

DIPLOMAT

A port with the splendor of Southern architecture

Iran and its role
in the emerging
world order

A shining gem
of the world
medicine

Iran and Brazil
over the time



**In the name of God
The Merciful, The Compassionate**



Publisher and Managing Director:

Center for Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Editor-in-Chief:

Naser Kanani, Spokesperson and Director of the Center for Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Advisor to the Editor-in-Chief:

Ali Mojtaba Roozbahani

Editorial Secretary:

Mohsen Shamsizadeh Ravandi

Editorial Board:

Issa Kameli, Hadi Amerian,
Hossein Mohammadi, Ali Rajabi Yazdi

Executive Editor:

Zahra Mehran Rad

Translation:

Masood Shakoori, Translation Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

English Language Editor:

Ehsan Bakhshandeh

Persian Language Editor:

Hamidreza Mortazavi

Graphic Designer:

Hamed Shahbazkhan

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Mohammad Ali Ziyaei, Amir Mohammad Goodarzi,
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for International Communications)



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Address:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Imam Khomeini Street, Imam Khomeini Square, Tehran, Iran

Post Code:

1136914811

Website:

www.mfa.gov.ir

Email:

dipomaticiran@gmail.com

Tel:

+98 21 61151

Cellphone:

+98 922 154 1689

+98 923 102 6748





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Life of the World

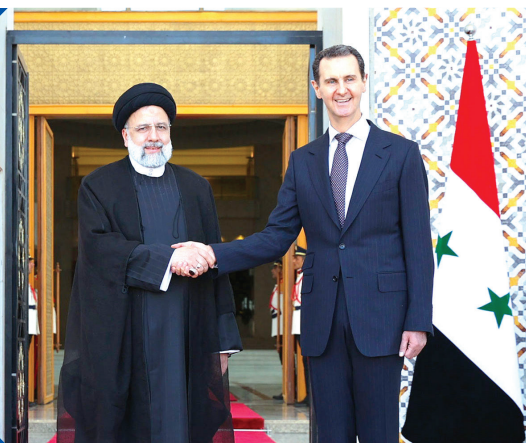
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Naser Kanani

Spokesperson
and Director
of Public
Diplomacy
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Foreign Affairs

We thank the Almighty God that with the great efforts of my esteemed colleagues, we present the fourth issue of the *Diplomat* to our dear audience and diplomatic community in Iran. We make enormous efforts to regularly publish the *Diplomat* with the cooperation of experts and specialists in a professional atmosphere and continue to disseminate information about the developments related to the diplomatic community as well as some of the foreign policy events between Iran and target countries.

In the present issue, our special section is dedicated to Brazil on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and this great Latin American country. Throughout history, our relations with Brazil have been based on mu-

tual respect and common political and economic interests, and are fortunately registering a growing trend.

Also in this regard, the visit of H.E. President Raisi to Latin America has been covered in the current issue of the *Diplomat* to showcase our stronger relations with like-minded countries in negating unilateralism. In his 13th foreign tour, President Raisi travelled to Latin America at the official invitation of the presidents of Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba to pursue the policy of stronger relations with friendly countries.

Also, the important and historic visit by President Raisi to Syria after thirteen years is covered "Under the Spotlight" in the present issue of the *Diplomat*. Mr. Bikdeli, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Consular, Parliamentary and Irani-





an Expatriates' Affairs introduces the consular departments of the Foreign Ministry in the *Diplomat*.

In our "Iranology" section, we introduce world-renowned Iranian scientist Avicenna, whose medical books are still receiving attention and are being widely taught in universities across the world; then in the "Life of the World" section of the *Diplomat*, the historical southern city of Bandar Laft as well as the ceremony of "Norooz Darya", a celebration in the south of Iran remembering and appreciating the link between the sea and the people, are presented and reviewed in detail.

Finally, the chronology of foreign policy developments of Iran (until

the end of Iranian month of Khor-dad i.e. 21 June 2023) is outlined alongside the new of ambassadors' arrivals and departures.

Once again, I'd like to invite all our dear readers from various fields to contribute to the enrichment of this publication. Here I take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to distinguished colleagues and staffers of the Center for Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who are involved in the preparation and editing of the *Diplomat*. Undoubtedly, without the sympathetic contribution of my dear colleagues, it would have been impossible to fulfill the significant task of publishing the *Diplomat*.



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Iran and its role in the emerging world order

Adhering to principles: a global approach in facing global issues



Mohsen Shamsizadeh Ravandi

Secretary of the Editorial Board

The annual gathering of the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad was held in Spring 2023.



On the first day of the gathering of ambassadors and heads of political, international and consular missions, the officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran received the profound opinions of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

After several years of interruption due to the outbreak of Covid-19, Tehran was the host of the annual meeting of the heads of missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad in 2023 with a focus on “emerging world order; the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran”.

On the first day of the gathering of ambassadors and heads of political, international and consular missions, the officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran received the profound opinions of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in the field of foreign policy and international relations. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized in a tweet about this important meeting, “The Leader’s deep strategic view towards changes in the world order and his emphasis on efficient foreign policy will be the beacon of the diplomatic system.”

Honor, wisdom and expediency: criteria for an efficient and successful foreign policy

In the meeting, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution outlined three essential keywords by explaining the criteria and indicators of a successful foreign policy: ‘honor’ defined as negating and avoiding begging diplomacy, ‘wisdom’ defined as wise and calculated interactions and activities, and ‘expediency’ defined as the flexibility to circumvent difficult obstacles and continue the path set out, and he called upon the diplomatic officials of the country to constantly monitor the gradual developments and influential events on the international stage to attain the deserved position of Iran in the future world order.

Ayatollah Khamenei counted a proper foreign policy and an efficient diplomatic system as fundamental pillars for the successful administration of the country. The



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Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated six mandatory principles in foreign policy, “Observing these is a sign of a successful foreign policy, and if these principles are not observed, we have problems either in the theory of foreign policy or the function and operation of diplomacy.”

As stated by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the first principle of a successful foreign policy is the ability to convincingly explain the rationale behind the country’s approaches to various issues.

The five other principles he mentioned when describing a success-

ful and honourable foreign policy were ‘an effective and directional presence in various global political-economic phenomena, events and movements’, ‘solving and reducing threatening policies and decisions against Iran,’ ‘weakening dangerous centres’, ‘strengthening governments and groups who are united and sided with Iran and developing the country’s strategic depth’, and ‘the ability to detect the hidden layers in regional and global decisions and actions.’

Furthermore, mentioning the definition of the three keywords’ honour, wisdom and expediency on the stage of foreign policy, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Honor is the refutation of begging diplomacy, both in words and in content, and refraining from paying attention to the words and decisions of the officials of other countries.”

Imam Khamenei considered non-reliance on principles in foreign



As stated by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the first principle of a successful foreign policy is the ability to convincingly explain the rationale behind the country’s approaches to various issues.



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policy as a breach of honour and a cause of hesitation, adding, “In all global issues, we move forth honourably relying on principles when conversing, acting and facing the actions of others.”

The Leader of the Revolution listed the true definition of ‘wisdom’ as wise, rational and calculated conduct and speech and said, “Every move in the foreign policy must be wise and well thought-out.

Rash and uncalculated decisions have caused harm to the country at times.”

He mentioned misplaced distrust in opponents as opposed to the concept of wisdom and stated, “Of course, not every word in the world of politics should be considered a lie because there are honest and acceptable words. However, not all words should be trusted.”

Another essential keyword that



“Every move in the foreign policy must be wise and well thought-out. Rash and uncalculated decisions have caused harm to the country at times.”



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the Leader elaborated on was expediency, defined as flexibility in necessary cases to bypass difficult obstacles and continue the path set out.

Imam Khamenei said, “Maintaining principles does not conflict with expediency in the mentioned sense. Of course, when the concept of heroic flexibility was introduced a few years ago, some individuals inside and outside the country mis-

understood it because the term ‘expediency’ implies finding a way to navigate challenging obstacles and progress towards the intended goal.

Continuing his speech in the gathering of officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ambassadors of the country, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei dubbed ‘positive, timely and well thought-out’ personal initiatives essential and necessary, especially in the inter-



“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must hire staff that deeply and wholeheartedly believe in the ideological and political foundations of the Revolution and Islamic Republic.”



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“The transformation in the world order is a long-term and tumultuous process affected by unforeseen events, with different nations having varying opinions and approaches.”



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actions of the ambassadors.

Imam Khamenei mentioned the importance of having both quality and quantity in human resources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as recruiting efficient and trustworthy individuals, stating, “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must hire staff that deeply and wholeheartedly believe in the ideological and political foundations of the Revolution and Islamic Republic and can stand and not bend in the face of the onslaught of the ideological and propagandistic storms of the foreigners with sufficient motivation, a strong will, mobility, and activity.”

Expressing his satisfaction with the plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to hire a young workforce, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei stressed, “A necessary duty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to protect the motivation, faith, and will of the staff.”

Concluding this part of his speech, the Leader of the Revolution dubbed the representatives of Iran abroad the representatives of the people, and their behaviour reflects the identity and nature of the

Iranian nation, saying, “An Iranian diplomat must be a symbol of faith, love for [our] dear Iran, zeal, determination, will, mobility, and hard work, and their speech and conduct must be a source of respect for the Iranian nation.”

In another part of his speech, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei referred to Iran’s lengthy borders with several and sometimes essential and influential countries, dubbing the current Government’s policy of communicating with the neighbouring nations overly imperative and correct, and added, “Foreign hands are actively creating problems between Iran and its neighbours, and you mustn’t allow this policy to be realised.”

He mentioned that the policy of communicating with Islamic nations, albethey distant, as well as likeminded nations is necessary, stating, “The unprecedented cooperation and shared views between the Islamic Republic of Iran and some major nations on certain international political movements and policies is an opportunity that should be appreciated and used to strengthen relations with those countries.”



A proper successful foreign policy can improve the country's state, while on the other hand, disturbances and problems in foreign policy cause problems in the country's general situation, of which we are not lacking in examples."

While discussing the transformation of the current world order and acknowledging its frequent mention in global literature, the Leader of the Revolution referred to the meeting of ambassadors. He stated, "The transformation in the world order is a long-term and tumultuous process affected by unforeseen events, with different nations having varying opinions and approaches."

He saw the observation and evaluation of global developments and a precise understanding of the direction and events going on behind the scenes as a prerequisite to ushering Iran into its proper position

in the new order, saying, "Practical suggestions should be derived according to this observation and evaluation. Both ambassadors and especially heads of delegations also play an important role in this, especially in influential nations."

In the end, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei emphasised once again the importance of foreign policy and its imperative role in administrating and improving the nation, and he added, "While economic and cultural factors are considered when analysing the country's current situation, foreign



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The Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted that over the past twenty months, the President had made eleven foreign trips and other heads of state have made fourteen trips to Iran.



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policy is often overlooked in discussions. A proper successful foreign policy can improve the country's state, while on the other hand, disturbances and problems in foreign policy cause problems in the country's general situation, of which we are not lacking in examples."

Critical Strategies in Foreign Policy

At the start of the meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs reported on the activities, programmes and priorities of the 13th Cabinet's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to create transformation.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stated that some of the critical strategies for the 13th Cabinet's Ministry of Foreign Affairs include moving away from a single-field JCPOA policy to create balance in foreign policy, prioritising economic diplomacy, developing non-oil exports and utilising the country's unique

transit capacity, focusing on Asia with an emphasis on neighbouring and Islamic nations, supporting the axis of resistance, actively participating in beneficial regional coalitions such as the Eurasian Economic Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS, and simultaneously pursuing strategies to neutralise sanctions while negotiating for their removal.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted that over the past twenty months, the President had made eleven foreign trips and other heads of state have made fourteen trips to Iran. He also mentioned that comprehensive, long-term memoranda of understanding had been signed with countries such as China, Russia and Turkey to increase Iran's interactions and trade exchanges.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian mentioned that with over five million Iranians living abroad, the 13th



The final day of the gathering of the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad was held with the presence and speech of President Raisi.

Cabinet is placing particular emphasis on providing service to these compatriots through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Paying homage to the Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran

While visiting the holy shrine of Imam Khomeini, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, together with his deputies, senior directors, ambassadors and heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad, renewed their allegiance with the great leader of the Islamic Revolution and the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meeting with war veterans as the best role model for diplomats

On the eve of the annual gathering of the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad, a group of deputies and senior directors of the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs and the heads of our country's missions abroad visited one of the nursing homes for war veterans.

They considered the war veterans as a real example of sacrifice, courage and sincerity in defending the national interests and security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and selflessly supporting the noble nation of Iran against the aggressors and enemies.

On the second day of the ambassadorial gathering, Ms. Zeinab Soleimani, the daughter of the martyred Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani, made a speech about the school of thought of this proud general.

Another program of the gathering commemorating the anniversary of the anniversary of the





He emphasized that despite the separation of powers in our country, different institutions must have a precise understanding of each other, and therefore the relationship between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary is much more important.



Conquest of Khorramshahr with the presence and speech of Admiral Sayyari, Chief of Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army and Deputy Commander of Army for Coordination.

A short review of the programs of annual ambassadorial gathering in Tehran

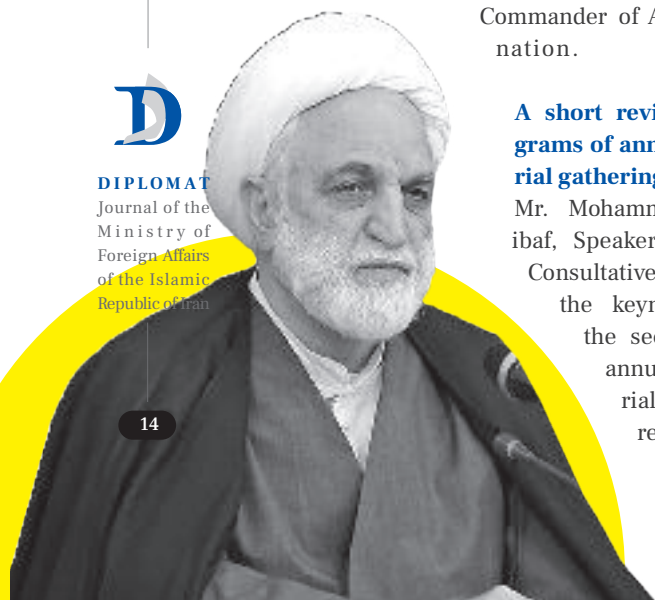
Mr. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, was the keynote speaker of the second day of the annual ambassadorial gathering. He referred to issues

related to parliamentary diplomacy and the role of the Iranian parliament in expanding relations with other countries. Highlighting economic diplomacy as an important trade policy, he said that at present, Iran's economy is limited to steel, petrochemicals and raw materials, while it is necessary to find our advantages and reform our trade policy and try to look at it in a new way. He also said that the balance of our business in the regional and international arena is positive.

Ayatollah Mohseni Ejei, the Chief of the Judiciary, also delivered a statement to the gathering of ambassadors and heads of Iranian mis-



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sions abroad. He emphasized that despite the separation of powers in our country, different institutions must have a precise understanding of each other, and therefore the relationship between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary is much more important. The head of the Judiciary highlighted the importance of judicial diplomacy and demanded that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pursue it diligently.

During the specialized inter-agency meetings at the gathering of the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad, other senior authorities including military officials also delivered

speeches and exchanged views with Iranian ambassadors.

Also, in a meeting attended by the Director of Seminaries, the Secretary General of the World Assembly of Islamic Religions, and the Secretary General of the World Assembly of Ahl al-Bayt, the strategies of further interactions to use religious capacities outside the country, the affinity of the followers of heavenly religions and the promulgation of deep religious knowledge related to Ahl al-Bayt were deeply examined by the Spokesman and Director of the Public Diplo-



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During the gathering, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, senior directors, ambassadors, and heads of missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the Friday prayers of Tehran as well.



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macy Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the gathering, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, senior directors, ambassadors, and heads of missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the Friday prayers of Tehran as well. Hojjatoleslam Mohammad-Hassan Abootorabifard, the interim Friday Prayer Leader of Tehran, appreciated the government's strategy, especially the foreign diplomacy apparatus, in looking toward the East, strengthening relations with its neighbors and trying to improve the status of the ancient continent of Asia in the third millennium, Referring to the statements of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, he considered the most important advice to the diplomatic apparatus, heads of missions abroad and Foreign Ministry personnel to preserve and promote their cultural, revolutionary and Islamic identity and emphasized that this should be

seen in the vision, method, character and speech of the ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran to impress the audience.

Also, a joint meeting hosted by the Parliament was held with the presence of the minister and deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In this meeting, Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, explaining the balanced approach of foreign policy of the 13th government, emphasized the importance of parliamentary diplomacy for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and described it a "valuable asset" in the country's diplomacy drive.

Another meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the presence of the Minister of Interior, governors-general of provinces and heads of provincial offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Two meetings were also held with the young diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who presented



new ideas on the development of foreign relations in the context of scientific-specialized communication using international tools to improve the economic data bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad.

The final day of the gathering of the heads of the Islamic Republic of Iran's missions abroad was held

with the presence and speech of President Raisi. At the conclusion of this gathering, President Raisi, referring to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution statements about the necessity of transformation in the country, called "cognitive transformation, process-based transformation and institutional transformation" as three necessary steps to



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President Raisi highlighted the significance of Iranian expatriates in advancing our foreign policy and emphasized the pursuing of legal and consular issues and addressing the requests and demands of Iranians abroad as well as using their capacities in the continuation of the country's progress.

create change and transformation.

President Raisi said it is necessary to restore Iran's transit routes as one of the other important policies of the government and clarified that the representatives of the Islamic Republic abroad should always seek to use opportunities and create achievements for the country. "Ambassadors should represent the true image of the Islamic Republic and any neglect of accurate and correct presentation of the country's capabilities is an oppression against Iran and the Iranian people".

President Raisi highlighted the significance of Iranian expatriates in advancing our foreign policy and emphasized the pursuing of legal and consular issues and addressing the requests and demands of Iranians abroad as well as using their capacities in the continuation of the country's progress. President Raisi considered "diligent follow-up of cooperation agreements and MoUs" as well as "regular holding of meetings of joint cooperation commissions" with other countries as important and basic duties of ambassadors and representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad and said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should have a well-thought program for cooperation with each country according to the requirements and capacities of that country.

The ambassadorial gathering in 2023 was wrapped up by the presentation of a summary of ambassadors' meetings by the Foreign Minister and his deputies.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also called for more attention by the embassies to the affairs of Iranians abroad and to facilitate the provision of services to them. He also emphasized the serious pursuit of neutralizing the oppressive sanctions of the United States while keeping open diplomatic channels

to lift the sanctions.

The head of the diplomatic apparatus explained Iran's foreign policy discourse under the three principles of "dignity, wisdom and expediency" and using the principles presented by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in the meeting of the ambassadors and the heads of missions with him. Mr. Amir-Abdollahian also underscored the important role of Iranian missions abroad and highlighted the necessity of diligence and attention to the quantitative and qualitative improvement of our country's bilateral and multilateral relations.

Referring to the President's statements, he said that the topics raised by President Raisi indicate the importance of the position and responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the President's personal attention to the issue of foreign policy and international relations.

Referring to the issue of sanctions, the Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that besides the open diplomatic path to remove the oppressive sanctions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to seriously follow the path of neutralizing the sanctions.

At the closing session of the annual ambassadorial meeting, Mohammad Hassan Sheikhulslami, President of the Center for Political and International Studies and Secretary of the Annual Ambassadorial Meeting, Ali Bagheri, Deputy for Political Affairs, Mehdi Safari, Deputy for Economic Diplomacy, Nasser Kanani, Spokesman and Director of the Center for Public Diplomacy, Alireza Bikdeli, Deputy for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriate's Affairs, and Mohammad Fathali, Deputy for Administrative and Finance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented their views and summaries of this gathering.



People-centered diplomacy

The busiest department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Department for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates' Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran is composed of three General Directorates namely the General Department for Consular Affairs, the General Department for Parliamentary Affairs and the Supreme Council of Iranian Expatriates; The Department for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates' Affairs at the MFA has established a wide-ranging communication network among the administrative, public and private sectors of Iran with relevant sectors in other countries.

The Department for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates' Affairs is the coordinator of consular, parliamentary and people diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This department is composed of three General Directorates namely the General Department for Consular Affairs, the General Department for Parliamentary Affairs and the Supreme Council of Iranian Expatriates; The Deputy for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Ex-

patriates' Affairs at the MFA has established a wide-ranging communication network among the administrative, public and private sectors of Iran with relevant sectors in other countries.

The General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs and its specialized departments handle communications with the Iranian Parliament as well as other legislative institutions and Government Cabinet. It consists of the Department for Government, the Department



Alireza Bikdeli

Deputy Foreign
Minister for
Consular,
Parliamentary
and Iranian
Expatriates'
Affairs



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With seven departments, this General Directorate for Consular Affairs is the largest department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which provides a wide range of support, documentation, authentication, and legal services to Iranian and foreign nationals with more than 300 consular staff in the headquarters in Tehran and in 100 countries.

for Parliamentary Diplomacy, and the Department for Legislative Affairs.

The main activity of these departments is to strengthen the parliamentary ties with other countries, respond to the requests of parliamentarians in the field of diplomacy and foreign relations, and try to benefit from the capacity of the legislature in advancing Iran's foreign policy. Providing information, answering parliamentary questions by the MPs and coordinating the meetings of the MPs with the Minister, Deputy Ministers and directors-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are part of the duties of the General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs.

Parliamentary diplomacy in the form of MPs' foreign visits and interactions, the participation of members of the Iranian Parliament in inter-parliamentary meetings and the formation of parliamentary friendship groups create more capacities for the foreign policy apparatus in the development of diplomacy and international relations. In this regard, in 2022, as the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, the General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs coordinated and planned 52 foreign trips for the Speaker and members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and 14 visits of the members of parliaments of foreign countries to Iran.

The General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs also publishes bulletins, newsletters and specialized reports. These bulletins describe the public atmosphere of the parliament for the managers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the one hand, and keep the parliament representatives informed about international developments and positions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the other hand.

The General Directorate for Consular Affairs is responsible for managing consular services to the public, including Iranian and foreign nationals and embassies; it also regulates Iran's consular relations with other countries. The General Directorate for Consular Affairs is now trying to digitize all its services and facilitate the travel of Iranians and non-Iranians through accessible and simplified service platforms.

With seven departments, this General Directorate for Consular Affairs is the largest department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which provides a wide range of support, documentation, authentication, and legal services to Iranian and foreign nationals with more than 300 consular staff in the headquarters in Tehran and in 100 countries.

The departments of civil status records, passports and visas, citizenship, immigrant and refugee affairs are among the oldest subordinate consular offices which fulfill the most important governmental functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which also includes the granting of Iranian citizenship for qualified applicants, acquiring and renouncing Iranian citizenship, issue of birth certificate, passport and travel documents as well as all other services related to the so-called quadrilateral events (birth, marriage, divorce and death).

With the diversification of issues related to Iranian expatriates, increasing foreign travels of Iranians for education, residence and business, the importance of legal protection for Iranian citizens in times of crisis such as disasters, as well as the need to develop consular cooperation with other countries and achieve bilateral and multilateral understandings to facilitate public



interactions the General Department for Consular Affairs added four more departments to its structure, namely the Department of Document Authentication; the Department of Consular and Judicial Support; the Department of Student Affairs, Scholarships and Schools Abroad; and the Department of the Joint Commission and Consular Diplomacy.

In line with the government's policies of respecting clients and honoring citizens' rights, a consular service desk has been established since 2019 in the building adjacent to Building No.3 of the ministry, and general inquiries to all subordinate offices (except the Document Authentication Office, which is located in Building No. 9) are directed to this desk. Between 300 and 500 referrals are made to this desk on a daily basis.

Currently, compared to other countries, the consular activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran rank much higher in terms of scope, speed, diversification of services and cost-effectiveness. The result of the activities of the consular offices can be seen the figures of 2022. Admitting more than

174,000 people who referred to the Document Authentication Department and review and authentication of more than one million documents and rendering more than 700,000 consular services are related to only two functional areas of the General Department for Consular Affairs. In 2022, the Passport Department facilitated the entrance into country for more than 4,500 Iranian students and 1,500 absent draftees. In the same year, the General Department for Consular Affairs provided more than 32,000 support services to compatriots in the form of status inquiries, currency transfer, certificate authentication, legal assistance, health tourism and similar issues.

Other activities of General Department for Consular Affairs include dealing with 4,200 Iranian prisoners abroad, 378 of whom were released and transferred to the country last year in the form of legal agreements, in addition to managing international issues related to foreign prisoners in the country.

Iran's membership in the



Currently, compared to other countries, the consular activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran rank much higher in terms of scope, speed, diversification of services and cost-effectiveness.



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Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents, otherwise known as the Apostille Convention, the implementation of the single article of the Parliament law for granting Iranian citizenship to children born of Iranian mothers, and the development of Mikhak Platform for electronic services, as well as providing digital services to compatriots in the US and Canada are among the other programs implemented by this General Department.

In the past year, the Department of Students, Scholarships and Schools Abroad facilitated more than 1,000 scholarships between Iran and other countries including Iraq, Hungary, Japan, Brunei, Mexico, China and Tajikistan in interaction with relevant ministries. Attracting and admitting more than 36,000 foreign students in Iranian universities, holding the nationwide university entrance exam in 15 countries and managing 76 Iranian schools abroad with a capacity of 100 teaching staff and nearly 10,000 students are among the other activities of this department.

Last year, more than 12 bilateral meetings and joint consular commissions were held with Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Denmark, India, Austria, Turkey, Serbia, Finland, Georgia and Syria, their achievements being realized in the form of diplomatic visa waiver with Qatar, Indonesia and Uzbekistan, ordinary visa waiver with Kazakhstan and making necessary preparations for visa waiver with the countries of Bolivia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Nigeria and South Africa. Consular branches in the provincial offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran have made it possible for people to ac-

cess consular services in all parts of the country.

After two decades of ups and downs, the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Iranian Expatriates has been properly established within the structure of the Foreign Ministry for several years now. With eight specialized working groups headed by seven ministries and higher institutions of the country, this Secretariat enjoys a very high institutional capacity to manage the communication of Iranians abroad and utilize their capacities in national development. The Secretariat also benefits from three departments as follows: legal and judicial; cultural and economic; and communications and information of Iranian expatriates.

The structure of working groups and the Supreme Council of Iranian Expatriates, which is chaired by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has made it possible to legislate and formulate the necessary guidelines for managing the relationship of Iranians with the homeland. In 2021 and 2022, this Secretariat held several meetings of specialized working groups and two meetings of the Supreme Council of Iranians Abroad with the presence of the H.E. President Raisi.

In addition, the Deputy for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran deals with the consular affairs of foreign missions and their nationals in Iran and facilitates consular diplomacy through contacts with ambassadors and consuls and other diplomats and foreign nationals; hence extensive diplomatic communication is established between the ministry's managers/representatives and foreign diplomats residing in Iran.



In the past year, the Department of Students, Scholarships and Schools Abroad facilitated more than 1,000 scholarships between Iran and other countries including Iraq, Hungary, Japan, Brunei, Mexico, China and Tajikistan in interaction with relevant ministries.



Under the Microscope



● Celebration of victory after 12 years in Damascus

● Strategic management of relations

Celebration of victory after 12 years in Damascus

An analytical travelogue of President Raisi's
visit to Syria



Ali Naderi

Managing
Director of
the Islamic
Republic of
Iran News
Agency
(IRNA)

The Iranian President's visit to Syria after 12 years was in fact a celebration of the victory of the axis of resistance in Damascus.

The visit of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria after 12 years should be considered as one of the most important and considerable events of the foreign policy of the 13th Government. The importance of this trip was doubled due to the fact that only a few weeks after the announcement of the normalization of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia, it indicated the return of normal conditions to the West Asian region after a decade of chaos and conflict.

In political circles, this trip was interpreted as the official announcement of the failure of efforts to oust Bashar al-Assad's government by imposing an extensive and devastating war on this country. After President Raisi's visit to Damascus, the official invitation of Bashar al-Assad to attend the Arab League in Jeddah and visit Saudi Arabia, conveyed this clear political

message to the region and the world that after a decade of hostility in the region, a new chapter has opened and the axis of resistance has become stronger.

The completely negative reaction of the Zionist regime to this important event in the media and even the bombardment of the Aleppo airport a day before the trip of the Iranian president indicated that Ayatollah Raisi's visit to Damascus after rapprochement with Saudi Arabia, has elevated the status and strength of the resistance movement as well as its stabilization in the Middle East.

But as one of the members of the Iranian delegation present in this trip, what caught my attention when I first arrived in Syria was the calamity that the war had brought upon a prosperous and relatively thriving country like Syria and the beautiful city of Damascus.

Today, Syria's serious and fundamental problem seems to be the






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In this program, in addition to signing of the Comprehensive Long-Term Strategic Cooperation Program between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, which represented Iran's strategic approach to Syria, 14 other MoUs were signed between the two countries.

supply of basic needs and the most important of which is the supply of electricity for the people. Syria has very limited sources of revenue and is in dire need of billions of dollars of foreign investment for reconstruction.

On the other hand, the displacement and migration of nearly 50 percent Syria's population seems to be one of the important future challenges for a Syria which has now returned to normal conditions after 12 years of devastating war and is on the path of reconstruction.

The first itinerary was to visit the Presidential Palace in Damascus to attend an official welcome ceremony, a private conversation between the two presidents and a press conference followed by the ceremony of signing cooperation agreements between Iran and Syria. In this program,

in addition to signing of the Comprehensive Long-Term Strategic Cooperation Program between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, which represented Iran's strategic approach to Syria, 14 other MoUs were signed between the two countries.

Almost all of the agreements were related to trade and economy, and included various business fields such as oil and energy, technical-engineering services, housing construction, rail and air transportation, free zones and the private sector, communications and technology,



earthquakes relief, and facilitation of pilgrimage exchanges.

The approach of the two countries in the development of economic and trade relations is important because, considering the beginning of the Syrian reconstruction period, as well as the warm ties between Iran and Syria, a very suitable platform has been created for the active presence of the private and economic sectors of Iran in the mentioned areas.

The Presidential palace, built by late President Hafez Assad on the heights overlooking Damascus with its beautiful and special architecture, had not hosted world leaders for many years, and this was perhaps the first time in years, this palace hosted the welcoming ceremony of a high-ranking delegation from abroad.

On the sidelines of the signing ceremony, I had the chance to meet Mrs. Bassineh Shaban, an adviser and somehow the spokesperson of the Syrian government and one of the well-known figures of the Arab world to discuss the enhancement of media cooperation between Iran and Syria.

After the official ceremony in the Presidential palace, the Iranian delegation went to Zeynabiyeh District of Damascus. Zeynabiyeh, as the epicenter of conflicts and the gate of the Rif Dimashq Governorate during the Syrian war, is important for us due to the holy shrine of al-Sayyida Zaynab (PBUH) as well as the vibrant pro-resistance Shia com-

munity and the Iranian martyrs of the Syrian war are known as "Holy Shrine Defenders".

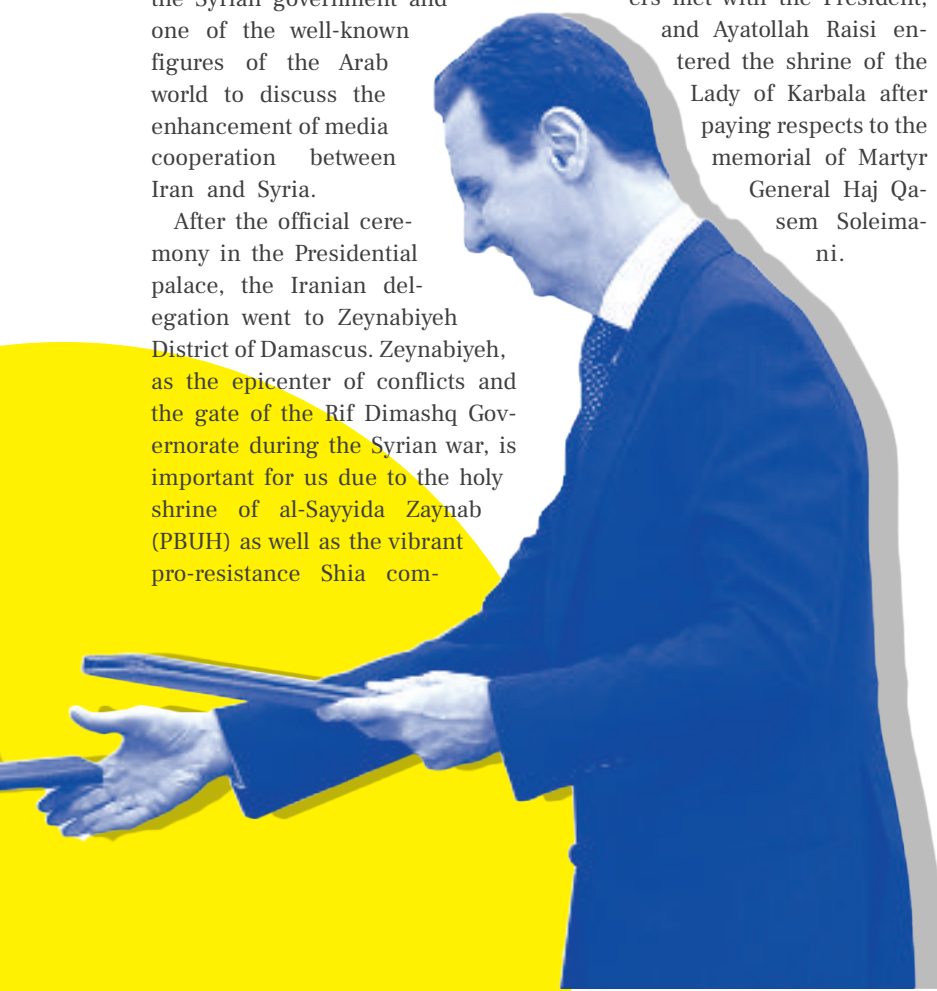
From the Zeynabiyeh District to the holy shrine of al-Sayyida Zaynab (PBUH), and on a stretch of a nearly two kilometers road, a long procession of locals had gathered to welcome President Raisi. They were holding the Syrian and Iranian flags and pictures of the martyrs who defended the shrine. They welcomed Ayatollah Raisi and the accompanying Iranian delegation while chanting epic songs.

Their presence was, in a way, a show of appreciation towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Holy Shrine Defenders and especially Martyr General Haj Qasem Soleimani for the bravery they showed in protecting this important stronghold of the resistance movement in the region.

At the shrine, dozens of veterans wounded in the war as well as families of Syrian Holy Shrine Defenders met with the President, and Ayatollah Raisi entered the shrine of the Lady of Karbala after paying respects to the memorial of Martyr General Haj Qasem Soleimani.



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The dense crowd in the Holy Shrine was also very exciting. Happy and enthusiastic people had gathered to welcome and show their gratitude to the representative of the people of Iran, who had journeyed to Syria after 12 years and the sacrifice of Iran's dearest youths to preserve the Syrian territory.

The youth of Lebanon's Hezbollah sang a beautiful song in both Persian and Arabic languages, with the theme "Greetings from the Resistance to Raisi, from Yemen and Iraq, from Lebanon to the Holy Quds of the Ummah, greetings from Syria" followed by a speech by the head of the Endowment Office of Syria, along with the epic speech delivered by President Raisi, reviving the memory of Holy Shrine Defenders in this program.

Then, visiting the holy shrine of al-Sayyida Zaynab in a spiritu-

al atmosphere and meeting with regional resistance commanders of different nationalities made the President Raisi's visit to Zeynabiyyeh a special event.

The program for the morning of the second day of the trip to Damascus began with a meeting with the commanders and figures of the Palestinian resistance, followed by a meeting with the scholars of different religions and faiths in Syria. In these meetings, the other side expressed their interest in Iran and appreciated the support of the Iranian nation and government to the Islamic resistance as well as the Syrian and Palestinian peoples.

Another important program of President Raisi in Damascus was to meet with businessmen and economic activists of Syria and explore solutions for the facilitation of trade and economic activities. This meet-





The interesting thing to note is that President Raisi preferred to appear in this old market and among the people of Damascus for a few minutes before attending the Umayyad Mosque. Perhaps at the beginning, the Syrian security teams responsible for the security of the Iranian delegation were shocked, but the warm welcome by the people in Al-Hamidiyeh Souq and even the playing of songs in Persian language such as “O Iran” by the vendors and shop owners changed the atmosphere.



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At the end of this trip, President al-Assad personally came to the Damascus International Airport, which until not so long ago was the target of attacks by the Zionist regime and Takfiri elements, to see off the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. President Assad conveyed his and the Syrian people's respect to the Iranian nation and government in a media and political maneuver that heralded the return of security and peace to war-torn Damascus.

ing was important because the 14 cooperation agreements signed earlier between the two countries were exclusively aimed at boosting trade and infrastructure cooperation, and these documents could not and will not be implemented without cooperation between the economic activists and entrepreneurs of Iran and Syria. The discussions and points proposed in this meeting were important and noticeable for expanding economic cooperation and commercial capacity of the two countries.

The last program in this trip to Syria was to visit the old Sham District, the historic Umayyad Mosque and the Sayyidah Ruqayyah Mosque.

Al-Hamidiyeh Souq, is the oldest market of Sham overlooking the Umayyad Mosque, and the interesting thing to note is that President Raisi preferred to appear in this old market and among the people of Damascus for a few minutes before attending the Umayyad Mosque. Perhaps at the beginning, the Syrian security teams responsible for the security of the Iranian delegation were shocked, but the warm welcome by the people in Al-Hamidiyeh Souq and even the

playing of songs in Persian language such as "O Iran" by the vendors and shop owners changed the atmosphere.

After this visit, President Raisi went to the Umayyad Mosque and during his visit, he also performed prayers in the Mosque.

The pictures of the President performing prayers in the Umayyad Mosque received widespread attention on social media.

The visit to the Sayyidah Ruqayyah Mosque and the spiritual atmosphere that prevailed there, especially due to the presence of pilgrims who had recently found the possibility of a pilgrimage to Damascus due to the normalization of the situation in Syria, were among the sweet memories of the last hours of President Raisi's visit.

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President Assad conveyed his and the Syrian people's respect to the Iranian nation and government.

Strategic management of relations

President Raisi's tour of Latin America; Rejecting unilateralism and strengthening relations with friendly countries

Historical relations, deep cultural and civilizational ties and shared economic and commercial interests have provided a suitable ground for the consolidation of multilateral cooperation between Iran and Latin America. Accordingly, upon the official invitation of the presidents of Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran travelled to Latin America in June 2023.

Caracas was the first destination of President Raisi's five-day trip to Latin America. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived on Monday 22 June 2023 at the Caracas International Airport heading a high-ranking delegation consisting of officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, defense, petroleum, health and culture and was welcomed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Roads of Venezuela as the co-chair of Iran-Venezuela Joint Economic

Cooperation Commission.

President Raisi, in the first program of his official visit to Venezuela, visited the tomb of "Simon Bolivar" in the city of Caracas and laid a wreath of flower in order to pay homage to the leader of Latin America's emancipating revolutions and late Venezuelan politician. President Raisi also signed Simon Bolivar's guest book.

Then, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro officially welcomed President Raisi in the presidential



Hadi Amerian

Member of the
Editorial Board



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President Raisi considered neutralizing US sanctions and strengthening economy as the most effective way to deal with the sanctions and emphasized that Iranian youths are transforming sanctions into opportunities through knowledge-based activities and were able to bring Iran to peace and stability despite impulses.

palace. After the official welcoming ceremony, the presidents of Iran and Venezuela had a private meeting followed by the open meeting and negotiations of the high-ranking delegations of the two countries.

The signing ceremony of bilateral cooperation memoranda between Iran and Venezuela was held in the presence of the presidents of the two countries; high-ranking officials signed 19 MoUs in areas such as “communications and information technology, energy, insurance, maritime transport, higher education, agriculture, pharmaceutical and medicine, cultural exchanges and also expansion of mining cooperation”.

Also, President Maduro awarded the Venezuelan National Medal of Honor (first class medal for the liberating men and women of Venezuela) to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the last leg of the program of the first day of his official visit to Venezuela, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran attended

the joint meeting of economic activists and businessmen of the two countries. In his speech, President Raisi considered enhancement of knowledge-based activities and cooperation as one of the important measures in the economic field and emphasized the necessity of establishing Iran’s Technology Office in Venezuela.

President Raisi considered neutralizing US sanctions and strengthening economy as the most effective way to deal with the sanctions and emphasized that Iranian youths are transforming sanctions into opportunities through knowledge-based activities and were able to bring Iran to peace and stability despite impulses.

On the second day of his trip to Venezuela, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited the Iranian store “Magasis” in Caracas in order to review Venezuela’s capacity for the presence of producers and the supply of Iranian products. In this visit, the president pointed out the importance of the Venezuelan market and the export



At the end of his two-day visit, President Raisi met a group of Venezuelan elites and academicians and outlined the dysfunctions of the current global hegemonic system.

of Iranian products to this country, and issued orders to remove the existing obstacles.

“Magasis” store started its work in Caracas in August 2019 with the aim of facilitating trade between Iran and Venezuela and selling thousands of Iranian goods; it has created about 500 direct and indirect jobs in Caracas.

The start of the production line of two major Iranian automobile companies and visiting the exhibition of the achievements of Iranian knowledge-based companies and private sector in Caracas constituted another part of the president’s visit. In this exhibition, private companies producing pharmaceutical, agricultural, medical and animal husbandry equipment displayed the latest achievements and products that they have offered in the Venezuelan market.

At the end of his two-day visit, President Raisi met a group of Venezuelan elites and academicians and outlined the dysfunctions of the current global hegemonic system and talked about the necessity

of changing such an unfair order.

On Tuesday afternoon 23 June 2023 local time, after his programs in Venezuela came to an end, President Raisi was seen off by the Venezuelan Foreign Minister at the airport and left the country for Managua, the Nicaraguan capital.





Travel to Nicaragua

After arriving in Nicaragua, the Iranian President was officially welcomed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Managua's Freedom Square. In this ceremony, attended by the heads of the three branches of the government and hundreds of young people from Nicaragua, the President Ortega praised martyr Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and observed a minute of silence in his honor.

In Freedom Square, President

Raisi described the three characteristics of independence, freedom and justice as the common features of the revolutions of both the peoples of Iran and Nicaragua and said that "the US wanted to stop the Iranian nation with sanctions, but the Iranian nation turned threats into opportunities for progress".

Private meeting with his Nicaraguan counterpart, a meeting with Gustavo Porras, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Nicaragua, statement to the parliament members and speaking to students of the University of Managua were among the main plans of President Raisi during his visit Nicaragua.

Also, due to Nicaragua's interest in using Iran's capacity in the field of transfer of new technologies and production of medical and pharmaceutical equipment, several meetings were held with the central bank and relevant ministries of Nicaragua.

On the trip to Nicaragua, three MoU were exchanged between Tehran and Managua on judicial assistance, economic cooperation, trade and medical equipment were signed.



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Travel to Cuba

After the end of his two-day official visit to Nicaragua, President Raisi arrived in Havana and was welcomed by the Cuban Foreign Minister. President Raisi's visit aimed at the expansion and deepening of relations with Cuba. The Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel officially welcomed President Raisi at the Revolution Palace in Havana on Thursday morning 25 June 2023 local time. After the official welcoming ceremony, the private talks of the two presidents and the meeting of the high-ranking delegations of the two countries were held.

The signing ceremony of Iran-Cuba bilateral cooperation understandings was held at the presence

of the two presidents; high-ranking officials of the two countries signed six MoUs for cooperation on judicial and political areas as well as customs and information technologies.

In a meeting with businesspersons of Iran and Cuba, President Raisi called for a new plan for bolstering economic cooperation between the two countries through strengthening Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Commission; he further highlighted powerplants and mines sectors as areas where the two countries can cooperate. President Raisi stated that the policy of the Islamic Republic is to enhance cooperation in technical, economic, biotechnology, nanotechnology and healthcare with Cuba.



In a meeting with businesspersons of Iran and Cuba, President Raisi called for a new plan for bolstering economic cooperation between the two countries through strengthening Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Commission.





For the purpose of developing the relations and increasing the level of cooperation at various areas, a total of 28 memoranda were signed by Iranian high-ranking officials and their counterparts in the three Latin American countries.

President Raisi then visited the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) in Havana and was briefed on its activities and research areas, including biomedicine (research and development in the field of vaccines and biopharmaceutical products), plant biotechnology, industrial enzymes and animal biotechnology. President Raisi also visited the vaccine production line in the CIGB factory and was informed about the latest measures and relations between this factory and Iranian companies.

At the final part of his official visit, President Raisi met with Raul Castro, the spiritual leader and former President of Cuba and highlighted that political relations between Tehran and Havana are at their highest level since the beginning of establishing relationships between the two countries.

Referring to the progress and achievements of the Cuban revo-

lution, especially in health, President Raisi said this level of political relations between two countries necessitates it that we also expand our cooperation at other fields, such as economic, technical, biotechnological and medical fields as well as vaccine production.

At the end of his trip to the three Latin American countries, President Raisi left the Cuban capital of Havana for Tehran.

For the purpose of developing the relations and increasing the level of cooperation at various areas, a total of 28 memoranda were signed by Iranian high-ranking officials and their counterparts in the three Latin American countries.

Also, it was agreed that Iran and the three countries consider exporting technical engineering services and knowledge-based products as well as raw materials at reasonable prices and creating new markets in their countries.



High-level Diplomacy



✦ “Spring” diplomacy



























“Spring” diplomacy

Iran’s high-level diplomacy at a glance

























Chronology of foreign relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Spring 2023

March 2023

	21 March 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates	
	22 March 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of Kuwait and Australia	
	23 March 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Austria, the Swiss Confederation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman	
	26 March, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Federation of Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Libyan government and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
	27 March, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar	
	28 March, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s trip to the Russian Federation	
	29 March, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Duma of the Russian Federation	
	30 March, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s telephone conversation with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Sultanate of Oman	























April 2023
















	2 April, 2023	 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
	4 April, 2023	 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Islamic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania	
	6 April, 2023	 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's trip to China and meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	 
		 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation	
	7 April, 2023	 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France (in Beijing)	
	8 April, 2023	 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Azerbaijan	 
	12 April, 2023	 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan	
		 Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's trip to Samarkand to participate in the meeting of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's Neighbors	















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April 2023

13 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Board of Governors of Afghanistan	
14 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Republic of Azerbaijan	
17 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Sultanate of Oman	
19 April, 2023		President Raisi's telephone conversation with the Sultan of Oman	
20 April, 2023		President Raisi's telephone conversation with the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Emir of Qatar Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
21 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar	
22 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates	
23 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq	
24 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Head of the Politburo of the Hamas Movement	
25 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, the United Nations Deputy Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and the chief negotiator of the National Salvation Government of Yemen.	































	26 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of the Sultanate School of the Sultanate of Oman President Raisi's meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan	 
	27 April, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Speaker of Parliament and a group of Lebanese parliamentarians, as well as a meeting with the Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement in Beirut.	
	28 April, 2023	 	Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the head of the political office of the Hamas movement in Gaza	 
	29 April, 2023		President Raisi's meeting with H.E. President of Iraq	

May 2023

	1 May, 2023		President Raisi's meeting with the National Security Adviser of the Republic of India Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the National Security Adviser of the Republic of India	
	3 May, 2023	 	Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq President Raisi's meeting with the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic	 
	9 May, 2023	 	Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Industry and Trade of Burkina Faso, as well as a telephone conversation with the High Representative of the European Union in Foreign Policy Affairs.	 
























May 2023

	10 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Turkey (in Moscow)	
	11 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ireland	
	13 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the foreign ministers of the Republic of France, the Kingdom of Belgium, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as a conversation with the Secretary General and the head of the political bureau of Hamas.	
	15 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the UN Secretary General's special representative for Syrian affairs	
	17 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Afghanistan Governing Board	
	18 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the United Nations	
	21 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	
	26 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Iraq and the Sultanate of Oman	
	30 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Secretary General of Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (SICA)	
	31 May, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister Advisor of the United Arab Emirates	

	1 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey	
			Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa	
	2 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates (on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting)	
	3 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Comoros, the Republic of Brazil, the Republic of India and the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba (on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting)	
			Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium	
	4 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey	
	8 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam	
	9 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan	
	10 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic	
	11 June, 2023		Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar	
	13 June, 2023		President Raisi's meeting with President Bolivar of Venezuela	

June 2023

	14 June, 2023		<p>Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</p> <p>H.E. President Raisi's meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly and the heads of commissions of this Assembly and the members of the Islamic and cultural organizations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.</p> <p>President Raisi's meeting with the President of Nicaragua</p>	
	15 June, 2023		<p>Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua</p> <p>President Raisi's, met with the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Nicaragua</p> <p>President Raisi's meeting with the President of Cuba</p>	
	16 June, 2023		<p>President Raisi's meeting with Raul Castro, the spiritual leader of the Republic of Cuba</p>	
	17 June, 2023		<p>Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan</p>	
	19 June, 2023		<p>Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso and the Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement</p>	
	20 June, 2023		<p>Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman</p>	
	21 June, 2023		<p>Dr. Amir-Abdollahian met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Sultanate of Sultanate of Oman, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait, and also with the Chief Negotiator of the National Salvation Government of Yemen.</p>	



Special Look

Iran and Brazil over time

Hospitality; major common denominator between Iran and Brazil

Complementary capacities

A business as old as 120 years

The green gem of South America

A Page from history

Football; a common sweet feeling between Iranians and Brazilians





The Special Look section of the *Diplomat* introduces a specific country in each issue in association with the embassy of that country in Tehran. In the present issue, Brazil is presented.



Population

214 million



Area

8,514,215 km²



GDP

\$1.9 trillion



Political system

Presidential –
Federal Republic



Exports & Imports

\$335 million
\$273 million



Capital

Brazilia



Life expectancy

76 ears



Currency

Brazil rial



Main trade partners

China, US,
Argentina



Iran-Brazil trade volume

\$7 billion



Economic capacities and capabilities

Great producer and exporter of agricultural, animal, industrial, mineral and food stuff in the world



Official languages

Portuguese

Iran and Brazil over the time

Constructive relations between Iran and Brazil
with a history of 120 years



Issa Kameli

Assistant
Foreign Minister
and Director
General for
America

The 120th anniversary of the establishment of relations between Iran and Brazil will be a great opportunity for the development of relations between the two countries due to the existence of many opportunities for cooperation in economic, commercial and political fields.

Rare historical, dating back 120 years. In 1903, Ishaq Khan Mofakhemmoddeh, Iran's Minister Plenipotentiary of in Washington, signed a treaty of amity and commerce with Brazil and several other South American countries during his trip to Latin America.

The signing of this agreement formed the basis for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Of course, historical books show that the history of the first presence of an Iranian official in Brazil dates back to 1810 and the period before the independence of Brazil. In that year, Mirza Abolhassan Khan Shirazi, Iran's ambassador in London, on his way back from London by ship, accidentally stopped at the port of Rio de Janeiro. During his two-week stay in that city, he was respected and honored by Don Juan, the Viceroy of

Portugal.

In 1935, a few years after the signing of the treaty of amity and commerce, Iran's ambassador to Argentina accredited to Brazil as well. Finally, in August 1943, the Embassy of Iran was established in Rio de Janeiro and Yadollah Azodi was assigned as the first Iranian ambassador to Brazil.

With the change of the political and administrative capital of Brazil from Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia, the Embassy of Iran was relocated to Brasilia in 1960 as the first foreign embassy in the new capital. Due to the importance of this action, Mr. Jocelino Kubitschek, the then-President of Brazil, inaugurated the Iranian embassy in an official ceremony.

Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the commercial, cultural and political relations between Iran and Brazil were maintained at a low level due to the different priorities of



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the foreign policy of the two countries.

In the early years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, due to Saddam-imposed war, there was not much opportunity for the development of bilateral cooperation with Brazil. With the end of the imposed war in the early 1990s, relations with Brazil gradually gained significance, especially in the commercial-agricultural sectors; and from the mid-2000s, in addition to commercial and economic relations, the two countries broadened the scope of political relations and exchange of high-ranking delegations.

During this period, for the first time, the presidents of the two countries visited each other's capitals. In the meantime, the visit of Mr. Lula da Silva, the then-President of Brazil, to our country in 2010 was very important. During this trip, the Tripartite Declaration of Iran, Brazil and Turkey on the nuclear dossier of the Islamic Republic of Iran was issued. In this statement, Brazil, as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, defended the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Also, during this trip, the Presidents of Iran and Brazil announced their commitment to tap into the capabilities of cooperation, political dialogue, economic and commercial relations, as well as scientific and cultural cooperation. During this trip, Mr. Lula was the first President of Brazil to meet with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

In this meeting, while referring to the independent and progressive positions adopted by the Brazilian government regarding global issues, the Leader pointed out that the only solution to changing the current situation in the world is cooperation and expansion of relations with and among independent governments. While confirming the Leader's views, Mr. Lula considered the changes in the structure of the United Nations necessary based on global developments.

The process of positive cooperation between Iran and Brazil has continued in the successive governments of both countries, and the political exchanges between the two countries at the governmental and parliamentary levels, along with business relations, have developed significantly. The bilateral visits of Foreign Ministers and their meeting on the sidelines of international summits are significant in the development of bilateral relations. Parliamentary friendship



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groups are active in legislatures and have played an important role in supporting the enhancement of relations.

In the 13th Government of Iran, economic diplomacy within the framework of the doctrine of balanced foreign policy, dynamic diplomacy and intelligent interaction have become the most important characteristic of Iran's foreign policy. In this regard, the development of relations with Brazil as the most important Latin American country has enjoyed a special place in Iran's foreign equations. In the early months of the 13th government, Madam Teresa Cristina, the honorable Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, traveled to Tehran to conduct the first ministerial-level visit between the two countries after about four years. Similarly, in September 2022, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil visited Tehran. During this trip, the 11th round of political consultations between the deputy Foreign Ministers of the two countries was held successfully.

On the other hand, the internal political developments in Brazil and the re-election of Mr. Lula da Silva as the president have made the prospects for the development of

Iran-Brazil relations clearer. In order to show our interest in developing relations with Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran sent a delegation to Mr. Lula's inauguration headed by Iran's Vice-President for Parliamentary Affairs, as Iran's President's special envoy.

Pragmatism in bilateral relations by the governments of Iran and Brazil has led to the growth of bilateral trade which has registered historical records. Brazil is a supplier of important basic commodities imported by Iran, including corn, soybeans, soybean meal, sugar, cooking oil and meat; and the value of direct and indirect trade relations between the two countries reached a historical figure of seven billion dollars in 2022. In the meantime, Iran exported more than one billion dollars of urea to Brazil.

The 120th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be a great opportunity for the expansion of ties between Iran and Brazil due to the existence of many opportunities for cooperation in economic, commercial and political fields. This issue was discussed in the recent visit of Mr. Laudmar Aguiar Neto, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs



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of Brazil to Tehran.

During this trip, constructive discussions were held regarding the development of economic, commercial and political cooperation in the framework of increasing and diversifying relations while agreements were made to hold the joint economic commission between the two countries this year.

Brazil's presence in BRICS as an emerging power, its new foreign policy approach and emphasis on the necessity of multilateralism all constitute a good opportunity for the expansion of cooperation of the two countries as well as greater interaction of our country with Brazil and the BRICS group. For the same purpose, at the recent meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers in South Africa, Mr. Amir-Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, discussed expansion of cooperation between Iran and BRICS members with his Brazilian counterpart Mr. Mauro Vieira.

In general, historically, the relations between Iran and Brazil have always been maintained without serious tensions and challenges based on mutual respect and common interests. Political changes in the two countries have not created a serious obstacle in the development of bilateral relations, and these relations

have always been moving forward. Fortunately, the path of relations between the two countries in the new period is improving and progressing. The world order is changing rapidly. Iran and Brazil can participate in determining the new order. The two countries have common views on the necessity of multilateralism, respect for international law and the need for the presence of emerging powers in the international system, which will be a suitable basis for the promotion and continuation of constructive bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the new era.



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Special
Look



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Hospitality; major commonality between Iran and Brazil

“Hospitality is a major commonality between the peoples of Iran and Brazil, as we love to welcome foreigners, and Iranians enjoy this habit as well, even more than we do!”

Please introduce yourself.

I am Laudemar Aguiar Neto, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil. I have been a diplomat for 41 years and I will turn 63 this year.

How long have you been in Iran?

During my 41 years in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, I served in several countries, and Iran was the second country where I served as an ambassador.

I arrived in Iran on February 28, 2021, but a few months later, with the establishment of the new government in Brazil, the new Foreign Minister invited me to join the new team ahead of time and continue my work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and with the new team.

Which Iranian cities did you visit while you were in Iran?

I had decided to visit many cities, but unfortunately, I had little chance to visit all across Iran. Anyway, in this short period of time, I visited almost 11 provinces of Iran, including the coastal areas of the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea in the north of Iran, Yazd, Shiraz, Abadan, Kashan and Isfahan.

Apart from Iran, to what other countries have you been posted so far?

The former Soviet Union, Spain, Uruguay, United Kingdom, France and South America were among the countries where I had a diplomatic presence.



Zahra Mehran Rad

Executive Editor



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So, it means that you have visited many countries. Which of the customs and traditions of Iranians do you think is more attractive compared to other countries?

I really like Iranian folk dances and music, and among Iranian dishes, my favorite food is Fesenjan, and of course, I also like pomegranate juice.

Apart from this, the variety of architecture in Iran was attractive and spectacular to me, but what attracted and impressed me more than anything else in Iran was the Iranian people.

When I meet any Iranian, I am attracted to them. This is different from the interest I have in people of other countries.

Is there a specific reason?

Look, in every country you enter, they first ask

your name and then ask about your job; but in Iran, they ask your name first, and the second question immediately is, "Do you like Iran?" Every Iranian wants to know how much foreigners love their country because they are genuinely proud of the country.

Iranian people want foreigners to say why they love Iran. During my stay in Iran, I did not meet a single person who hated Iran, anyone who lives in Iran or anyone who travels to Iran as a tourist, they are ecstatic to see Iran and are saddened to leave it.

During the time you were in Iran, which Iranian culture caught your attention the most?

You can't talk about Iran without talking about poetry and poets, about Hafez, Sadi, Ferdosi, and others. I like Shahnameh (Book of the King) by Ferdosi. I usually read poetry, but I don't know how to write a poem.

Do you find any a common culture or habit between the people of Iran and Brazil?

Hospitality forms the major common denominator between the peoples of Iran and Brazil, as we love to welcome foreigners, and Iranians enjoy this habit as well, even more than we do! In Tochal in Tehran or even in villages and cities in different provinces, people offer me whatever they themselves eat; many of them cordially invite me to their homes with open arms. You will never see this beautiful culture in the West; and in Brazil, the people are warm-hearted, of course, not as much as Iranians, who are both hospitable and fond of eating delicious food (smiling...). I have become overweight since I came to Iran!

Do you recollect any interesting memories about your stay in Iran, like the day you submitted your credentials to the President?

The day I presented my credentials



Hospitality forms the major common denominator between the peoples of Iran and Brazil, as we love to welcome foreigners, and Iranians enjoy this habit as well, even more than we do!



to the President of Iran during the tenure of Mr. Rouhani, it was the time of Covid-19 pandemic and everyone was wearing a mask. The meeting was held very formally and everyone was very serious. When my official words to the President ended, in order to break the ice, I said to the President: “Abadan, Berezileteh”, which was met with laughter by all present at that meeting.

You raised the topic of football. Brazil is known among Iranians normally with football and its legend Pele. How much do you like football and which team are you a fan of?

Like other Brazilians, I am also a fan of the two sides of football. But I am very, very weak in playing soccer (smiling...).

We have some Brazilian coaches and players in Iran, the most famous of which is Mr. Rafael Silva, who plays in FC Esteghlal.

Which of the Iranian teams do you like the most?

I am neither a fan of Esteghlal nor that of Persepolis (smiling...), because if I am a supporter of any of these teams, I have to fight with half of my friends, so I say I am a supporter of FC Sanat Naft Abadan.

Did you take any measures to expand sports cooperation between the two countries? Or are there actions being taken?

Regarding football, there is a private and non-governmental relationship between the private football clubs and federations of the two countries.

For example, in the context of the games of the armed forces teams, such disciplines as taekwondo and wrestling, the Brazilian armed forces teams came to Iran, but we would like to see more cooperation in this field.

We want to take a break from sports; Let's continue with the economy; considering Brazil's membership in “BRICS”, how do you evaluate the prospects for stronger economic relations between Iran and Brazil?

I evaluate the prospects of economic relations between the two countries as positive. A few days ago, we celebrated the 120th anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between Iran and Brazil, relations that may have had ups and downs, but never stopped.

For example, last year we saw a record in bilateral trade with Iran, so that the value of direct trade between the two countries was equal to 4.4 billion dollars.



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Iran is the major and largest market for our agricultural products in the Middle East and West Asia, but we still feel that there is more room for expansion and development of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

If we take into account indirect trade and the issue of tourism, the value of economic relations between the two countries will reach more than 7 billion dollars.

Iran is the major and largest market for our agricultural products in the Middle East and West Asia, but we still feel that there is more room for expansion and development of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Facilitating this route will be beneficial not only for the export of more products from Brazil, but also for the import of products from Iran.

However, we are well aware that in this process, somehow, the scales are tipped in favor of Brazil. But we are trying to adjust these conditions for the benefit of both countries.

Based on this, it was decided that after 7 years, at the end of this year, the joint economic commission will be held again between the two countries.

Our goal of holding this joint commission is to create new ways to enhance economic relations between the two countries and develop a road map for its realization.

Our policy in relation to other countries is pragmatism, mutual respect and action based on principles instead of ideologies. Brazil does not follow double standards, interacts with all countries and naturally seeks to protect its interests.

Our foreign policy is based on finding common ground. We do not agree with all countries in all fields, and everyone knows that we may agree with a country in one

field but disagree in another field; but we focus on our agreements with other countries. Diplomacy means finding common areas and interests with other countries.

Brazil had an active presence in the Agrofood Expo that was recently held in Tehran. What products did you display and market in this exhibition, and for what purpose?

Agricultural products constitute our main exports to Iran, and petrochemicals, including urea, are the main products we import from Iran. This year, for the sixth consecutive time, we participated in the Iran Agrofood Exhibition.

This exhibition is the most important agrofood exhibition in Iran, and this year more companies attended this exhibition from Brazil than in the past--companies producing various agricultural products such as coffee, rice, soybeans as well as large meat exporting companies.

Two Brazilian commercial companies and an agricultural machinery company, as well as two Brazilian banks that work with Iran were also present at this exhibition. I personally attended this exhibition for two days and talked with the officials of these companies. They were very satisfied and pleased with the outcome and hoped to be able to conclude more contracts in Iran.

What measures has Brazil taken especially for the attracting Iranian investors?

Regarding business visas, our treatment of Iranians is exactly the same as with the traders of other countries. Any businessman who wants to go to Brazil from Iran and has been introduced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chamber





of Commerce or any company that we know must go through the legal process of obtaining a visa and then travel to our country.

Regarding tourists and tourism, has the Brazilian Embassy promoted your tourist attractions among the people of Iran?

We have published books in this field and tried to increase the number of Iranian tourists to Brazil through travel agencies; some programs have been broadcast on TV in this respect; but you are right: Brazil and Iran ought to do more in this field.

In my opinion, the biggest obstacle in the way of expansion and promotion of tourism between the two countries is the lack of knowledge of the Brazilian people about Iran and the Iranian people about Brazil; and that the citizens of the two countries do not have sufficient and complete information about each other's countries.

Brazilians' perception of Iran has been distorted by the international media, and Iranians' perception of Brazil is more of a stereotype.

But none of the people of the two countries are aware of the diversity that exists in the other country. The more people travel between the

two countries, the more they get to know the realities of each other's countries.

If you want to introduce a place of interest in Brazil, what place would you point to and why?

You and your audience probably know the beaches and the famous soccer players and some of the food and carnivals of Brazil; but I have a special emphasis on the Amazon region; a climate conference will be hosted by Brazil in the Amazon region in 2025; so visiting this region even on the pretext of attending this conference would be worth it.

We need to get to know the Amazon more, not only its forests, but also the people and the culture that governs the Amazon, how they make a living, what customs and traditions they have, and what their lifestyle is like in general.

Being in the Amazon region will be a very useful and accompanied with a lot of new experience for tourists who will be 100% impressed.

Thank you for accepting this interview. Did we miss anything?

You have covered the main issues. I thank you and I will end my interview with "Abadan Berezeleth"!



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Complementary capacities

Iran and Brazil; two great markets, one in West Asia, the other in South America



Hossein Qaribi

Iran's
Ambassador to
Brazil

Considering the present rate of expansion of agriculture in Brazil, there is growing need for petrochemical products and in particular chemical fertilizers in that country. At the same time, Iran is one of the biggest producers in this field, making Iran and Brazil's economies "complementary" and painting a promising perspective for furthering commercial relations and trade between the two countries.

The 16th of June coincided with the 120th anniversary of the signing of the treaty for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Brazil. On this day, after the negotiations between the representative of the then-government of Iran on behalf of the Shah of Qajar and the plenipotentiary representative of the then-President of Brazil in the port of Rio de Janeiro, the agreement to establish

diplomatic and commercial relations was signed by both parties and founded the basis for the beginning of official relations between the two countries.

During this long period of 120 years, the relations between the two governments have always been friendly. Interestingly, during this period, many major political events happened on both sides such as successive changes of governments and even regimes. But the relations between the two countries have never been seriously affected by such changes.

Brazil is the most important country in South America with an area of 8.5 million square kilometers, which provides abundant reserves and capacities in various fields of agriculture, mining and industry.

On the other hand, Iran has been



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*Iran and
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diplomatic
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during the
Qajar peri-
od, some 120
years ago.*





Agricultural products are the major trade commodity between Iran and Brazil.

120th

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one of the greatest powers of the Middle East with abundant capacities and capabilities to influence the regional levels and beyond. Therefore, both Iran and Brazil enjoy a special place in the foreign policy of the other side. Despite its geographic proximity and even economic intertwining with the United States, Brazil has always maintained independence in actions and preserved its independent sovereignty.

There are close views between the two countries on international issues, especially on the necessity of multilateralism and avoidance of monopolies, as well as furthering convergence of developing economies. Brazil's foreign policy has traditionally been balanced based on the principles of multilateralism, peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in the affairs of other countries; and this approach is naturally in line with the principles of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In particular, there are many similarities between the foreign policy of the governments of President Lula in Brasilia and President Raisi in Tehran. As an emerging power, Brazil plays a significant role in balancing

positive political trends at the regional and global levels.

Considering that the economies of the two countries have many direct links with the international markets, it is natural that the result of positive trends that lead to the strengthening of regional and international peace and security will secure the interests of both parties.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in utilizing the capacity of emerging economic powers to develop its trade relations. One of the prominent examples of emerging economies is Brazil, which also plays a role in the BRICS.

We believe that a stable and diverse business relationship between the two countries would cement links between the two governments and the two nations in other areas as well; and this creates a kind of stability in the relations. This entanglement generates many interests in other fields, including the political, cultural and social areas.

The value of direct and indirect trade relations between Iran and Brazil currently amounts to seven billion dollars. In addition to agricultural products, which have found



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Brazil has made great progress in the fields of mining, transportation (including passenger cars, heavy vehicles and aircraft manufacturing), technology, renewable energy, medicine and pharmaceuticals.

a very lucrative market in Iran for Brazilian companies, Brazil has made great progress in the fields of mining, transportation (including passenger cars, heavy vehicles and aircraft manufacturing), technology, renewable energy, medicine and pharmaceuticals; accordingly, cooperation in these fields is under consideration.

On the other hand, Iran is one of the important countries manufacturing oil and petrochemical and mineral products and has made significant progress in the fields of knowledge-based and medical equipment. These cases create suitable grounds for both parties to exploit each other's capacities.

Basically, the economies of the two countries are complementary. Considering the present rate of expansion of agriculture in Brazil, there is growing need for petrochemical products and in particular chemical fertilizers in that country. At the same time, Iran is one of the biggest producers in this field, making Iran and Brazil's economies "complementary" and painting a promising perspective for furthering commercial relations and trade between the two countries.

Such a complementary feature makes the commercial and economic relations of the two countries to have a promising and stable perspective.

To use complementary capacities of the two big markets in West Asia and South America, traditional mindsets should change. The concept of geographical distance, which was considered as an obstacle in the past, is no longer a trade barrier. Digital and virtual tools have changed the concept of people-to-people communications across geographical distances.

The continuous movement of giant ships between China and Brazil, which transport more than 160 billion dollars' worth of goods annually, leaves no doubt that the concept of geographical distance has undergone a serious evolution. In fact, between two ports, one located in the Persian Gulf and the other locat-





ed on the shores of the South Atlantic Ocean, there is only a stretch of water that is crossed by ships with high capacities in a certain period of time, while, in practice, the ports are connected to each other through open waters.

The docking of the naval fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the port of Rio de Janeiro, in addition to providing the opportunity for officers of the Iranian and Brazilian naval forces to meet and exchange experience, demonstrated Iran's determination to strengthen friendly relations with Brazil coinciding with the 120th anniversary of the establishment of relations.

The visit was a highly technical event between the navies of the two countries, which was successfully pursued and carried out, and the Brazilian government provided commendable assistance and excellent cooperation in this regard.

In this way, the Brazilian government defended its independence and national sovereignty with full

authority, showing that Brasilia refuses to be passive in the face of unreasonable and politically-motivated requests of others.

The exchange of experience and more contacts between the military forces of friendly countries can have very positive results for both sides and for the consolidation and deepening of security and sustainable peace. In conclusion, I must emphasize that developments in the current world and important changes in the international system require that there be continuous and close contacts and consultations between Iran and Brazil. Cooperation between the two sides will definitely contribute to international peace and security. The selfish and bullying hegemonic order has not been a stable order; but, in contrast, the participatory and inclusive order with the presence of important actors in the international scene can promise a better world for the current vulnerable and unfavorable situation.



A business as old as 120 years

The necessity of the private sector participation
in the enhancement of Iran-Brazil trade

Iran and Brazil can boost bilateral trade with the help of the private sectors of the two countries and expansion of B2B talks between entrepreneurs centered around Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce.

Brazil, as the seventh most populated country in the world, covering half of the land in the South American region and as one of the 10 largest economies of the world, signed a Treaty of Amity with Iran and became one of Iran's main South American business partners 120 years ago.

The roots of diplomatic relations



between Iran and Brazil go back to 1903 when the Treaty of Amity was signed on instructions by the then President of Brazil Rodrigue Alves; now after more than a century, that treaty is still in effect.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, relations between Iran and Brazil improved and bilateral trade experienced a rising trend. In any circumstances, Brazil has been one of Iran's important business partners.

Currently, Brazil supplies some consumer items needed by Iran, including corn, soybeans, soybean meal, sugar, soybean oil, beef and chicken; and Iran is the largest export destination of Brazilian agricultural products in the Middle East and among the five largest in the world.



S. Fakhreddin
Amerian

President of
Iran-Brazil
Joint Chamber
of Commerce



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In recent years, despite international sanctions and pressures, the Islamic Republic of Iran has accomplished great achievements in modern science and technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, biomedicine, aerospace, and stem cell.



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In recent years, with the enhancement of relations between Iran and Brazil, the value of mutual commercial exchanges has reached a historical record of seven billion dollars, which of course, can increase to double digits considering the existing potential in trade and investment relations. Iran-Brazil trade can further increase in the medium term in view of stronger political will and the implementation of trade agreements between the two countries.

In addition, economic cooperation is one of the areas that can be considered by the parties. Brazil, as one of the emerging economies, provides many opportunities for investment in various fields such as agriculture, industry and mining.

As a large, populous country with a growing middle class, Iran also

offers significant opportunities for the Brazilian industrial sector and investors.

In addition, cooperation in the fields of science and technology is one of the new fields that can be promoted by the knowledge-based companies of the two countries.

In recent years, despite international sanctions and pressures, the Islamic Republic of Iran has accomplished great achievements in modern science and technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, biomedicine, aerospace, and stem cell; Due to the overlap of these fields with the priorities of the Brazilian government, the scientists of the two countries can cooperate well in these areas.

Another field of cooperation is education through a Brazilian program called "knowledge without



borders” according to which the government sends one hundred thousand students abroad and also attract professors and students in certain fields in Brazil. Currently, the flow of Iranian students to prestigious universities in Brazil to continue their education is on the rise.

In recent years, expansion of Iran’s presence in political, economic and commercial fields in Latin America has been one of the main programs of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, Brazil has been trying to strengthen its presence in the Middle East due to various economic, commercial and political reasons, and also due to the significant presence of people of Arab descent in Brazil who often have trade and economic relations with the Arab countries of the region.

When we review the status of economic relations between Iran and Brazil, we face challenges that have two dimensions: one is the lack of balance in bilateral trade and the other is the absence of diversity in economic and commercial ties between the two countries; even though the trade relations between Iran and Brazil have currently reached an acceptable level, this is not the result of real bilateral economic cooperation and there are many untapped capacities to be exploited.

In fact, since 2002, the trade balance of the two countries has always been in favor of Brazil, and most of Brazil’s exports to Iran are limited to a few agricultural products. Meanwhile, Iran imports large amounts of goods of various types every year and offers



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If two countries are keen to have lasting and institutional relations, they should diversify trade by designing new policies.



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a diverse list of export commodities. Therefore, if two countries are keen to have lasting and institutional relations, they should diversify trade by designing new policies. In this regard, by forming specialized commissions according to product groups and of course forming working groups to conduct expert studies to remove obstacles of expansion of exports, Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Com-

merce has developed a mechanism that collects information on export capabilities of Iranian businesses and identifies the capacities and opportunities of this country's big market in order to pave the ground for diversifying the trade portfolio between the two countries.

In the course of developing economic and trade relations with Brazil, one should pay attention to the key point that trade and econ-



Iran and Brazil are working to increase the present value of trade which stands at 7 billion dollar.

omy in Brazil has a special focus on the private sector (national and multinational companies) and that the role of government is more of facilitating foreign trade than ownership.

Therefore, paying special attention to the private sector is essential for doing business with Brazil. In this regard, joint chambers of commerce have a fundamental role as representatives of local economy

and trade in the international environment.

Therefore, considering the high capacities for forming strong and stable relations at bilateral and international levels and creating mechanisms for exploiting these capacities, the expansion of “trade dialogues” and B2B meetings will be a strategic priority of the private sector in Iran around Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce.



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The green gem of South America

Amazon; human heritage, untapped and
spectacular nature



Amin Esmail
Pour Harvan

Second
Secretary of
the Embassy of
Iran in Brasilia

The Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the world with an area of about 6.7 million square kilometers. Some 60 percent of the Amazon Forest is located in Brazil, which covers almost half of the country's total area.



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Brazil is a country replete with natural attractions. From the north to the south of this vast country, there are many beautiful forests, beaches, mountains and waterfalls to visit. However, among all the tourist destinations in Brazil, no place has been as magnificent and spectacular as the Amazon forests.

The Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the world with an area of about 6.7 million square kilometers. Some 60 percent of the Amazon Forest is located in Brazil, which covers almost half of the country's total area.

Amazonia covers a large part of the north and west regions of Brazil, and is bordering the Mato Grosso, Rondonia, Acre, Para and Roraima where the skirt reaches wide. The Amazon is not exclusively Brazilian and has also extended

to other countries in the region. The Amazon forest accounts for one third of all tropical forests in the world. If the Amazon forest was going to be a country, it would have been the seventh biggest country in the world.

Amazonia enjoys a set of ecosystems that surrounds the Amazon River hydrographic basin as well as the Amazon forest. This area is considered to be the most biodiverse place on the planet and the largest biome in Brazil. Although it covers only about seven percent of the planet's surface, the Amazon rainforest hosts almost half of the world's biodiversity and is home to thousands of animal and plant species which is only unique to this part of the world. This area is habitat for some 2.5 million types of insects, tens of thousands of plant species and some 2000 species of



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birds and mammals.

At least 40,000 plant species, 3,000 types of fish, 1,294 species of birds, 427 species of mammals, 428 species of amphibians and 378 species of reptiles are classified scientifically in the region.

This region's forests play a key role in protecting the soil quality, refreshing water resources and re-invigorating biodiversity.

Processes such as evaporation in Amazon help balance the weather which is a must for other economic activities such as agriculture.

Some 20 percent of the planet's fresh water originates in this area. Forests located on the banks of the rivers prevent soil erosion and siltation of rivers and guarantee food for various aquatic organisms.

The Amazon forests in Brazil are incredibly beautiful. The junction of Encontro das aguas, the white sand beaches of the Anavilhanas Archipelago and the Presidente Figueiredo Waterfalls are a few to name.

Perhaps, without any exaggeration, the most fascinating attraction of the Amazon is located about 10 kilometers off the city of Manaus in northern Brazil. Passing through the city, a branch of the Rio Negro River reaches the sand-colored Amazon River, but the water of these two rivers has been flowing side by side in parallel for a long time without mixing.

Knowing the life and culture of the indigenous people is also one of the most spectacular attractions of the Amazon forests. About one

million indigenous people live in Brazil, 55 percent of whom live in the Amazon rainforest. The natives display some aspects of their culture and way of life that are of high attraction for foreign tourists.

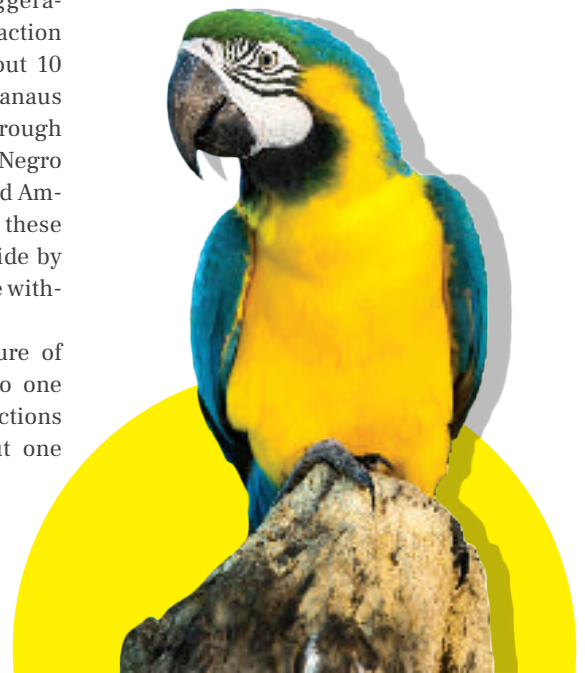
Of course, the wonders of Amazon are not exclusive to the above mentioned. The rich culture of the Amazon can enchant any traveler. One of the most exciting parts of a trip to the Amazon is tasting the local delicious foods, such as freshwater fish.

To explore the beauty of the Amazon region, you can choose from different types of travel, such as passing through the Amazon rivers by boat and staying in the jungle or even floating residences.

Among the attractions of the Amazon, we can refer to the cities of Manaus and Belem which are highly visited by tourists as a point of interest. In these cities, various tourism agencies offer travel plans, including hiking in the forest.

Manaus tourism is the best option for those who seek comfort even while visiting the Amazon. As the capital city of the State of Amazonas, Manaus enjoys all the necessary amenities as present in large cities.

Manaus has its own airport as well as a large port that provides the possibility to travel to various des-





About one million indigenous people live in Brazil, 55 percent of whom live in the Amazon rainforest. The natives display some aspects of their culture and way of life that are of high attraction for foreign tourists.



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Some 20 percent of the planet's fresh water originates in this area. Forests located on the banks of the rivers prevent soil erosion and siltation of rivers and guarantee food for various aquatic organisms.

tinations in the Amazon. In addition, the Manaus hotel network is large enough to offer accommodation options in different styles and price ranges.

The historical theater of Amazonas, the Municipal market, the indigenous museum, Palacio Rio Negro and Museu da Amazonia are some of the attractions of the city. Tourists in this city enjoy its unique scenery, including the beaches of Punta Negra, with a tour of the Amazon River. Visiting the city of Perzinte Figueredo and its famous waterfalls can be another attractive program for tourists.

On the banks of the Negro River near Manaus live the Dessana

tribes, who always welcome tourists very warmly.

Belem in the State of Para is another tourist destination in the Amazon due to its convenient airport. Mercado Ver-o-Peso is one of the oldest markets in Brazil and one of the tourist attractions of this city. Tourists can buy almost everything such as spices, handicrafts and special food ingredients in these old markets.

Visitors can also go to Dapaz Theater and Nazareth Church. The religious festival of Cirio de Nazare, which gathers millions of people every second Sunday of October and is considered a traditional event in Brazil, is organized in this





A view of the historical Amazonas Theatre in Manaus



church. Tourists can also visit the Amazon rainforest without leaving the city in Parque Mangal das Garcas Park and Bosque Rodrigues Alves Forest Park and walk through the streets of the old town to get to know the history of Para.

While planning to visit Amazon, keep in mind that the northern part of Brazil is hot, with temperatures above 30°C throughout the year. But extreme heat is not the only challenge to be faced. High humidity is also one of the challenges of traveling to the Amazon. There is no dry season to travel to this region. Even from July to December, which are usually the dry season in Brazil, the Amazon is completely rainy. However, this period is the best time to enjoy freshwater beaches in the Amazon.

The rainy season lasts from Jan-

uary to June. Meanwhile, some parts of the forest are submerged, making it possible to travel to the Igapo forests.

Probably, you have watched movies or documentaries about the numerous wonders of the Amazon forests, which have aroused your curiosity to know the life among the old and green trees of the Amazon, and to find out the taste of riding the river full of water, fishing on the Amazon River or even walk in its hot and very humid air.

Certainly, the more we read, explore and write about the importance of the Amazon forest, the more wonders and facts we encounter about it.

However, the Amazon is a precious green jewel with all its existing wonders, at the disposal of the future hands on earth.



Manaus is the best destination for those who seek comfort even while visiting the Amazon. As the capital city of the State of Amazonas, Manaus enjoys all the necessary amenities as present in large cities.



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A Page from history

A gist of diplomatic relations between Iran and Brazil according to documents



Ali Rajabi Yazdi

Member of
the Editorial
Board

The political relations between Iran and Brazil were established by signing the Treaty of Amity and Trade between the two countries in 1903. This agreement, in four pages in Persian, Portuguese and French languages, was signed in Rio de Janeiro by Ishaq Khan Mofkham al-Dawlah, Adjutant General and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary on behalf of the then King of Iran Mozaffaroddin Shah and Mr. Julio Henrique Demelwa Alvin, the Minister and Special Envoy of Brazil on behalf of the then President of the Republic of Brazil Dr. Francisco Dipola Rodrigues Alves.

The second chapter of this treaty calls for the appointment of diplomatic agents, consul general, consul and vice consul, consular counselors and commercial counselors.

The fourth chapter deals with the establishment of free trade between the two countries, and the sixth chapter on the validity of the treaty emphasizes that the agreement is valid forever unless one of the parties officially expresses its

intention to terminate the treaty to the other side.

Appendix 1 and 2, images of the first and last pages of the treaty

Two years after his coronation in 1927, Mozaffaroddin Shah Qajar instructed Mirza Davood Khan Meftah, his plenipotentiary minister and special envoy in Washington, to negotiate with the authorized representative of the Republic of Brazil to conclude a treaty of amity between the governments of Iran and Brazil and to sign it in his name and on behalf of Persia.

Appendix 3. Mozaffaroddin Shah's order to Mirza Davood Khan Meftah

Reviewing treaties signed between Iran and Brazil available at the Center for Documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran demonstrates that the first cultural agreement between the two countries was signed in 1957 in Rio de Janeiro between Hossein Navvab, Iran's then ambassador to Brazil, and Jose Carlos Dumas Saros, Brazil's then Foreign Minister.



Appendix 4. Cultural Agreement between Iran and Brazil

The protocol for the first meeting of the ministerial joint commission for economic and technical cooperation between Iran and Brazil, signed by Mr. Hooshang Ansari, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran and Mr. Mario Henrique Simons, Minister of Finance of Brazil, on November 29, 1976, and Iran-Brazil Commercial Agreement,

signed by the ministers of finance of the two countries on July 22, 1977, are among the other cooperation agreements between the two countries.

With the opening of the Iranian Embassy in Argentina in 1935, the then Iranian Minister Counselor to Argentina was accredited to Brazil. It did not take long for Iran's embassy in Argentina to be closed in 1937, and there was no Iranian diplomatic mission in Brazil.

On August 5, 1953, Iran's embassy was opened in Rio de Janeiro, and the first resident minister counselor of Iran began his activity in Brazil. On August 3, 1960, the Iranian Embassy in Brazil was upgraded to the Greater Embassy of Iran. It moved to Brasilia in 1960 when the Brazilian capital was relocated there.

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran appointed several charge d'affaires to Brazil until in 1983 Mr. Shahmard

Kanani Moghadam was appointed as the first Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brazil. Since then, except for some short periods, the ambassadors of the Islamic Republic of Iran have always been present in Brasilia.

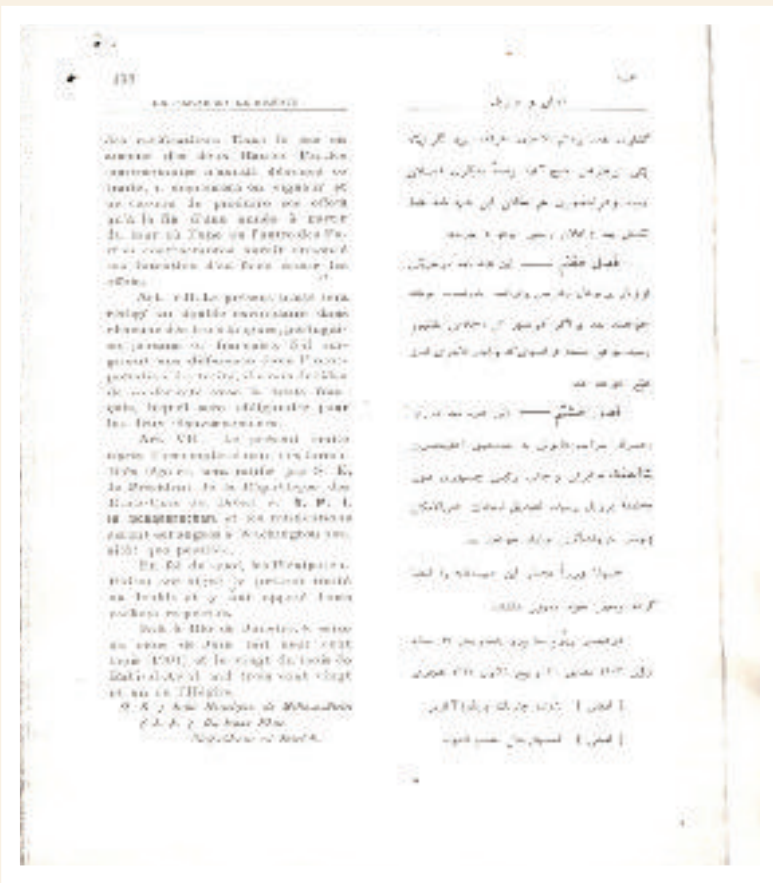


List of the Heads of the Diplomatic Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Brazil

	Name	Position	Assignment Period	
			Start	End
1	Nader Arasteh	Minister Counselor, resident in Argentina	1935	1937
2	Yadollah Azodi	Minister Counselor	1943	1949
3	Hassanali Ghaffari	Minister Counselor	1949	1954
4	Hossein Navvab	Minister Counselor	1955	1957
5	Mahmood Foroghi	Minister Counselor	1957	1960
6	Mahmood Foroghi	Ambassador	1960	1961
7	Abdolhossein Hamzavi	Ambassador	1961	1965
8	Azizollah Biklik	Ambassador	1965	1969
9	Hosseinqoli Amiraslani	Ambassador	1969	1973
10	Jamal Hatam	Ambassador	1973	1974
11	Ali Fotoohi	Ambassador	1974	1978
12	Parviz Adl	Ambassador	1978	1978
13	Mozaffar Samiei	chargé d'affaires a.i.	1978	1979
14	Qasem Eftekhari	chargé d'affaires a.i.	1979	1980
15	Siroos Zaka	chargé d'affaires a.i.	1980	1982
16	Abdolali Tavakkoli	chargé d'affaires a.i.	1982	1983
17	Shahmard Kanani Moqaddam	Ambassador	1983	1986
18	Mahmmod Emtiaz	Acting Ambassador	1986	1987
19	Mahmood Movahhedi	Ambassador	1987	1990
20	Ali Nematollahi	Ambassador	1990	1991
21	Ali Majedi	Ambassador	1991	1995
22	Bahman Taherian Mobarakeh	Ambassador	1995	1998
23	Mahdi Ronaq	Acting Ambassador	1999	2000
24	Mansoor Moazzemi	Ambassador	2000	2003
25	Seyed Jafar Hashemi	Ambassador	2003	2007
26	Abolqasem Shahrzad	Acting Ambassador	2007	2008
27	Mohsen Shaterzadeh Yazdi	Ambassador	2008	2011
28	Mohammad Ali Qanezadeh Ezabadi	Ambassador	2011	2016
29	Seyed Ali Saqqaeian	Ambassador	2016	2019
30	Hossein Qaribi	Ambassador	2019	---



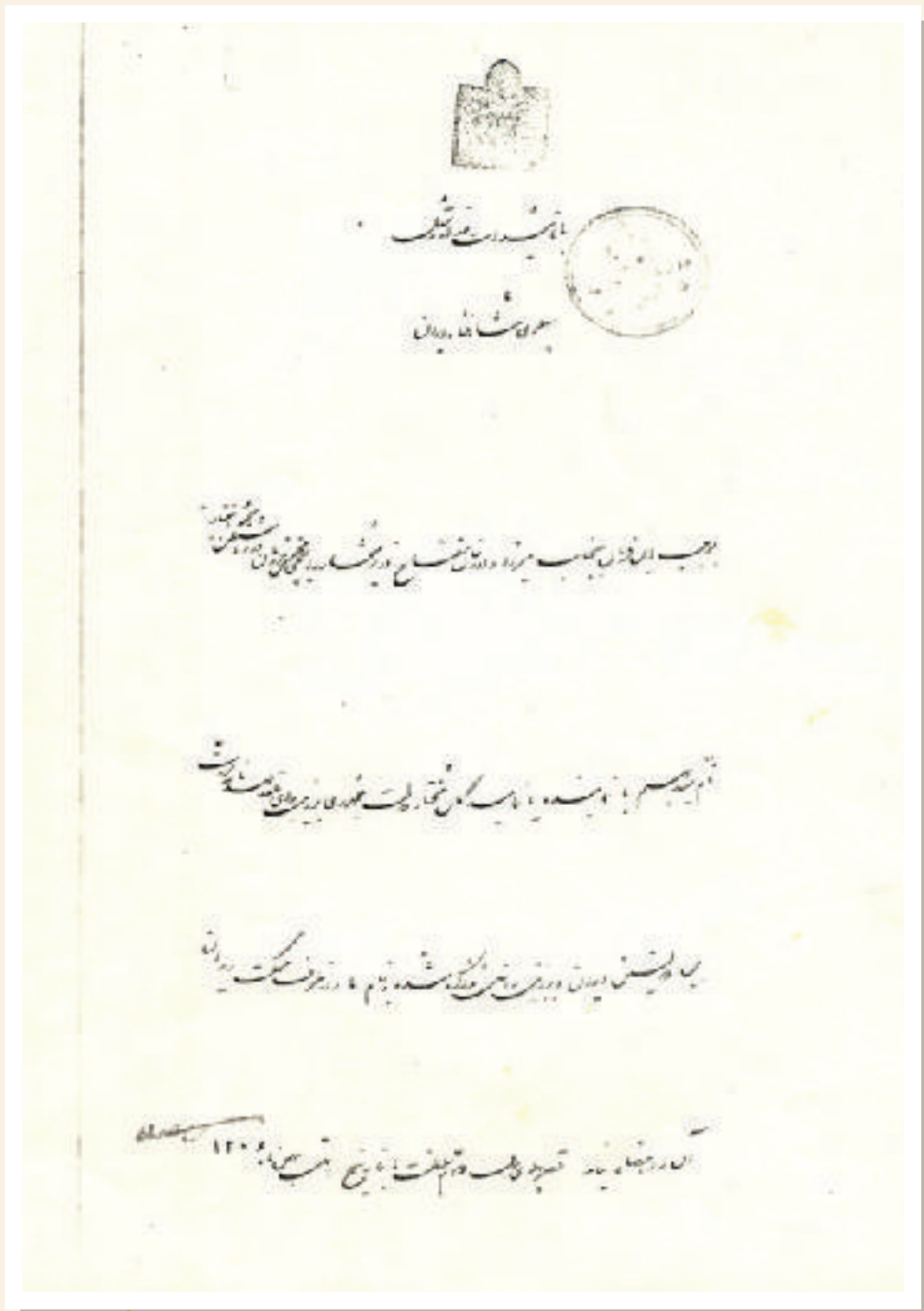
Appendix 1, Treaty of Amity between Iran and Brazil, 19 May 1903



Appendix 2, Treaty of Amity between Iran and Brazil, 19 May 1903



Appendix 4. Cultural Agreement between Iran and Brazil



Appendix 3. Mozaffaroddin Shah's order to Mirza Davood Khan Meftah to sign a treaty freindship with Brazil.



The people of Iran and Brazil have always been fascinated by soccer. The art of enjoying football is a shared point and commonality between the people of our two countries. Even the football taste of the people of the two countries is similar to each other. They are very interested in technical stars and non-defensive football.



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Football; a sweet feeling between Iranians and Brazilians

Iran and Brazil are lands of great legends and incredible land whose peoples have always been fascinated by football.

When the sun slowly imposes itself on the expanse of the sky, practically, another day begins in this part of the world. Glimpses of sunlight appear just like spectrums of hope in the lives of people in this part of the world--glimmers so necessary that one cannot ignore; and so permanent that one cannot get unused to them.

To get to Brazil, you have to stare for hours at the straight line on the front seat monitor onboard indicating the flight direction. The tiredness left from a long flight seems to disappear when you see the first smile.

Smiling is the biggest common language in Brazil. Some people believe that even if you smile at the walls, they will smile back at you in return. "Smile" is a common code name in Brazil that does not allow differences such as language and culture to create a barrier between the native people and the travelers to Brazil.

Brazil is a place wherein a music machine full of happy songs seem to be embedded in the hearts of its people and these people are always waiting for an opportunity to sing happy songs.

When you leave the airport to the city center, you will see signs signaling the separation of the slums from the main parts of the city.

In fact, in this city, there are intertwined images with great contrasts, from the magnificent excitement of the Olympics to signs of poverty.

Many believe that it is coffee that



Mohammad
Hossein Misaqi

Football
Commentator



"Smile" is a common code name in Brazil that does not allow differences such as language and culture to create a barrier between the native people and the travelers to Brazil.



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One of the characteristics of the people of Brazil is “living in the moment” which has made them to be renowned globally as the “rulers of seconds”; people who make big hopes from small pleasures.

keeps Brazilians awake, while they are in fact awake to see their big dreams come true.

Paulo Quilio, a famous Brazilian writer, says that Brazil, or Brazo as the Brazilians themselves call it, is not just a country, but a way of life, the most important element of which is perhaps Brazilians' fight-

ing for their dreams.

Basically, what defines Brazil as the “mysterious charm” is that nothing is repetitive and boring in this country.

One of the characteristics of the people of Brazil is “living in the moment” which has made them to be renowned globally as the “rulers of seconds”; people who make big hopes from small pleasures.

What is not very noticeable when traveling to Brazil--at least for Iranians--is that the feeling of foreignness in this trip is not a familiar feeling for you, and maybe that is the reason why Iran's Sanat Naft Abadan FC fans compare their favorite team to Brazil and even carry the flags of Brazil to stadium.

When Brazil won the World Cup in 1994, many people in Iran also felt like champions. At that time, southern Iran (home to Sanat Naft Abadan FC) was full of kids who wanted to repeat their favorite moment constantly. They would stand behind the ball in azure uniforms, shoot a penalty into the sky, mourn like Italy's Bajo for a few seconds, and then take off the azure uniforms to complete their big celebration with the Brazilian jersey they were



wearing underneath--a pure one-man show, which was actually a reconstruction of a proud facade.

The people of Iran and Brazil have always been fascinated by soccer. The art of enjoying football is a shared point and commonality between the people of our two countries. Even the football taste of the people of the two countries is similar to each other. They are very interested in technical stars and non-defensive football.

Some experts believe that soccer is a sport that was invented in Britain, but the Brazilian spirit infused into this sport made it different and special from any other sport.

Iran and Brazil are lands of great legends and cradles of incredible stories. Probably, miracles don't always happen, but believing in miracles is actually a motivation to continue and not to give up.

This is a motivation that is passed down from generation to generation. Even if the way of expressing it may have changed, younger people in Brazil are interested in bossa nova music. This music is actually a modern combination of samba and jazz; just like the young Iranians who play new songs with traditional instruments. "The art of moving forward but not forgetting the past." All the similarities between Brazil and Iran do not end at this point. The people of these two countries have other similarities such as perseverance and hard working.

"Maracanazo" is a phrase to describe a great disaster in Brazil. Years ago, the Brazil football team could have been the world champion even with a draw, but lost to Uruguay at home and in front of



When Brazil won the World Cup in 1994, many people in Iran also felt like champions. At that time, southern Iran (home to Sanat Naft Abadan FC) was full of kids who wanted to repeat their favorite moment constantly. They would stand behind the ball in azure uniforms, shoot a penalty into the sky, mourn like Italy's Bajo for a few seconds, and then take off the azure uniforms to complete their big celebration with the Brazilian jersey they were wearing underneath



A Sanat Naft Abadan FC player



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David Luiz, who played for the Brazilian national team for many years, identifies the difference between Brazilian people and the rest of the world in that the people of Brazil, at their peak, prefer laughing to tears.



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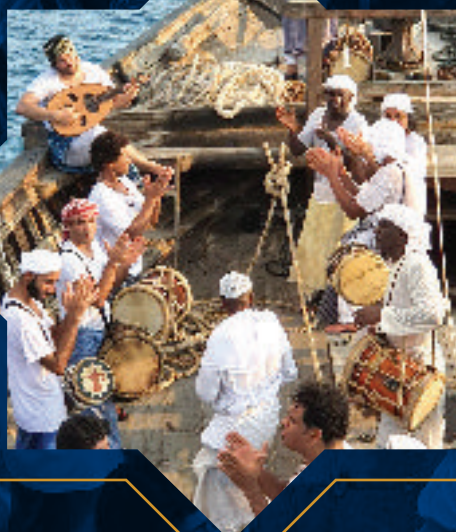
the worried eyes of thousands of fans.

On that day, when the second goal of the opponent was scored, the reporter of the game repeated twice with a short pause between his sentences: "Goal for Uruguay... Goal for Uruguay". Because he was almost sure, no one would believe his first sentence.

But the Brazilians did not give up and later returned to the first place in the world. Because no disaster is strong enough to bring them to the ground. David Luiz, who played for the Brazilian national team for many years, identifies the difference between Brazilian people and the rest of the world in that the people of Brazil, at their peak, prefer laughing to tears.

Life of the World

In the next few pages, you will become familiar with the amazing charms and customs of Iran.



✦ The shining gem of the world medicine

✦ A port with the splendor of southern iran architecture

✦ Norooz Darya

The shining gem of the world medicine



Najafqoli Habibi

Researcher
of Islamic
Philosophy

Avicenna (or Ebn-e Sina in Persian) was not only a physician, philosopher, scientist and mystic, but a polymath whose medical dimension is more renowned.

In the Iranian calendar, the first day of the month of Shahrivar (early September) is named after Avicenna and is an opportunity for Iranians to honor the memory of this great sage.

His birth name was Hossain son of Abdollah; but he was known as “Ebn-e Sina” in Persian or “Avicenna” in English.

To introduce Ebn-e Sina, perhaps George Sarton’s phrase in the book “Introduction to the History of Science” is the most expressive description. Sarton is known for his historical mastery of the world’s greatest scientists. He describes Avicenna as “polymath, philosopher, physician, mathematician, astrologer, the most famous scientist of Islam and one of the most famous scientists of all nations, countries and ages, and this shall just suffice as an introduction for him”.

Avicenna is polymath; he is a physician and his Canon of Medicine and other books and treatises in various fields of medicine are an

obvious proof. He is also a pharmacologist, and the second book of the Canon of Medicine depicts his grand status in pharmacology.

Avicenna is a divine philosopher and his book “The Metaphysics of the Healing”, and many small and big philosophical treatises are proof of this; He is a natural philosopher, and his book “The Physics of the Healing” explains this fact;

He is a zoologist as indicated in his book entitled “Healing of the Animals”; He is a great botanist by his book “Healing and Plants” and the second “Canon of Medicine” shows his great status in this area of knowledge.

Avicenna is a musical scholar, and his “Music and Healing” is a sign of this; He is also a political scientist who, in addition to having an independent treatise on this topic, has also addressed this science in some of his works, including the topic of rhetoric in the “Logic of the Healing” section, where he raised the issue of political consultation.





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He is a great mathematician, and the detailed section on mathematics in some of his works, including "the Healing and the Cure", is a clear proof of that. He is a great mystic and the last part of his book "Remarks and Admonitions" is a true witness to this claim. Ebn-e Sina is a scholar of ethics and has written independent treatises on this subject. He has valuable opinions in specifying family affairs based on Islamic Sharia, which are at the end of the book titled "The Metaphysics of the Healing".

Avicenna is a religious and devout person and many of his works are proof of his religious commitment.

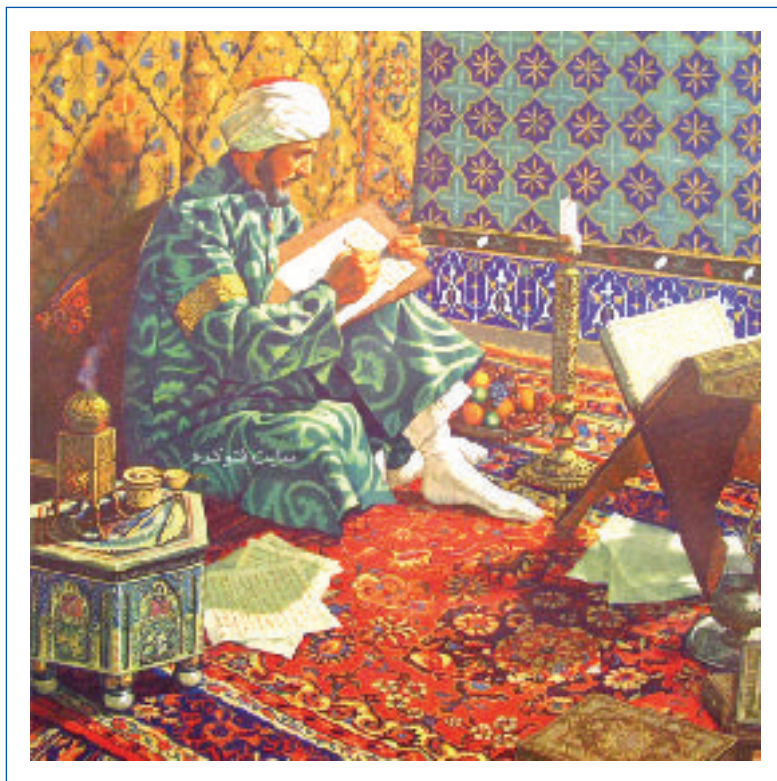
According to authentic sources, he held deliberations with some of his companions and students in the Iranian City of Hamedan. In the available sources, there are two reports about these lessons and deliberations: one is in "Oyun al-Anba", a book of biographies of the scholars and physicians, which reads "They used to gather at night and discuss with Ebn-e Sina about



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parts of the Canon of Medicine and "The Book of Healing".

Another observation of these meetings is from Nezami Aroozi in the book entitled "Four Discourses" in which he wrote that such scientific deliberations were held at dawn and Avicenna, who was a government minister, would go to work directly after the end of such meetings to tend to matters and respond to the requests of the people. Nezami Aroozi's observation is more compatible with the scientific tradition that is still practiced by some scholars in Iran, i.e. the scientific discussion at dawn.

Avicenna's Scientific Works

Avicenna was a prolific writer. According to the writings of the late professor "Yahya Mahdavi", a distinguished professor of Tehran University, who painstakingly compiled a book entitled "Ebn-e Sina's List of Works" based on the repertoire

of important libraries in the world, including in London, Paris, Turkey, Iran and Egypt, Avicenna authored as many as 130 books and treatises.

Avicenna's Medical Prominence

Avicenna was not only a physician who treated patients, but also an expert scientist and academician in medicine. His most important book in medicine is the famous "Canon of Medicine" which, in addition to its scientific and practical influence throughout the Muslim world, was taught as a textbook at universities across Europe for over 700 years during the 11th and the 17th centuries, a guide for physicians, and a reference for students of various medical fields.

The Canon of Medicine consists of five "books" (which today we interpret as "volumes"). One of the important topics discussed in the first book is "Physical Exercise" which shows how much Avicenna as a doctor cared about the signif-



icance of physical exercise and its role in improving human health. Avicenna's definition of exercise is still mentioned in textbooks and specialized books. Avicenna paid precise attention to various individual sports, such as swimming and calf riding, and group sports, such as wrestling. In other words, Avicenna had underscored which is useful and effective for a person's health, including exercise in the Canon of Medicine.

In addition to "Canon of Medicine", Avicenna also has several books and treatises on various medical topics. In this case, one of the interesting points is that in order to encourage people to learn medicine and ensure their own health, and to be their own doctors, and in addition to writing small treatises on specific medical topics, he expressed some of his medical expertise in the form of poetry so that it would be easier and simpler to learn and memorize. The poetic expression of medical topics, in addition to attracting different tastes to medical knowledge, makes the matters more memorable.

Avicenna's Philosophical Dimension

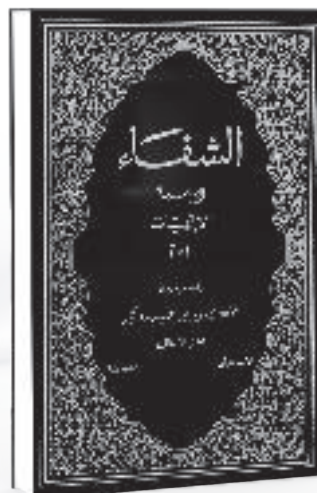
Philosophy is one of the main sci-

entific fields of interest to Avicenna, and his most important book in philosophy is "The Book of Healing". This book is a grand philosophical encyclopedia in which various sciences such as logic, philosophy, theology, and natural science and their branches such as mathematics, geometry, zoology, and botany have been discussed in detail.

In essence, the Book of Healing explores a body of prominent sciences of that time, which were considered to be in the realm of natural sciences, and are nowadays independent sciences per se. In various parts of "The Physics of Healing", such as "The Book of Animals" and "The Book of Plants", in addition to presenting rational arguments, Avicenna has also attached importance to experience and observation, and numerous examples can be explored in "The Physics of Healing". In short, Avicenna was incredible and this reality was very daunting for some people in his time and they tried to undermine his character with all kinds of demagogic slanders; but the passage of time showed that the envious are lost in the pages of the history and it is Avicenna who is still incredible and revered.



His most important book in medicine is the famous "Canon of Medicine" which, in addition to its scientific and practical influence throughout the Muslim world, was taught as a textbook at universities across Europe for over 700 years during the 11th and the 17th centuries, a guide for physicians, and a reference for students of various medical fields.



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A port with the splendor of Southern Iran architecture

Laft Port, a harbor with the architectural
splendor in the heart of Qeshm Island



Ramin Azarmehr

Founder and
Director of
Bandar Abbas
Historical
Research Center

Laft, a stretched island resting like a whale in the waters of Hormozgan Province. The island, spread in an area of approximately 1,600 km, from the easternmost point in the city to the westernmost coastline is about 115 km in length and 35 km in width.

The Qeshm Island is the largest island in the Persian Gulf and is located in the northern part of this sea, parallel to the coastline of Bandar Abbas to Bandar Khamir. It is a stretched island resting like a whale in the waters of Hormozgan Province. The island, spread in an area of approximately 1,600 km, from the easternmost point in the city to the westernmost coastline is about 115 km in length and 35 km in width.

The Qeshm Island has been known by other names in historical and geographical sources and documents--name such as Laft, Laaft, Porkavan, Bani Kavan, Ebn Kavan, Abarkavan, Kish, Kesh, Keshm, Qeshm, Qesm, Jesm, Deraz Island and Tavail Island.

According to the historical and geographical evidence and documents, the Laft Port was the first place on the Qeshm Island that was

inhabited. It enjoyed a historical and ancient position, possessing great importance and prestige in the Persian Gulf region during the ancient period from the Achaemenid period and especially from the Sassanid period to the first half of the 8th century.

Some of the Most Important Unique Features of the Qeshm Island and the Laft Port

Situated at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz: Qeshm is the closest island after the Hormuz Island to the important and strategic Strait of Hormuz, and was considered the leading prestigious island in the Persian Gulf due to its trade routes and sea traffic before the migration of the rulers of Hormuz to the island and the formation of "new Hormuz" at the beginning of the 8th century when the most important routes of spices, pearls and the sea silk route



Names in historical and geographical sources and documents--name such as Laft, Laaft, Porkavan, Bani Kavan, Ebn Kavan, Abarkavan, Kish, Kesh, Keshm, Qeshm, Qesm, Jesm, Deraz Island and Tavail Island.



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Etemad al-Saltaneh, one of the prominent figures during the Qajar period, in his book “Merah al-Boldan” on the Persian Gulf islands, writes about Qeshm Island: “Qeshm Island is one of the famous islands of the Persian Gulf and is located at the mouth of the Straite of Hormuz on the south side of Iran, and is close to Larestan Province. There is plenty of coral around this island; and its products are wheat, corn, dates, cotton, grapes. Its grapes are well known on all coasts of the Persian Gulf.

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Catching fish and shrimp is very prosperous for the local residents. Fishermen dry some of their fish and shrimps, such as Gashagh or Kashagh and salt fish known as Soori or Shoori fish, and sell them in port markets.



passed through the Persian Gulf.

Fresh water, prosperous agriculture and animal husbandry: The fresh water springs and earthen and stone dams, as well as reservoirs or ponds and shallow wells to collect surface waters and semi-deep wells have not only improved the drinking water for residents and sailors on the Qeshm Island, but also have helped revive agriculture and boost animal husbandry, resulting in the establishment of big markets on the island.

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is close to Larestan Province. There is plenty of coral around this island; and its products are wheat, corn, dates, cotton, grapes. Its grapes are well known on all coasts of the Persian Gulf. Its inhabitants keep a lot of sheep. Pearl diving is also prevalent there. It has a population

of fifteen to twenty thousand people. The largest settlement of this island is the City of Qeshm, which has a population of 4,000, with a strong castle built in it.

Proximity to the beach: As mentioned earlier, Laft Port is the closest part of the island to the beach, some 1,800 meters away from the sea. This feature not only in the past but also today is one of the elements of prosperity for the island in terms of commerce, market, development and expansion. On the other hand, the distance between Laft Port and the coast and the existence of a long and tall promontory, which as a wall has brought the two sides of the coast closer to each other, have created a natural flood-proof anchorage that protects ships and aircraft from fierce storms. This has made it possible not only for the vessels of the islanders but also for the ships of the neighboring areas such as Bandar Abbas and Bandar Lengeh to be kept in Khor Laft.

Livelihood and Economy and Major Jobs of the People of Qeshm

Most of the residents of the island, including the Laft Port, live through seafaring and sea-related industries such as seafaring, commerce, ship-building, fishing, textile and peat weaving as well as agriculture and animal husbandry.

The presence of coral beaches



next to mangrove trees has created valuable fishing grounds around the island, and this has forced a large part of the island's inhabitants to work as fishermen. Catching fish and shrimp is very prosperous for the local residents. Fishermen dry some of their fish and shrimps, such as Gashagh or Kashagh, salt fish known as Soori or Shoori fish, and sell them in port markets.

It should be noted that Lafti shrimps are one of the best shrimps in the region.

Fishing and trading pearls have been common since ancient times and this place has been one of the centers for trading pearls along with the islands of Kish, Khark, Kong and Hormuz. People living around the Qeshm Island work in the coral hills, catching pearls, oysters and corals.



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This pond is located in a rock mountain on the eastern side of the castle known as Nadershahi Castle. This cistern has a stone staircase inside it.

A look at the history of Laft Port

Laft Port (also known as Bandar Laft) has been known as a prosperous, prestigious and important city since at least the Achaemenid period and during the Sassanid period.

At the end of the Sassanid era and at the same time as the Arabs invaded the Sassanid Empire, Laft was the second Iranian island to be invaded after Bahrain.

The city of Laft Halieh

Today's Laft City has had many neighborhoods and areas since a

hundred years ago: Old Laft, Laft Sidan, Laft Ola Molki and New Laft. Among its neighborhood are Jame Mosque neighborhood, Mian Shahr neighborhood, Bala neighborhood, Abdol Rahman Mount neighborhood and Kam Gavan neighborhood.

The most important historical works and natural and spectacular effects of Laft Port

Laft Reservoir or Laft Stone Pond:

This pond is located in a rock mountain on the eastern side of the castle known as Nadershahi Castle. This cistern has a stone staircase inside



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Qeshm is the closest island after the Hormuz Island to the important and strategic Strait of Hormuz, and was considered the leading prestigious island in the Persian Gulf due to its trade routes and sea traffic before the migration of the rulers of Hormuz to the island and the formation of “new Hormuz” at the beginning of the 8th century when the most important routes of spices, pearls and the sea silk route passed through the Persian Gulf.



which links the cisterns to ancient times.

Shrine of Seyyed Hasan bin Mansoor: in Laft Seidon (Seydan)

Shrine of Sheikh Andrabi: On a small island at the mouth of Khor Laft, there is a shrine on top of a hill that is believed to belong to Sheikh Andrabi.

Tela Wells: On the top of the hill and behind the Nadershahi Castle, a number of shallow wells of 1.5 to 6 meters in depth have been dug in the floor of Ghadir (locally known as “Gadir”) which were dug to collect rainwater. Today, there are about 40 wells still in operation out of as many as 90 in the past.

Each of the shallow wells has a name for itself. In the past, these wells were only used at the periods of water shortage especially in summer.

Lafat Mosques: Among the sights of Lafat are the beautiful single minaret mosques, the most important of which are Hazrat Rasool Mosque, Amir al-Momenin Mosque, Hossein Mosque (AS), Hamza Seyyed al-Shahada Mosque, Abu Bakr Seddiq

Mosque, Omar Bin Khattab Mosque, Osman zol-Norayn Mosque and Imam Shafi Mosque.

Historical Cemetery: There are ancient stone inscriptions in the cemetery dating back to a thousand years most likely to the Sassanid period.

Historical Hills: There are several historic and ancient hills in Laft Port, including Mehroni Hill (also known as Mehrani Hill) and Mehtashon Hill (also known as Mehtashan Tappeh).

Spectacular Mangrove Forests and Beautiful Scenery:

There are numerous beautiful scenes including the winding estuaries to all kinds of big and small birds among the densely-packed trees in mangrove forests on Qeshm Island, which evoke an original and imaginative scene for the viewer.

In its long life of several thousand years, Laft Port has gone through many ups and downs; one time it sat at the top and another time it was forgotten--but it continues to live and hopes for better days.



Norooz Darya

Ritual ceremony of Norooz Darya



**Benyamin
Ansari Nasab**

Researcher,
anthropologist
and author of
marine sector

Norooz Darya is a ritual observed in Salakh village of Qeshm Island during the new season for the fresh round of fishing in the sea.

The village of Salakh is known as one of the oldest fishing centers in Qeshm, so its name was chosen from the word Maslakh, which means a place for skinning, because at one time this village was the habitat of huge whale sharks, called Koli Kar in the local language. Since it requires several trained people to catch Koli Kar, most of the men in the village are engaged in fishing Koli Kar. Following the ban imposed on hunting Koli Kar, due to the danger of extinction and its scarcity in the waters of the Persian Gulf, Salakhi men refused to catch Koli Kar but continued to land smaller types of fish to support their families.

Therefore, the sea and fishing are among the top priorities of life for these people, and Norooz Darya is a ritual to remember this connection between the sea and the people.

Norooz Darya has 365 days, three seasons of 100 days and one season of 65 days; and the first day of this calendar and Norooz starts on either the 31st of July according to the writings of Ismail Raein or 1st of August according to the Vahidi

calendar used by the residents of Lengeh and Kong port cities.

The first 100 days of Norooz Darya starts on 31st of June or 1st of August and ends on the 8th or 9th of November. These 100 days are like spring for sailors and all those who deal with the sea, and it is known as the “spring of the sea” because the sea has gone through 65 turbulent days and is turning calm. In the words of the seafarers of the Persian Gulf, the sea has become a “sister”, which means it is now compassionate and merciful and therefore it is a good season for sailing ships and start sea voyages.

From the past until now, the people of Salakh used to go to the sea on this day and pray to the preacher, spread “gelak” (red mud) on the doors of their houses and wear new clothes; additionally, and on that special day no one fished in the sea and all the villagers were obliged to eat non-fish meat on this day.

However, in the last ten years that the Village Administration Center has been established in Salakh, in addition to the Shooshi ceremony,



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Tying is performed by a special cleric in such a way that he reads chapters, verses and prayers and then ties a rope around the neck of the animals. They believe that by doing this action, their animals will be protected from the attacks of predators throughout the year.

there are other ceremonies in this village which help to attract more tourists and hold more festivals such as swimming competitions, tug-of-war, running, local games, etc. These events have distracted people's attention from Norooz Darya, but still, on Norooz day, people put "gelak" on the heads and foreheads of animals, palm trees, and fruit trees, and also write "Ya Allah" on the doors of the houses,; the illiterate also put a sign like a circle or a cross on the doors to herald the arrival of the new fishing year.

Customs of Norooz Darya Spreading Gelak (red mud)

The red mud represents the re-appearance of the sun and heat, which also promises the beginning of a new season. This action is a symbol of the passing of the winter season and the arrival of summer; and in the ritual myths, it has a social value equal to rebirth and another season. According to the

mythological view, the things that are of high importance to a person are marked to be protected by the sun, such as by painting the house by fishermen and painting animals and trees by farmers to solicit protection of the God of Sun for the family and belongings.

Tying: Tying is performed by a special cleric in such a way that he reads chapters, verses and prayers and then ties a rope around the neck of the animals. They believe that by doing this action, their animals will be protected from the attacks of predators throughout the year.

In the past, Aryans thought that they helped the gods with their prayers; they believed that there was a power hidden in prayers or in some words and expressions that com-



pelled the gods to help or even obey and enable men to overcome the evil spirits with their own strength. Nowadays they also believe that there is a power hidden in prayers that God can protect the tied animals from the evil of predatory animals.

Purifying with sea water

Performing whole body ablution and purification has a special place in all religions. The ritual of holy washing has been performed in the cult of the great gods of fertility and agriculture. The people of Salakh

believe that purifying and completely immersing the whole body in water will ward off evil, bring about abundance of bounties as well as blessings in people’s sustenance. Water has the power of purification and regeneration, because whatever sinks into water dies, and whatever comes out of water is like an innocent child without any background, who can be the recipient of new revelation and inspiration and thus starts a new and special life.

Refusing to eat fish meat

The taboo of fishing and eating fish



The people of Salakh believe that purifying and completely immersing the whole body in water will ward off evil, bring about abundance of bounties as well as blessings in people’s sustenance.



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Shooshi, whose face is woven with palm fibers and a hat, is a primitive person who has lived in the mountains and has not seen the city at all. He has a strange awe: black clothing, a face covered with flour and a beard made of sise mog and wearing a hat made of braided mog.



meat on this special day is a vow to which the people of this village adhere, from young to old, and out of gratitude and respect for the blessings of the sea. Fishing and eating fish are prohibited on this special day, and instead, all the residents of the village, women, men and children, go to the sea and bathe. Observing the taboos can prevent its negative consequences (i.e. shortage of fish throughout the year). In addition, it is also considered a part of socialization, because by following this law, a person is associated with a large part of the society, which is a part of social solidarity.

Shooshi ceremony

Shooshi is an old tradition which was performed in the wedding ceremonies with a pair of musical instruments; nowadays it is performed on Norooz Darya so that it will not be forgotten. Actors of this puppet show are fox, camel, camel rider, seagull and the Shooshi itself. All the powers of good and evil can be seen next to the holy symbols--emblems that have a direct impact on the individual and

social life of people. Good powers such as cows and camels and evil powers such as foxes and Shooshi, all are meaningful next to sacred things such as plants (palm branches) and the sea. Shooshi, whose face is woven with palm fibers and a hat, is a primitive person who has lived in the mountains and has not seen the city at all. He has a strange awe: black clothing, a face covered with flour and a beard made of sise mog and wearing a hat made of braided mog. Upon hearing the joy of the people and Aswa poems, Shooshi comes towards the sound and angrily hits the people who stand on his way with a palm branch (sise mog) in his hand. At the end of the ceremony, he goes to the sea to bathe. And that strange face turns into a normal person and the ceremony ends. Shooshi's show is about renewal and resurrection when entering the sea and sinking into the water which causes all those traces of oldness and decay (white face and fake beard) to disappear and a normal and new person is born and are ready to start the new season with purity.







Here you will find the news of diplomatic events and ceremonies held in Tehran during Spring 2023.


Diplomatic events

 Diplomatic Ladies Association in Tehran Carpet Museum

 Ambassador of South Africa: Dialogue is key to achieve sustainable peace

 Ambassador of Vietnam: Tehran-Hanoi Relations are ongoing at high levels

 Ambassador of Philippines highlights bilateral ties on the basis of friendship and stability

 Russian Envoy: International North-South Transport Corridor is of Great Importance to Tehran, Moscow



Monday, June 12, 2023

Diplomatic Ladies Association in Tehran Carpet Museum

On the occasion of the Week of Handicrafts and Tourism and National Carpet Day, on June 12, 2023, a group of spouses of foreign diplomats in Tehran, including from Turkey, Pakistan, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, France, Egypt, Uruguay, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Thailand, South Korea, Japan and Armenia visited the Tehran Carpet Museum.



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Ambassador of South Africa: Dialogue is key to achieve sustainable peace

Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy: Strengthening Relations with South Africa remains one of Iran’s main objectives

The 29th anniversary of the Independence Day of South Africa was held on Sunday, 14 May 2023, at Parsian Hotel in Tehran. South Africa’s Ambassador Vika Mazwi Khumalo welcomed the guests and stated that “today is the day of liberation of our country and its people from the evil chains of colonialism and apartheid”.

Stating that security and stability, especially in Africa, is still a priority, he stressed that “our history in South Africa shows that inclusive dialogue is the only way to ensure sustainable peace. War and conflict are not in anyone’s best interest, and therefore we should try to find a way to resolve disputes amicably and peacefully.”

South African Ambassador further pointed out that this is his last year of posting in Iran. He thanked Iranians for their hospitality during his assignment and said “during my tenure in Iran, wherever I traveled, I encountered the best people that I could possibly see anywhere in the world”.

Mehdi Safari, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy, while congratulating the 29th anniversary of the Independence Day of South Africa to its government and people, said that “during his two trips to Iran, the late Nelson Mandela underlined the significant impact of the victory of the Islamic Revolution on the fight against apartheid in South Africa.”

He added that diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa, which were severed immediately after the victory of the Islamic Revolution due to the apartheid and suppression of the people of South Africa, resumed after the elimination of apartheid in South Africa and are now improving every day.

Referring to the growing links between Iran and South Africa, Safari expressed hope that the 15th joint commission between the two countries in Pretoria would help consolidate relations and implement agreements to the interests of both nations.





Ambassador of Vietnam: Tehran-Hanoi Relations are ongoing at high levels

Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates Affairs highlighted the role of Southeast Asia as a priority in Iran's foreign policy

The ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Vietnam was held on Saturday 20 May 2023 at the Embassy of Vietnam in Tehran.

Ambassador Luong Quoc Huy pointed out the close relations between the two countries and said that Iran and Vietnam have maintained their good, friendly and traditional relations in politics and diplomacy for many years thanks to forging closer relations and exchange of visits at high levels.

On cooperation between the two countries in the political and economic spheres, the Vietnam ambassador said that seven political consultation meetings, at the level of the deputy foreign ministers of the two countries, have been convened in recent years, the most recent of which took place in February 2022.

He said that before the outbreak of Covid-19, Iran and Vietnam registered a trade value of over 500 million dollars.

Later in the ceremony, Alireza Bigdeli, Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates' Affairs, while congratulating the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Vietnam, said that Asia and in particular Southeast Asia are among the priorities of Iran's foreign policy and Dr. Raisi's government that is making a lot of efforts to expand relations with the countries of this region, including the friend country of Vietnam.

Pointing out the determination of the two countries to cooperate in various bilateral, regional and international fields, he said that Iran and Vietnam share the same views concerning the necessity to strengthen regional and global peace and stability in view of multilateralism. Referring to the unilateral approach of some countries that is against the United Nations Charter, Bigdeli spotlighted the necessary for independent countries such as Iran and Vietnam to support the principles of multilateralism in the international community while opposing unilateral measures.

Several MPs from the Islamic Consultative Assembly including the Chairman of Iran-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group were among the guests.





Ambassador of Philippines highlights bilateral ties on the basis of friendship and stability

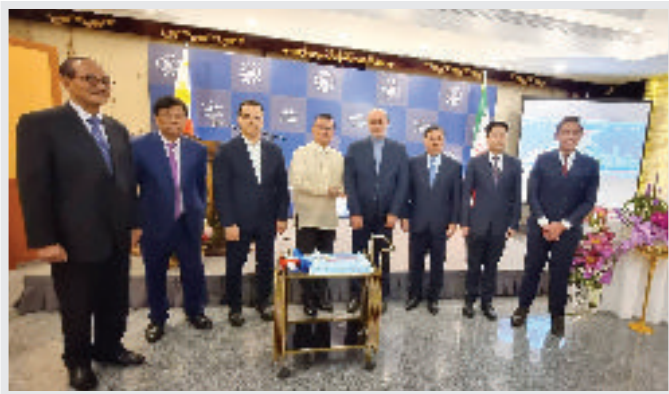
H.E. Mr. Roberto G. Manalo, the Ambassador of the Philippines in Tehran, hosted the ceremony to mark the 125th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of the Philippines in the afternoon of Monday 12 June 2023, at his residence.

The Philippine Ambassador said that “on this day in 1898, the people of the Philippines declared freedom and independence, the result which is that today, the Philippines stands shoulder to shoulder with other governments in political, economic, social and cultural fronts. Today, the independent Philippines aims to achieve an upward income economy and our president is committed to the realization of this goal.”

Thanking the Iranian guests, he reminded that 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and the Philippines—a relationship that has been formed over the years on the basis of friendship and cooperation.

Yousef Esmail Zadeh, the Director the Fourth Department of Asia and the Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, congratulated the Philippines on the anniversary of its independence, and said that Iran and the Philippines have constructive international cooperation in various fields of seamanship and human rights.

He stated that recently, we have witnessed good measures taken by the Philippines government and private sector in the fields of science, agriculture and technology, and we hope such cooperation would be strengthened in the future.





Russian Envoy: International North-South Transport Corridor is of Great Importance to Tehran, Moscow

Iran Minister: Tehran-Moscow ties developing in all sectors esp. trade, economy

The National Day of the Russian Federation was celebrated on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at the ambassador's residence with the presence of ambassadors from a number of other countries.

Welcoming the audience, Russian Ambassador to Iran Alexey Dedov, said that Russia's relations with other countries including Iran is based on mutual respect and national interests.

Referring to the cruel sanctions against Russia as well as Iran, he said that "despite the sanctions imposed on the two countries, our interactions with Iran are developing in all fields, and this year alone, the presidents of the two countries had four phone conversations."

Pointing out the two countries' mutual support in international fora, Ambassador Dedov said that Russia supports and welcomes Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Regarding the increase in economic exchanges and joint projects between the two countries, Dedov highlighted that last year, the value of bilateral trade stood at almost five billion dollars.

He said that the International North-South Transport Corridor project, which is very important for both sides, is coming to fruition and the importance of this project is symbolized by the presence of the Minister of Roads and Urban Development of the Islamic Republic of Iran in today's ceremony.

Mehrdad Bazrpash, the Minister of Roads and Urban Development of Iran, who was the guest of honor at the Russian Embassy, congratulated the National Day of the Russian Federation and said that Iran-Russia relations are rooted in history with many ups and downs, as indicated by the presence of representatives from the Government Cabinet, the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran in this ceremony.

He added that relations between the two countries are growing in various political, economic and cultural sectors, and this is evidenced by the mutual visit of high-ranking officials of the two countries, the increase in investment, frequent flights, and joint economic projects between Iran and Russia.

Bazrpash referred to the sanctions against the two countries and said sanctions may have caused a disruption in fully-fledged development of Iran-Russia relations; however, sanctions have definitely boosted the determination of the two countries to cement and deepen relations especially in the economic sector.

Nasser Kanani, the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President of the Center for Public and Media Diplomacy, Alireza Bigdeli, Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates' Affairs, and Alireza Jahangiri, Assistant to Foreign Minister for Caspian Sea Affairs, as well as some members of the Iranian Parliament and military officials participated in the Russian National Day in Tehran.





On the way to Tehran

**New ambassador's
arrivals in Tehran
during Spring 2023**



- New ambassadors' credentials**
- New ambassadors' copies of
credentials**

Ambassadors' appointments during Spring 2023

Newly-appointed ambassadors to the Islamic Republic
of Iran in Spring 2023



Sunday, 16th April 2023

Credentials of the newly-appointed ambassadors

The new ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to the Islamic Republic of Iran presents his credentials to President Raisi.



Newly-appointed ambassador
of Turkiye presents his
credentials



Sunday, 19th March 2023

Credentials of the newly-appointed ambassadors

H.E. Mr. Hicabi Kirlangic, the new ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to the Islamic Republic of Iran, presents a copy of his credentials to Minister Amir-Abdollahian.



Newly-appointed ambassador of Turkiye presents copy of his credentials



Thursday, 1 June 2023

H.E. Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, the new ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Islamic Republic of Iran presents a copy of his credentials to Minister Amir-Abdollahian.



Newly-appointed ambassador of Bangladesh presents copy of his credentials



The 120th Year of Diplomatic Relations Between Iran and Brazil



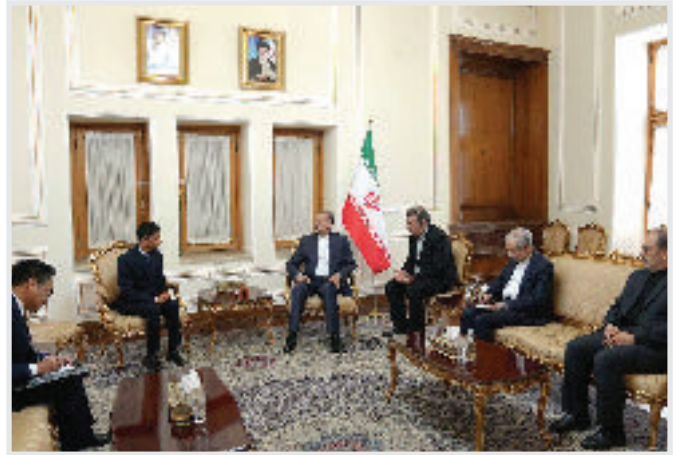
Thursday, 1 June 2023

Credentials of the newly-appointed ambassadors

H.E. Mr. Rudra Gaurav Shresth, the new ambassador of the Republic of India to the Islamic Republic of Iran, presents a copy of his credentials to Minister Amir-Abdollahian.



Newly-appointed ambassador of India presents his credentials



Wednesday, 7 June 2023

H.E. Mr. Ali Jomah Hassan Fadhil, the new ambassador of the Republic of Libya to the Islamic Republic of Iran presents a copy of his credentials to Minister Amir-Abdollahian.



Newly-appointed ambassador of Libya presents his credentials





Persian Gulf



2,500 Years of Art in Kish

2,500 years of art in Kish

Kariz Underground City on Kish Island is 25 centuries old

“Kariz” or “Qanat” is the Persian word for aqueduct which was used by farmers to guide underground water to farmlands in ancient times in Iran. The Kish Qanat is over 2,500 years old and was used to supply drinking fresh water to the inhabitants of the island.

Kariz Underground City is one of the amazing attractions of Kish Island, which beautifully depicts the combination of ancient Iranian art with the coral nature of Kish. The Kish Kariz is located 16 meters underground. Its ceiling is covered with shells and corals, which according to the information provided by local guides, are 270 to 570 million years old. However, considering that the limestone-coral bed that hosts the Kariz is the result of the activity of corals of the present era, its age cannot be more than a few thousand years. This qanat spans an area of 10,000 square meters.

Permanent Cool Air Underground

One of the most important features of the Kariz Underground City in Kish Island is the cool air that constantly blows and does not change throughout the year; so, it does not matter what season of the year you want to visit because it is always cool in the heat of the Persian Gulf. This

mild weather has caused the water to stay at a favorable temperature and maintain its quality for drinking.

Natural Water Treatment Plant

The water in the Kariz is the result of seasonal rains that occur in this area. The corals of the Kariz purify the water which is stored in the layer of marl mud to flow in the qanat. The inhabitants of this region tended to barter this precious water with other products, because around the 11th century, the Kish Island was considered the trade hub of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, and its drinking water was deemed very valuable among the Persian Gulf countries.

Visiting Kariz Underground City

For a long time, this qanat was not an attraction for travelers and tourists, and was an unused structure; but over time, people’s attention was drawn to the fresh water and mild and cool air, and especially the fos-



One of the most important features of the Kariz Underground City in Kish Island is the cool air that constantly blows and does not change throughout the year.





The Kariz Under-ground City is the only building in the world with a ceiling full of shells and natural corals. Its mosque or prayer hall is the only coral mosque in the world, the ceiling of which is full of marine fossils.



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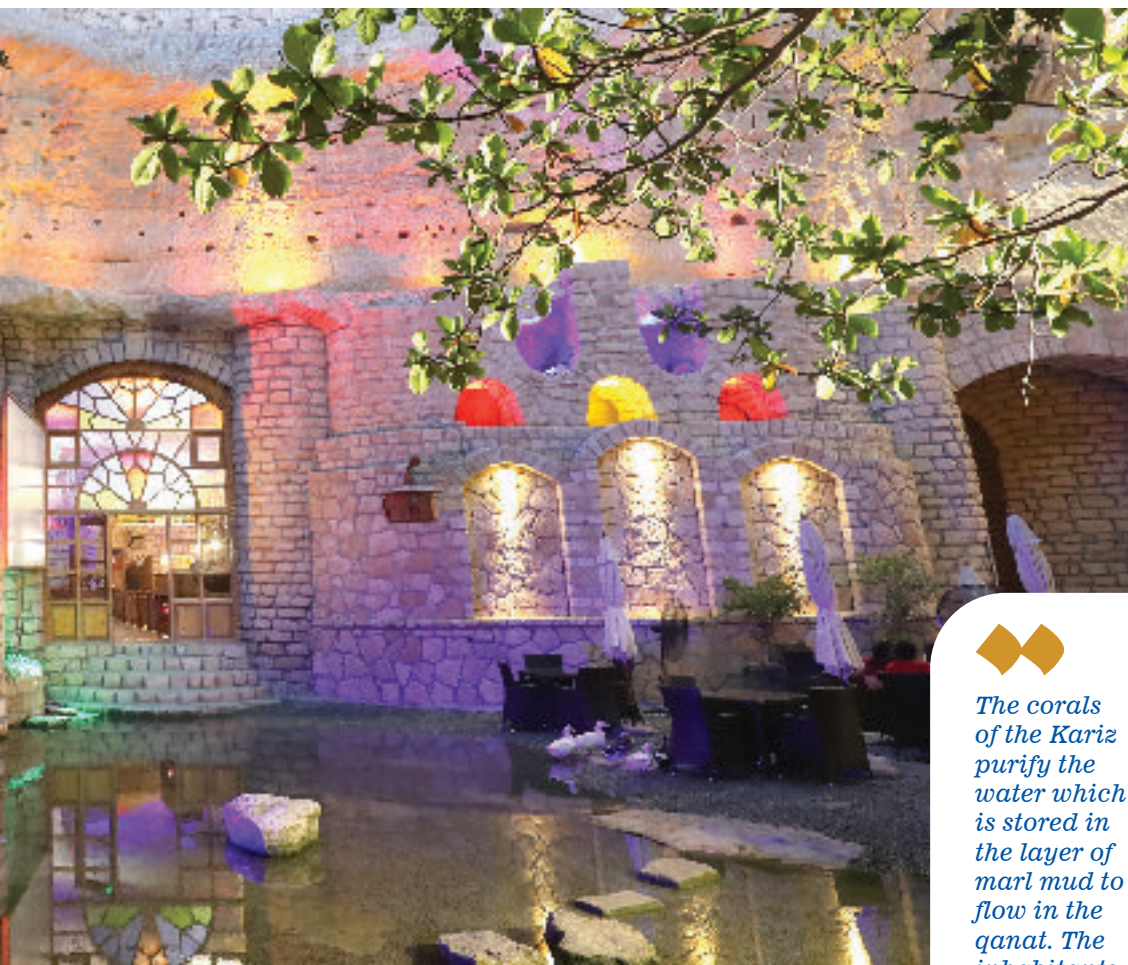
A view of Kariz
Underground
City

sil texture of the coral rocks, which encouraged new investments in this historical monument as of 1999, when with the participation of investors and the attention of the people, this historical complex was repaired and restored, but this time not as a qanat but a historical and ancient city, welcoming tourists and visitors from all over Iran and the world.

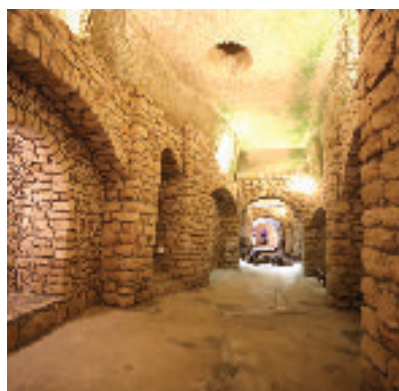
The restoration began when Mr. Haji Hosseini, an Iranian engineer living in Germany, returned to Iran after 32 years and decided to restore this qanat using the principles of Iranian architecture.

Traditional Market of Kish Qanat

This traditional bazaar was established in 1994 in two rows spanning



The corals of the Kariz purify the water which is stored in the layer of marl mud to flow in the qanat. The inhabitants of this region tended to barter this precious water with other products, because around the 11th century, the Kish Island was considered the trade hub of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, and its drinking water was deemed very valuable among the Persian Gulf countries.



15 kilometers long. The purpose of this market is to showcase handicrafts and traditional artefacts of different parts of Iran.

The Kariz Underground City is the only building in the world with a ceiling full of shells and natural corals. Its mosque or prayer hall is the only coral mosque in the world, the ceiling of which is full of marine

fossils. This spectacular complex is also home to a museum of fossils obtained from its coral ceiling, which have been examined and certified at the University of Munich and date back to 53 to 57 million years. Handicraft supply stores, traditional photography shop, and traditional teahouse are other parts of this cultural tourism complex.



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Kariz Underground City

It is open everyday from



9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



To visit this famous place, tourists can refer to
Kish Kariz City, Mirmohana Blvd., Kish Island.

