the memory of the world and there are millions of people around the globe who admire and respect him for what he achieved and what he was.

Avicenna was an 11th century Persian polymath, physician, philosopher and scientist, born in the ancient Iranian province of Bukhara in 980. He has written more than 450 books on various subjects, particularly in physics, medicine and philosophy.

He always considered himself a student whose knowledge is incomplete and imperfect. In a famous distich, he described himself this way:

Avicenna's exceptional talents emerged since his early childhood and by the age of ten he was proficient in memorizing and reciting the Holy Quran. In his adolescence years, he studied Islamic jurisprudence, philosophy and natural sciences. He started studying medicine when he was 17 and described the field as "not difficult" to study. By the



Skeleton system., Avicenna, Canon of Medicine

age of 18, he had become a prominent physician and the Samanid ruler Nuh ibn Mansur, in gratitude to his services, invited him to attend the royal library where the young Avicenna could access to a number of rare and unique books. Avicenna set out to write his first book by the age of 21.

After the death of his father, Avicenna left Bukhara and went to Khiva and then to Gorgan at the southern coastline of Caspian Sea. He was attracted by the prominence of Gorgan's ruler as a science-loving emperor; however, his arrival in Gorgan coincided with the overthrow and killing of King Qabus. He consequently went to Ray near the modern Tehran and carried out a set of concentrated researches on medicine. Following the blockade of Ray city, he set out to Hamedan and treated Amir Shamsud-Dawla's colic. He was then appointed as the Hamedan's Prime Minister by Amir. While serving as the Prime Minister, he wrote the "Book of Healing". Following the demise of Shamsud-Dawla, a number of vicious soldiers planned a conspiracy against Avicenna and compelled Amir's successor to imprison him. He spent 4 months in prison where he compiled the mystic

treatise of "Hayy ibn Yaqdhan".

Following his release, Avicenna spent a few times in seclusion and isolation. Consequently, he went to Isfahan along with his brother and one of his students where they were warmly welcomed by the regional ruler, Ala al-Daula. Avicenna spent 14 tranquil years in Isfahan and this gave him the opportunity to complete his unfinished books. He advised Ala al-Dula in scientific and literary matters and accompanied him in war campaigns. In 1037 and while he was en route to Hamedan accompanying the king, he got sick and passed away in 58.

Avicenna is the first Iranian philosopher who has compiled organized and structured books on philosophy and medicine. He was influenced by Prophet Muhammad, Plotinus, al-Kindi, Al-Farabi and Biruni. His enormous book the "Canon of Medicine" was used as a textbook in the universities of Montpellier and Louvain by 1650s.

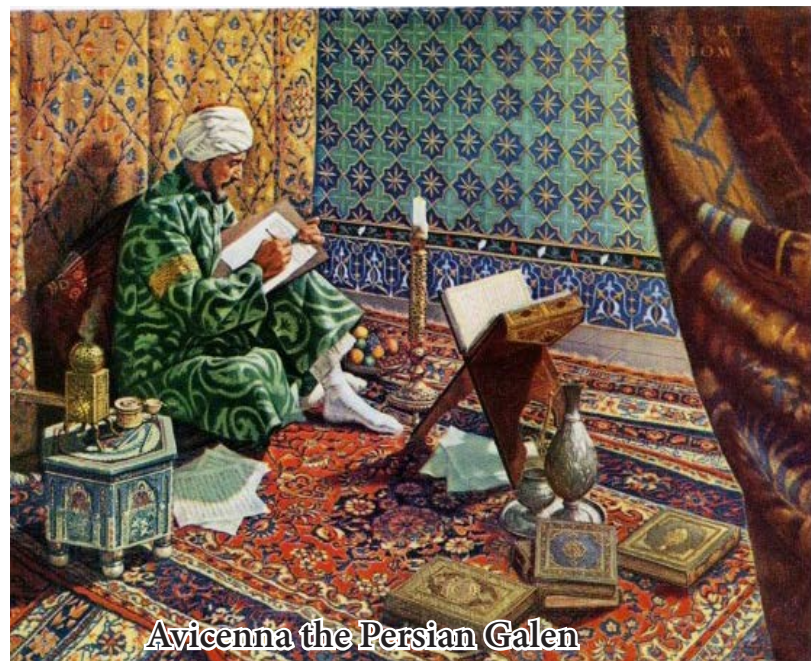
Avicenna was astoundingly versatile in his skills and abilities. He was an astronomer, chemist, geologist, Quran memorizer (Hafiz), Islamic psychologist, theologian, logician, paleontologist, physicist, poet and mathematician.

The Arab scholar and researcher Soheil Muhsin Afnan who has written on the works and life of Avicenna extensively describes him as "the most provocative figure in the history of thought in the East."

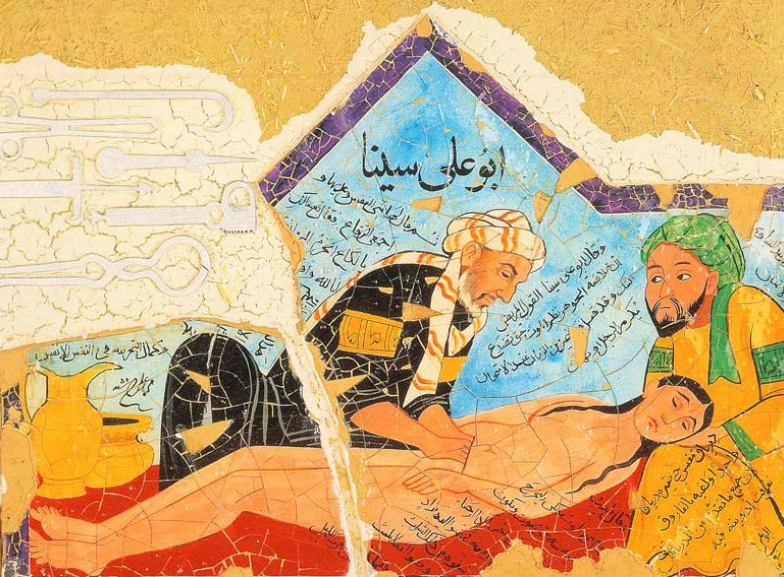
On the profoundness and authoritativeness of Avicenna's works, Afnan writes: "with a wideness of range, a vigor of thought, and a unity of conception unequalled among the phiosophists, his thoughts extended far beyond the Eastern lands, giving rise to the most complete philosophical system that the Islamic world was to have."

Avicenna's "Danish-naama-i-Alai" is the first Persian-written dissertation on philosophy. It's consisted of five main categories: logic, natural sciences, astronomy, music and theology. In this treatise, he has proposed new Persian equivalents for the Arabic philosophical terms.

Many scientific organizations around the world are named after Avicenna. A lunar crater lying on the far side



Avicenna the Persian Galen



of the Moon, just beyond the western limb on the northern rim of the Lorentz basin is named in honor of Avicenna.

Avicenna's Canon of Medicine is actually his most well-known book. The book starts with a definition of the science of medicine. Then, he goes on to say that the human's health cannot be restored unless the causes of both health and illness are found out.

He consequently gives a definition of the material cause which is the physical body, the primary constituents of the human body which are elements and the humors which are the vital essences of the body including the sanguineous humor, the phlegm humor, the bilious humor and the atrabilious humor. Subsequently, he describes the variability of the humors, the temperaments, the psychic faculties, the vital force, the organs, the efficient causes, the formal causes, the vital faculties and the final causes.

Avicenna's works have influenced a number of Western scholars and researchers and it's widely believed that his works, specially his Cannon of Medicine, are until now the most remarkable works ever written by an Eastern scientist.

Writing about Avicenna should not be limited to a single article which cannot surpass more than a few hundred words. It demands thousands of pages to explain the realities of Avicenna, his works, his dexterities and his innovations; however, it may suffice for a rudimentary introduction that Avicenna was a man who seems to remain unrivaled at least throughout the 21st century.



THE FLOATING MAN

A thought experiment by Avicenna (Ibn Sina, d. 1037), to argue for the existence of the soul. The argument is used to argue for knowledge in the present.

One of us (i.e. a human being) should be imagined as having been created in a single stroke; created perfect and complete but with his vision obscured so that he cannot perceive external entities; created falling through air or a void, in such a manner that he is not struck by the firmness of the air in any way that compels him to feel it, and with his limbs separated so that they do not come in contact with or touch each other. Then contemplate the following: can he be assured of the existence of himself? He does not have any doubt in that his self exists, without thereby asserting that he has any exterior limbs, nor any internal organs, neither heart nor brain, nor any one of the exterior things at all; but rather he can affirm the existence of himself, without thereby asserting there that this self has any extension in space. Even if it were possible for him in that state to imagine a hand or any other limb, he would not imagine it as being a part of his self, nor as a condition for the existence of that self; for as you know that which is asserted is different from that which is not asserted, and that which is inferred is different from that which is not inferred. Therefore the self, the existence of which has been asserted, is a unique characteristic, in as much that it is not as such the same as the body or the limbs, which have not been ascertained. Thus that which is ascertained (i.e. the self), does have a way of being sure of the existence of the soul as something other than the body, even something non-bodily; this he knows, this he should understand intuitively, if it is that he is ignorant of it and needs to be beaten with a stick [to realize it].

Ibn Sina, Kitab Al-Shifa, On the Soul

Iran's Royan Institute clones Murciana goat

Scientists at Iran's Royan Research Institute has succeeded in producing the country's third cloned goat belonging to Murcia-Granada breed of goat. Dr. Mahdi Hajian, Head of Embryology Department at Isfahan Campus of Royan Research Institute, made the announcement asserting "following successful cloning of Saanen and Alpine goats, we sought to clone a third one from Murcia-Granada breed."

Imported from Spain, these types have no particular season for breeding and the females can come into heat at any time of the year and produce a significant amount of milk, said the Iranian scientists while highlighting main characteristics

of Murciana goats. "We managed to extract a sample tissue from the imported goat's ear in order to obtain necessary stem cells," noted Hajian.

We were able to extract a sample of the tissue of the ears of this goat to extract the cells, resulting in simulation of the third goat in Royan Research Institute in the central city of Isfahan, Iran.

Hajian said the goat had been born a month ago since when its conditions have been analyzed and investigated.

Referring to the characteristics of the three cloned goats, he said "each simulated goat has its own unique features; the first two ones produce high milk yields."

"They yield about 3-4 kilos of milk while the newly-born one produces two to 2-3kilograms of milk and instead is more resistant to heat."

Murciana goat can even tolerate high temperatures in southern regions of Iran, emphasized the Iranian

embryologist.

In 2006, Iran became the first Middle Eastern country to announce it had cloned a sheep, named Royana.

The effort is part of Iran's quest to become a regional powerhouse in advanced science and technology by 2025. In particular, Iran is striving for achievements in medicine and in aerospace and nuclear technology.

The cloning of sheep and other animals could lead to advances in medical research, including using cloned animals to produce human antibodies against diseases.

Royan Institute's main aim in cloning the goat is to produce medicine to be used to treat people who have had strokes.



Iran's third cloned goat belonging to Murcia-Granada breed of goat

Women in Iran



Female out number male by 13% in Iran's 2017 university admissions

As the final results for the Iranian university entrance exam, also known as Konkur, was announced on Saturday, it was revealed that females outnumber males in gaining admission to higher education by 49,062, or 13 percent higher than males. Out of 378,706 participants who were admitted to the universities nationwide 213,884 (56.5%) are females and 164,822 (43.5%) are males, YJC quoted Hossein Tavakkoli, an official with Sanjesh Organization which is in charge of holding the university entrance exam, as saying.

This year some 930,208 individuals including 548,434 females and 381,774 males took part in the exams. Students in the three main groups of mathematical sciences, experimental sciences, and human sciences and two other groups of arts and foreign languages compete against one another for the best result possible as their future is mostly determined by how they perform at the exam.

While by comparing the figures pertaining to the number of females and males taking part at the exam over the past two years, female participants usually outnumber the male both in sitting the exam and gaining admission to the universities more males would often manage to be among the top 10 scorers in three main groups of mathematical sciences, experimental sciences, and human sciences.

The fierce contest which normally engage students since they start high school is one of the major scientific competition in the country. Many students and their parents spend four years of their resources and energies on getting ready for the university entrance exam.

Despite the fact that universities have grown in number considerably over the past two decades still the cut-throat competition heats up every year as the number of seats at the top public universities are limited.

The pivotal Role of Iranian Women in Islamic Revolution

Much can be said about Iran's legendary revolution of 1979 which established the Islamic Republic of Iran. Strong, intelligent, courageous men of the revolution are often recognized all over the globe: their brave actions opened innovative portals to freedom for the Iranian majority. However, what of the women? What roles did the women of Iran play, if any, to ignite a revolution and succor in the defeat of the oppressor? There is no doubt that Iranian women played a strong role, collectively, in a society that was stretched on the brink of a revolution.

The Islamic Revolution of Iran consisted of a conglomerate of women from all social sectors: liberal

and secular, literate and illiterate, metropolitan and rural: this diversity, by far was one of the most phenomenal and contributing aspects of women in the movement.

In the collective and feminine rise against the Western Controlled regime, a regime that held no merit for their traditional values, many women gave more than the articulation of their voice: they gave their blood. They gave their lives in a passionate effort to pave the way for a new Iranian government, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian Women from all walks of life, rich and poor, liberal and secular, amplified their revolutionary roles and activities. Support for the Islamic Revolution among women increased, as the shah's brutality increased. Women became even more instrumental in the days leading up to the success of the Islamic Revolution. However dreadful the storm was, it was the women who bore the brunt – as the supreme leader of Iran Ayatollah Khamenei often indicated, it was the women who carried the heaviest burdens in those times.

Some of the responsibilities women took upon themselves, during the revolution, were as follows: educating others on the religious ideologies, which facilitated the revolutionary process; others shared pamphlets written by great scholars like Ali Shariati, Ayatollah Khomeini, a young Ayatollah Khamenei, and other intellectuals who contributed; women also took to writing and expressing themselves, by way of their own female-centric pamphlet and magazine publications; besides from taking part in the demonstrations, they also spread word on events that were to take place against the shah. In those troublesome times, it was the women who nurtured the Islamic Revolution of Iran; men of the Revolution honored and respected them.

They relied upon their religious figures, in those times especially, for strength, motivation, and assurance of their freedom. They planted the seeds of thought within the minds of Iranian men and women, young and old, which led them to struggle against oppression.

Imam Khomeini (ra) sent a message, while exiled in France, stating, "Any nation that has women like the Iranian women will surely be victorious". He asserted that his comment served as encouragement: he asked Iranian women to be proud of self and to have no fear of martyrdom. Women created new opportunities for other women in Iran, due to their revolutionary roles. Just as women nurture and guard their children vigilantly, yet lovingly, women of Iran fought for and loved their people, as they would their own children; moreover, they succeeded in giving birth to a new nation, one with a new perspective towards the rights and roles of women in Iranian society.

Presently, many nations are withstanding the same moral decline as the Islamic Republic once did under the corrupt reign of the Shah; women are fighting for the same level of respect in many places as Iranian women did in pre-revolutionary times. Perhaps these oppressed women can learn from the courageous women who gave rise to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tourism in Iran



Iran experiencing significant boom in Western tourist



Emerging from years of strict economic sanctions and an image tarnished by certain media outlets, Iran is now experiencing significant boom in Western tourist arrivals as the country harbors a rich cultural heritage and history and maybe above all being home to many hospitable people.

Data provided to Fox News by leading travel intelligence analyst ForwardKeys showed that there has been a five percent growth in Westerners visiting Iran between September 1, 2016 and September 1, 2017 - and Americans make up 14.5 percent of all Western arrivals, Fox News reported on Thursday.

"Political change in Iran is making the country more approachable – an attractive place to visit and potentially do business," Fox News quoted ForwardKeys CEO Olivier Jager as saying. "I expect visitor numbers to increase, so long as Iran's airport capacity can keep pace."

Iran is finding itself back on travel brochures and is scrambling to up

tourism and hospitality standards with an eye set on bolstering its aviation industry to make travels smoother and simpler and to cater to the demands of potential foreign travelers.

In a year on year comparison of tourism revenues, the report said: The total contribution of Travel and Tourism to the country's GDP in 2016 was 7.7

"Political change in Iran is making the country more approachable – an attractive place to visit and potentially do business"

percent, and it is expected to rise some 4.9 percent in 2017 alone as the once-closed country cracks open its doors, adding "Iranian authorities purport to have made more than \$8.3 billion in tourism revenue over the past year, an increase of eleven percent over the previous fiscal year, with around 5.5 million foreign travelers setting foot on Iranian soil."

"Iran is a bright star. The potential is enormous, Iran is likely to become the leading tourism market in the Middle East and North Africa region,

providing the infrastructure is able to develop and cope with changes," Nikola Kosutic, head of research for the Middle East region at international market research firm Euromonitor, was quoted by the Fox News as saying.

Following a landmark nuclear deal Tehran and world powers clinched in 2015, Iran is repeatedly named as a hot travel destination by a circle of international media outlets. Such array of encouraging accounts have convinced more backpackers to set foot in the country and feel it so that they are able to judge between what they experience and what Western propaganda disseminates.

Filled from corner to corner with ancient bazaars, museums, mosques, monuments, gardens and palaces set inside bustling cities, historical ruins and rich rural landscapes, the country is increasingly filled with camera-wielding Westerners seeking adventure, archeology and art.

Iran has launched extensive plans to bolster its tourism sector. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the country is expecting to increase the number of tourism arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Why You Should Tour

Impressive archaeological sites, carefully planned museums, and ecological wonders await the curious traveler in Iran, a country that has something for everyone.

Iran has laid the groundwork for an increased amount of foreign visitors interested in the history, natural beauty, and business opportunities Iran has to offer.

Travelers seeking to delve deep into history and the origins of civilization need look no further than Iran, where a mosaic of cultures and natural landscapes transcends the perception of the country in the international arena.

Iran's Potentials in Tourism

- 15 UNESCO World Heritage sites
- 10th Country on Tourism Attractions and 5th on Ecotourism
- One of the rich countries of the cultural places, ecotourism sites and historical monuments which called the cradle of civilization in other way the history of the Country goes

back to 7000 written history

- An array of museums
- A myriad of ecotourism opportunities
- Numerous religious sites
- Affordable healthcare services
- Extensive bus network and air and rail infrastructure in the country

Some of top sites are as below:

- Persepolis, the complex of Xerxes palaces having the detail of 2,500 year-Old Persian reliefs.
- The ancient Mesopotamian ziggurat and complex of Chogha Zanbil is an intriguing remnant from the Elamite Empire more than 3,500 years ago which stand as a testament to the feats of ancient engineering.
- Soltaniyeh Dome, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005, is an architectural masterpiece that was built in 1302 AD. As the oldest double-shell dome in the country, the structure paved the way for construction

the Islamic Republic of Iran

of holy buildings throughout the Muslim world and has captivated the attention of both pilgrims and historians for centuries.

The Iranian government has established a number of museums to showcase artifacts and present the stories of civilization to an international audience

- The Treasury of the National Jewels in Tehran, the National Museum, Golestan Palace in Tehran, and the Sheikh Safi Museum in Ardabil are just a handful of venues that feature the collage of Iran's historical and traditional past.

- In addition, Tehran's Contemporary Art Museum showcases over 7,000 texts in both Persian and English as part of a specialized library.

- Iran's natural beauty and conservation efforts are nothing short of impressive. Stunning waterfalls, deserts, forests, lagoons, caves, swamps, and lakes represent a diverse array of climatic zones and landforms, comparable only

to the continental US.

Religious Tourism

The city of Mashhad, visited by the Muslims to pay homage to the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza, the largest mosque in the world by area which accommodates 20 million pilgrims and tourists every year. Other notable holy sites include the

Danial-e Nabi Mausoleum, one of the messengers of God in shahada,

Shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh, the sister of and the Chak Chakoo Fire Temple, which is famous for the legendary dripping water that falls from surrounding rock formations.

Plans for Future:

As part of Vision 2025, the Islamic government of Iran aims to achieve a stronger position among global tourism destinations.

The overall goal of the Tourism industry is to attract 2% of the world's tourists, or 20 million people, to Iran by 2025.

A large, elaborate Persian meal spread on a patterned tablecloth. The central dish is a large, flat, oval-shaped bread topped with various meats, including kebabs and grilled tomatoes, garnished with fresh herbs. Surrounding the main dish are several smaller plates and bowls containing different types of rice (yellow and white), salads, and other accompaniments. A red teapot and a glass of tea are also visible on the table.

The Art of Persian Cuisine



Iranian food is inventive, rich and varied. It is exotic yet simple; healthy, yet colourful. Iranian food is not spicy. Herbs are used a lot, as is fruit – from plums and pomegranates to quince, prunes, and raisins. The main Persian cuisines are combinations of rice with meat, chicken or fish and plenty of garlic, onion, vegetables, nuts, and herbs. To achieve a delicious taste and a balanced diet, unique Persian spices such as saffron, diced limes, cinnamon, and parsley are mixed delicately and used in some special dishes.

From a cultural point of view, Persian food has always been considered to be an art providing enjoyment to both body & mind. Consuming food is a way of weakening or strengthening human character. Consuming a lot of red meat and fats was thought to create the evil thoughts and to make us selfish. However, consuming a healthy diet including fruits, vegetables, fish, fowl, mixed petals & blossoms of roses create unusual powers & make us gentle & noble creatures.

Rice – Since rice is the daily food of the majority of Iranians, they have developed a special method of cooking the rice in order to preserve all its natural flavour and produce a light and fluffy delicacy.

In Iran rice is served in two basic ways, either as polo or chelo. Chelo is rice prepared in several stages, boiled,

steamed and served separately. Polo, often called pilaf in the West, is the name applied to rice with which other ingredients are mixed in the cooking process. The rice is always fluffy and tender, never sticky and soggy. Saffron is very frequently used to flavour and colour rice.

The preparation of polo is indeed an art, and the Iranians are the connoisseurs of this art. Although rice has been known as the product of China and India, the only way the people of these countries know how to prepare rice is just by plain boiling. But Iranians, who have introduced the art of cooking rice to their neighbouring countries, consider polo as the essence of an exquisite dinner, steaming it and using other various methods.

One of the most celebrated dishes is Ghormeh Sabzi, a subtle concoction of lamb, herbs, and lemon that takes great skill and hours to prepare. Another is Fesenjan, chicken in a pomegranate sauce with walnuts.

Chelo Kebab is the queen of all kebabs and is a specialty of Iran. Most people know what shish kabab is, and many of them have already tried it either in Middle Eastern restaurants or have made it themselves at home. But be sure you have never tasted chelo kabab unless you have visited a good Iranian restaurant.

Chelo kebab is derived from two words; chelo, meaning

cooked rice, and kebab, meaning broiled meat or fowl. To prepare the real chelo kebab one should use fillet or lamb. The secret of good and tasty chelo kabab lies in marinating of the meat. The meat should be properly marinated in onion juice and sometimes in yoghurt for a day or two.

Dolmeh, the Iranian stuffed, usually stands for any kind of vegetable and fruit stuffed with meat and rice. Dolmeh Barg, literally meaning stuffed leaves, is the name for stuffed grape leaves. This is a real favourite of the Middle Eastern nations. It is difficult to trace the origin of this dish. Whether it originated in the vine-growing regions of the Caucasus or in the Middle East is not known for sure. Whatever its origin, it is the favourite dish of Turkmen, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Turks, Greeks, Arabs and the Iranians.

Khoresh in Persian stands for a stew type of sauce which is usually prepared with meat or fowl combined with fresh or dried vegetables, fresh or dried fruit, and sometimes nuts and cereals.

The word Kufteh, which literally means pounded in Persian, refers to any type of ground meat that has been formed into a meat ball. Iranians make a variety of meat balls and use them in soups, khoreshes, and as a basis for quick meals. It is said that the best kufteh is made in

Azerbaijan, and that Azerbaijanis have the secret of the best flavoured kufteh. Kufteh Tabrizi is the most famous variety of kufteh prepared in Iran.

Kuku is a type of dish usually made of vegetables and eggs. Eggs are the bases for these casserole dishes and serve as the binding agent.

Maast (yoghurt), which is now popular in the West, had been known to the Middle Easterners by different names. In Iran, yoghurt is the food of the rich as well as the poor. Walking down the avenues at lunch hour in major cities, you will see the mason cobbler, the carpenter, the storekeeper, all using yoghurt as a part of their daily food. In Iranian restaurants, you will find yoghurt served in many different forms.

Yoghurt may be served with diced cucumbers, Spinach, green onions, chopped fresh dill, and a pinch of salt and pepper as a salad dish. As a dessert or as a pick up between meals, yoghurt can be served with sugar, fresh fruits, canned fruits, preserves, or honey. It is served with meals, used to make very delicious warm or cold soup, or served as a dessert. For generations, Iranians have served yoghurt as a soft drink in summer as well. This drink has served as a perfect substitute for salt tablets.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN UNIVERSITIES IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



Qualified students should submit their application for scholarship through the Cultural Council of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nairobi.

1. Applicants for undergraduate studies shall be maximum 22 years old & have an average score of 15/20 GPA
2. Applicants for MA studies shall have maximum 26 years of age and an average score of 17/20 GPA in their undergraduate or Second class honours Upper Division.
3. Applicants for PhD studies shall be 29-30 years old and an average score of 18/20 GPA.
4. Admission priorities are BA, MA & PhD (except medical sciences).

Documents required

- a. Passport photos taken within 6 months.
- b. The passport shall have validity of at least one year
- c. Shall have a vaccination card
- d. 4 page application form to be filled by the applicant.
- e. The form for educational visa to be filled in by the student.
- f. Photocopy of certificates of the applicant approved by the Embassy of the I. R. Iran in the country of the applicant.

Note

- Approved applications shall be announce within 3 months through the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Technology of Iran.
- Rejected Applicants need not to apply again.
- Applicants accepted by the scholarship council will receive their admission letter through this center and therefore, they shall travel to Iran with the visa issued by Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs endorsed by the Embassy of I. R Iran in that particular country.

SOME OF CULTURAL COUNCIL'S EVENTS AND ME



[1] A Courtesy call on the Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of Nairobi. [2] A courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University.

[3] A Courtesy call on the office of the Vice Chancellor, Tangaza University College. [4] A Visit of the Iranian Parliamentarians to the Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University [5] Visit to the Iraqi Cultural Director/ First secretary, Mr. Jamal Abdullah Dulaimi . [6] A visit to the General Secretary of the National Council

of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK), Rev. Canon Peter Karanja Mwangi. [7] Meeting with the Cultural Director/First Secretary of the Japan information & Culture

Centre, Mr. Seiji Tashiro. [8] Meeting with the Italian Cultural Director of the Instituto Italiano Di Cultura, Francesca Chiesa [9] Meeting with the Turkey Embassy

Cultural Director, Mehmet Tarip

MEETINGS WITH DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS IN KENYA



[10] Signing an MoU with the University of Nairobi through the Director of the Centre for International Programmes & Links, Prof. William .O. Ogara [11] Cultural Counsellor addressing the congregation at the Milad Un Nabbi (s.a.w.a) at the University of Nairobi. [12] Iranian Parliamentarians visiting the Speaker of Kenya's National Assembly [13] Cultural Counsellor planting a tree at St. Paul's University after a successful meeting with Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Galgalo [14] Cultural Counsellor attending an Islamic Rally involving Kenya's top National High Schools at Lenan School [15] Attending the Cultural and scientific impact on Extremism and Radicalism organised by the Cultural Council and Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Kenyatta University [16] Attending the Arba'in of Imam Hussein at Sir Ali Muslim Club, Nairobi [17] Meeting with the Kenya Cultural centre Story tellers and Head of Zurkhane Kenya

