

In the Name of God
The Merciful, the Compassionate



The Journal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any change in the geography of the region

Under the Microscope

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Two days at the beating heart of Russia



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THE DIPLOMAT JOURNAL

NEW OPPORTUNITY IN THE BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY

Through this journal, we intend to expand our communication with and reach out to foreign missions in Iran



The international system today is undergoing a remarkable change and transition. The foreign policy of the countries is accordingly affected in parallel with these enormous developments. The current transition

in international system from unipolarism to multipolarism is inevitably on a normal and historical track even though it may happen gradually and slowly.

The victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran during the bipolar era and the subsequent adoption of a foreign policy based on the slogan of "neither East nor West" brought about the tidings of a world free from hegemony, colonialism and the fulfillment of the ideals of the deprived and destitute in the domain of international system. This slogan has its roots in the independence-seeking spirit of the people of Iran during our glorious revolution led by the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran His Eminence Imam Khomeini (PBUH) and reliance on his thoughts and emphasis on adopting an independent, non-aligned foreign policy on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in the affairs of other countries, rejection of hegemonism and oppression, support for the oppressed, unity among Muslim states and peaceful and good relations with other countries on Islamic and human principles. Such thinking by Imam Khomeini (PBUH) has been manifested with wisdom and foresight and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the result, has not and will not be aligned with or limit its foreign policy to any country, bloc or thought.

With the formation of the popular and transform-seeking administration of President Raisi, while gaining a proper understanding of the developments in the international system and being inspired by the guidelines set forth by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution who puts and emphasis on uninterrupted and heightened activity of the foreign policy apparatus based on smart, dynamic, active and balanced diplomacy across all global geographies and utilization of smart solutions and diplomatic skills as well as flexibility and/or strict insistence wherever necessary, honest and firm abidance by the objectives and the capacity provided by diplomacy for economic progress,



1978- France

Imam Khomeini (PBUM) always put an emphasis on adopting an independent, non-aligned foreign policy on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in the affairs of other countries, rejection of hegemonism and oppression, support for the oppressed, unity among Muslim states and peaceful and good relations with other countries on Islamic and human principles.



1987- New York

The present Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khamenei has admonished the utilization of smart solutions and diplomatic skills as well as flexibility and/or strict insistence wherever necessary, honest and firm abidance by the objectives and the capacity provided by diplomacy for economic progress.

the diplomatic apparatus of the Islamic Republic of Iran has followed the policy of all-out expansion of ties with all the countries of the world and gives the priority to the Eastern, Asian and neighboring countries. Such a policy of "approaching the East" in no way means cutting off ties with the rest of the world and hence, the Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no effort to develop relations with all the geographies around the globe.

On the basis of the above-mentioned principles, a balanced foreign policy, smart interaction and dynamic active diplomacy were introduced as the new approaches of the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this light, the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a broader look towards the use of soft power and public diplomacy. History has shown that the use of hard power alone is not sufficient and may eventuate in unpredictable outcomes. The defeat of the US in Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam may be interpreted and expounded in the very same framework. Today, considering the changes in global equations, the Islamic Republic of Iran has become an active, independent and influential actor that in line with its balanced foreign policy is not seeking to absorb satellite states or be placed in the orbit of other powers and poles of the international system. In this line, the Islamic Republic of Iran while striving to secure its own national interests, wishes to establish balanced and proportionate political, economic and cultural relations with all the countries topped by those in the region, and insists on détente policy and the establishment of regional security as well as the resolution of regional crises and the fight against terrorism and extremism. Additionally, there exists a firm determination on our side to establish justice and equality in the international system and counter illegal sanctions levied unilaterally against nations as another major component of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Regional consultations, growth, development and prosperity in political, economic and cultural fields constitute the objectives that the foreign policy of the Islamic of Iran tries to reach and on this path, a special

attention is paid to the strengthening of relations and cooperation in the regional economic organizations such as ECO and SCO.

Moreover, the new foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches greater importance to the expansion of novel diplomacy such as digital diplomacy; In lieu of this, we try to establish a proper interaction and expand communication with thinkers, scholars and diplomats of other countries.

Within this framework and with an aim to create a communication bridge with the diplomatic corps in the Islamic Republic of Iran, I instructed my colleagues to publish the Diplomat. I am of resolute belief that this journal will serve as a window for the familiarity and interaction between the Iranian Foreign Ministry and foreign missions to open new opportunities for cooperation and strengthening them.

Here and through this journal which is a new initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we intend to expand our communication with and reach out to foreign missions in Iran. In the Diplomat, I would like to see coverage of diverse issues, so that a unique and authentic foundation is created for further interaction and knowledge sharing. We firmly shake the hands of you as our audience and colleagues and will have patient ears and eyes to accommodate and publish comments ◻

A NEW PLAN FOR WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION

A valuable tradition pioneered by the Iranians



Naser Kanani

Spokesperson and Director of the
Center for Public Diplomacy of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Members
of the
diplomatic
community
and
international
relations'
actors and
players are
the main
target
audience of
the *Diplomat*.**



Documentation, particularly in the written format, has been one of the most effective and wisest habits of humans to promote knowledge and clarify and archive developments and events. In their ancient history, Iranians

were among the first civilizations that perceived the significance of documentation and archiving and recorded millions of archive files and manuscripts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always paid serious attention to written heritage and publication and preservation of Iran's valuable documents, manuscripts and archives. In fact, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes journals, books and magazines. In this respect, upon the proposal of His Excellency Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the first edition of *Diplomat* is published today which, in my opinion, will play an effective role in further linking the big diplomatic community and diplomacy practitioners and enthusiasts in Iran.

Diplomat is a periodical that is published once every two months for the diplomatic community in Iran as well as international relations and foreign policy activists, researchers and scholars. Each edition of *Diplomat* would focus specifically on one subject or case the various dimensions of which will be properly explored and analyzed.

The first edition of *Diplomat* is now in your hands; it focuses on Iraq and various aspects of Iran-Iraq relations. I am confident that you, as resident diplomats in Iran, will assist us in publishing future editions of *Diplomat* by providing us with your comments and opinions.

Diplomat welcomes comments, opinions and news from embassies and international organizations as well as foreign officials for publication in its future editions.

In conclusion, I would like to appreciate the efforts of my colleagues in publishing the *Diplomat* and re-iterate that we would warmly welcome the support and assistance of the diplomatic community residing in Iran in the future editions of this publication. I am confident that we are able to promote the status of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the manner it deserves. ◀



**The Islamic Republic of Iran
opposes any change in the
geography of the region**

Iran, destroyer of ISIS and the hero of the fight
against terrorism



Zahra Mehran Rad

Executive Editor



President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in his address at the United Nations General Assembly 2022, while referring to the undeniable role of General Suleimani in destroying ISIS, stated: An administration from the other end of the world decided to change the geography of our region at the price of the blood of hundreds of thousands of women and children but the Islamic Republic of Iran blocked this project. Destroyer of ISIS was no one but General Suleimani. Holding a just trial for a crime that the previous U.S. President confessed will be a service to the humanity.

President Raisi on Wednesday morning, 21 September 2022, during his speech at the 77th United Nations General Assembly referred to the damages and dangers of the current declining order in the world and draw attention to the Iranian people's continued efforts to set up a fair order in the world.

In his words, President Raisi brought different instances of injustice and double standards adopted by the US on terrorism and human rights at different parts of the world including Iran and underlined the Islamic Republic of Iran's significant role to resist bullying and interventionist policies including the containment of the US made terrorism and disappointing any geographical changes in the regional countries led by General Suleimani and emphasized: we will follow a fair proceeding for the crime committed by the previous President of the US.

➤ **Efforts made by domineering forces to captivate the destiny of the Iranian people have been always unsuccessful**

While referring to the continued unsuccessful efforts of the domineering forces to gain dominance over the destiny of the Iranian nation, President Raisi said: I take pride in representing a nation who inherits a great civilizational heritage. Iranian people have been free all the times and they have neutralized the efforts of domineering forces to gain dominance over their destiny. During their history, the Iranian nation has fought against captivity of other nations from Babylon to Palestine.

➤ **Double standards adopted by some claimants of human rights/ from the fuss made about a case which is under investigation to a deadly silence to killing of innocent women in west**

He clarified: Iran believes that the double standards adopted by some states regarding the human rights are the most important elements to institutionalizing of violation of the rights of human beings, including the deadly silence against killing of tens of innocent women in a short period in one of western countries.

➤ **Reviewing a dark report card/ position of the claimant and the accused should not be changed**

President Raisi, while underlining the fact the rights of nations are higher than the human rights which

are very easily violated by the oppressing powers, added: the position of the claimant and the accused in the human rights should not be changed. The real violators of the human rights are not morally competent to express their viewpoints on the issue of human rights.

➤ **Showing the photo of General Suleimani at the United Nations/ General Suleimani destroyer of ISIS and hero of fight against terrorism**

President Raeisi while referring to the undeniable role of General Suleimani in destroying ISIS, continued: An administration from the other end of the world decided to change the geography of our region at the price of the blood of hundreds of thousands of women and children but the Islamic Republic of Iran blocked this project and pushed it back. The hero of the fight against ISIS and terrorism was no one but General Suleimani. Ensuring a just proceeding of a crime that the previous U.S. President confessed will be a service to the humanity.

➤ **In the nuclear dossier we demand our legal and fair rights.**

President Raeisi raised the question that is there anything else other than its legal and fair rights that Iran is demanding which has made the global bullying forces upset, stated: today, peoples in the world are more seriously asking for development, independence and security.

➤ **The promise to lift the sanctions was not realized / despite the cruelest sanctions, Iran has realized world level technical and scientific achievements**

President Raeisi emphasized that the Iranian people based on their experience chose the policy of resistance and development and said: the Islamic Iran, despite the threats and sanctions, is a strong country today that has made world level technical and scientific achievements and the world is in need of a strong Iran. While exporting oil and gas, the Islamic Republic enjoys gas pipelines and electricity grids and is an outstanding country in advanced sciences and know-how.

➤ **Iran is looking for a maximum interaction with all countries / war is no solution to crisis**

President Raeisi while emphasizing that Iran as a regional power intends to ensure maximum interaction with all countries, said: war provides no solution for global crisis; we should choose dialogue over war. He clarified:

Iran's regional trade has increased significantly during the last year and we assert that the policy of neighborliness is a security builder policy.

➤ **Palestine is the most oppressed nation in the world**

While referring to the fact that the Zionist regime has developed the biggest prison in the world in Gaza, stated: it is for seven decades that oppression and

occupation is continued by the Zionist regime while the solution for the issue of Palestine is only to refer to the vote of all Palestinians in an inclusive referendum.

➤ **Global disarmament is the principled pillar for global security/ the religious fatwa of the Supreme Leader on nuclear weapons is stronger than any monitoring system**

President Raeisi emphasized that the religious fatwa of the Supreme Leader is much stronger than any international monitoring system for the Iranian government and people and mentioned: ad the representative of the Iranian people I would like to announce that Iran is not seeking to produce nuclear weapons and there is no position for these weapons in our defense doctrine. While Iran's peaceful nuclear activity is about only 2 percent of the global nuclear activities but 35 percent of monitoring are done to Iran.

➤ **If there was no flexibility on the Iranian side, nuclear negotiations would have stopped during the first days**

President Raeisi, referring to the nuclear agreement, said: we believe that the problem at the nuclear negotiation should be resolved at the origin. Iran has been the axis of survival for the nuclear agreement by remaining committed to its obligations. While the US talks of rejoining the agreement, other voices are heard from this country which questions its accountability. Of course, as officially confirmed by the US administration, the maximum pressure policy against Iran has failed ridiculously.

➤ **Iran hopeful to a bright future / the rule of the righteous will expand by the arrival of the Last Savior**

In conclusion, President Raeisi stated: we believe that based on the divine determination global justice will be established and the rule of the righteous will be expanded on the earth by arrival of the Last Savior of humanity.

At the sidelines of the 77th United



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly held bilateral meetings with officials of other countries and heads of international organizations.

Nations General Assembly, President Raeisi met officials from other countries and heads of international organizations, including Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations and Chrls Michel, President of the European Council.

He also met presidents and prime ministers from France, Bolivia, Pakistan, Iraq, Switzerland, Lebanon, Japan, Finland, Serbia, Urmenia and Zimbabwe.

President Raeisi participated at UNESCO Transforming Education Summit, met religious leaders, US foreign policy experts and top directors from the US news agencies and had a press conference.

It is noteworthy that Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran held different bilateral meetings with officials from other countries and international organizations including Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Csaba Körösi, President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Pedersen, United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Martin Griffiths, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

At the same time, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran met his counterparts from Lebanon, South Korea, Qatar, Ireland, Norway, Azerbaijan, Australia, Brazil, Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium, Jordan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Eritrea, Venezuela, Iraq, Syria, Urmenia, Cuba, Belarus, Mauritania, Brunei,

Mali, Indonesia and Slovenia and discussed the bilateral relations and regional issues.

His Excellency Amir-Abdollahian participated at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Astana Process with his Turkish and Russian counterparts and Pederson, United Nations Special Envoy for Syria and delivered a speech at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the NAM Palestine Committee member states.

In this visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and his accompanying delegation met the head and members of the Iranian Interest section at Washington D.C. and Mr. Minister was briefed regarding the latest status of consular services provided to Iranians living in the U.S.

Dr. Amir-Abdollahian had interviews with New York Times, Al-Monitor and National Public Radio (NPR) as well.

MFA ACHIEVEMENTS IN SEVEN MONTHS

Excellent Diplomacy at a Glance

Chronology of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign relations since the establishment of President Raisi's government (during August 2021 and March 2022)

2021 08 25

- Kuwaiti Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 08 26

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Turkish Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Greek Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Telephone conversation between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Oman and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 08 27

- Qatari Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-

August 2021

Abdollahian

- Iraqi Foreign Minister calling Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

2021 08 29

- Foreign Minister attending regional meeting in support of Iraq in Baghdad
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Prime Minister of Iraq
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the President of Iraq
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the President of Syria
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Syria
- Talks between the Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers on the sidelines of a regional meeting in support of Iraq

- Iranian and Kuwaiti foreign ministers meeting on the sidelines of a regional meeting in support of Iraq

2021/09/1

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and France
- Telephone conversation between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and India
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Prime Minister of the UAE
- Telephone conversation between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Croatian Foreign Minister calling Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021/09/2

- Mauritanian Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Serbian Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- German Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Austria telephone conversation and exchanging views

2021/09/3

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and China
- Former Lebanese Foreign Minister Gibran Basil's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021/09/5

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Abdullah, former Chairman of the Afghan High Peace Council, and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Telephone conversation between Ismail Haniyeh and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

2021/09/7

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with former Afghan President Hamid Karzai

2021/09/8

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq

2021/09/9

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Russia
- Telephone conversation between the Dutch Foreign Minister and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Iranian and Qatari foreign ministers meeting in Tehran
- Participating in the virtual meeting of the foreign ministers of six neighboring countries of Afghanistan
- UAE Foreign Minister telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021/09/13

- British Foreign Secretary Dominic Robb's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Virtual Meeting on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan

2021/09/16

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian attending Quadrilateral meeting of Foreign Ministers of Iran, Russia, China and Pakistan in Tajikistan
- Iranian and Chinese Foreign Ministers meeting in Tajikistan

2021/09/17

- Iranian and Belarusian Foreign Ministers meeting in Tajikistan
- Iranian and Pakistani Foreign ministers meeting in Tajikistan
- Iranian and Russian Foreign Ministers meeting in Tajikistan
- Iranian and Indian Foreign Ministers meeting in Tajikistan

2021/09/18

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

2021/09/19

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the German Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Finnish Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Vietnam's Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Indian Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

2021/09/22

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Austrian Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Croatian Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Swiss Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Venezuelan Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Belarusian Foreign Minister on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

2021/09/23

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey
- Foreign Minister meeting with the Chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- Foreign Minister meeting with Iraqi President
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Namibia
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan

2021/09/24

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the UN Special Representative for Syria
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meets with the Cuban Foreign Minister
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ivory Coast
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- The Foreign Minister of Iran meeting with the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs meeting

with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia

2021 09 25

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the media and senior researchers of American think tanks
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France

2021 09 26

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria

2021 09 28

- Bulgarian Foreign Minister calling Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 09 30

- The Foreign Ministers of Iran and South Korea making a telephone conversation
- Meeting between the new Head of the UNICEF Office with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- UN Resident Coordinator meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 10 3

- The Foreign Ministers of Iran and South Korea making a telephone

2021 10 4

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Venezuelan Foreign Minister
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Oman
- Meeting between The Foreign Ministers of Iran and Armenia

2021 10 7

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Prime Minister of Lebanon
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with

representatives of Palestinian resistance groups

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Ziyad al-Nakhlah and a group of leaders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the head of foreign relations of the Hamas Movement
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the President of Lebanon
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia

2021 10 8

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with prominent Lebanese personalities
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Lebanon
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon

2021 10 9

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the President of Syria

2021 10 10

- NBC interview with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 10 11

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Jordan
- Foreign Minister's virtual conversation with a group of Iranians living in the United States and Canada
- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and South Africa

2021 10 12

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Speaker of the Swiss National Assembly
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the Russian Federation

2021 10 14

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone

conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister

2021 10 16

- Meeting between the Secretary General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 10 18

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Pakistan
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Venezuela
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation

2021 10 19

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Oman
- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Qatar

2021 10 21

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Turkey
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Indonesia

2021 10 23

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Meeting between the new Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 10 26

- Meeting between Iranian and Tajik Foreign Ministers
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Belarus
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

2021 10 27

- Holding the second meeting among foreign

ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries in Tehran

- Meeting between Iranian and Uzbek Foreign Ministers

2021 11 4

- Iraqi Foreign Minister calling Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Syrian Foreign Minister's telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 11 6

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Russia
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and China
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan

2021 11 7

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone call with the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs

2021 11 8

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with British Foreign Secretary Liz Terrace

2021 11 9

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and France
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Germany

2021 11 11

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Algeria
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the United Arab Emirates

2021 11 15

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Algeria

2021 11 18

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Poland
- Syrian Foreign Minister telephone conversation with Dr. Hussein Amir-Abdollahian

2021 11 21

- Meeting between Shahin Mustafaei, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Dr. Amir Abdollahian
- Lavrentyev, Special Representative of the Russian President for Syria, meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 11 23

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Thailand
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Swiss Foreign Minister

2021 11 24

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Armenia
- Holding the fourth consultation Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and China

2021 11 25

- Meeting between the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Turkmenistan

2021 11 26

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the EU foreign policy chief

2021 11 27

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Meeting between Iranian and Uzbek Foreign Ministers

2021 11 28

- First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan meeting with Dr. Amir Abdollahian

2021 11 29

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the United Arab Emirates
- Meeting between the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Talks between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Tajikistan

2021 12 1

- Zimbabwean Deputy Foreign Minister meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 12 2

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Japan

2021 12 3

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

2021 12 5

- Kyrgyz Vice President meeting with Dr. Amir Abdullayan

2021 12 6

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Syria

2021 12 9

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

2021 12 13

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Oman
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian attending the 17th Extraordinary Meeting among the OIC Foreign Ministers in Pakistan

2021 12 14

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the head of the political bureau of the Hamas Islamic Resistance

Movement

2021 12 15

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

2021 12 16

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Chinese Foreign Minister
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Hungary

2021 12 19

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Chinese Foreign Minister
- Talks between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Commander of the Pakistan Army
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Kuwait
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Palestine
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Secretary General of Organization of the Islamic Cooperation
- Meeting between Iranian and Sierra Leonean Foreign Ministers
- Meeting between the International Committee of the Red Cross and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Turkey
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Jordan

2021 12 20

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2021 12 22

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Iranians living in the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Speaker of the National Assembly

of the Republic of Azerbaijan

2021 12 24

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq

2021 12 25

- Oman Deputy Foreign Minister meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2022 01 2

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Oman

2022 01 6

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Norway

2022 01 8

- Telephone conversation between foreign ministers of Iran and India
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Special Representative of the President of Turkmenistan

2022 01 9

- Meeting between Maulvi Amir Khan Mottaqi, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2022 01 10

- The attendance of Dr. Amir-Abdollahian at a symposium held by Iranians living in Muscat
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the senior negotiator of the Yemeni National Salvation Government
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Oman
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Fahd bin Mahmoud, Deputy Sultan of Oman

2022 01 11

- Hamas political bureau chief meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar

2022 01 12

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- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Kazakhstan

2022 01 14

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and China

2022 01 16

- Meeting between the UN Special Representative for Syria and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2022 01 17

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

2022 01 18

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the Republic of Niger

2022 01 20

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation

- Meeting between the Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Russian State Duma and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2022 01 25

- Phone conversation between the presidents of Iran and Russia

2022 01 27

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Qatar

2022 01 28

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Togo
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua
- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

2022 01 29

- Telephone conversation between the presidents of Iran and France

2022 01 31

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and India

2022 02 1

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Australia

2022 02 2

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and the UAE

2022 02 3

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Japan

2022 02 5

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

- Telephone conversation between the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Prime Minister of Iraq

2022 02 7

- Meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

- Phone conversation between the presidents of Iran and Turkey

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Finland

- Meeting between the President of the United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Center with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2022 02 8

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Chinese Foreign Minister

- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Russia

2022 02 10

- Meeting between the Presidents of Iran and Russia Foreign Minister

2022 02 13

- Meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Iran and Mali

2022 02 14

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Ireland
- Irish Foreign Minister meeting with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

2022 02 15

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss

2022 02 17

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Ukraine

2022 02 18

- The attendance of Dr. Amir-Abdollahian at the 58th session of the Munich Security Conference
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the President of Slovenia
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the head of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region

2022 02 19

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq
- Meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Swedish Foreign Minister

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Austria

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium

2022 02 20

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Norwegian Foreign Minister

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the Prime Minister of Lebanon

2022 02 21

- Meeting between the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

2022 02 22

- Meeting between the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the President of Equatorial Guinea

- Meeting between the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Emir of Qatar

- Meeting between the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the President of Mozambique

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Qatar

2022 02 23

- Oman Foreign Minister meeting with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Oman
- Meeting between the Secretary General of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Intifada and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Oman

2022 02 24

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss

2022 02 25

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Slovak Foreign Minister
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Hungarian Foreign Minister

2022 02 26

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

2022 02 28

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the head of the Syrian National Security Office

2022 03 2

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Chinese Foreign Minister
- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Qatar
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

2022 03 2

- Telephone conversation between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Ireland

2022 03 4

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-

Abdollahian and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

2022 03 5

- Meeting between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency

2022 03 7

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Turkish Foreign Minister
- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Russia

2022 03 8

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

2022 03 10

- Telephone conversation between Dr. Amir-Abdollahian and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

2022 03 11

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Polish Foreign Minister

2022 03 12

- Qatari Foreign Minister telephone conversation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

2022 03 14

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Pakistani Foreign Minister
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
- Telephone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran and Oman

2022 03 15

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and the Russian Federation

2022 03 16

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the British Foreign Secretary
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's telephone conversation with the Chinese Foreign Minister



Two days at the beating heart of Russia

a two-day visit to Moscow; from the meeting between the President Raisi and President Putin to meeting the Russian entrepreneurs



Hadi Amerian

Member of the Editorial Board

President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in his two-day visit to Russia had a meeting with Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. Delivering a speech at the Russia State Duma and talking to the Russian economic activists were another parts of the busy schedule of President Raisi to Russia.

➤Iran-Russia excellent relations on strategic course

During this visit, President Raisi had an intensive schedule, including meeting with President Putin, addressing the Duma, and attending a gathering of Russian entrepreneurs. Ayatollah Raisi was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Minister of Petroleum, and Chief of Staff of the Office of President. Referring to the influential role Iran and Russia as two big powers in the region and the world, President Raisi said during his visit and in his meetings with President Putin: "there are no limitations for our development of relations with Russia, and the excellent relations between Tehran and Moscow are not only at a strategic level at the moment but they will also be upgraded. Emphasizing that Iran's cooperation with independent governments is expanding regardless of international developments, President Raisi said that the fight against terrorism and organized drug trafficking are among the pillars of joint cooperation with Russia, adding: "the successful experience of cooperation against terrorism in Syria can be iterated in the Caucasus and Afghanistan. Ayatollah Raisi said that the only way to achieve lasting stability and security in



President Raisi in his meeting with President Putin referred to the effective roles Iran and Russia as two regional and global powers and stated that there are no restrictions for the two countries to promote our bilateral relations

Afghanistan is to form an inclusive government composed of all ethnic groups. He emphasized to his Russian counterpart that, "We have stood against the United States for the last 40 years in the same way that you have."

President Raisi hailed the cooperation between Iran and Russia against terrorism in Syria as a successful experience. He emphasized that the territorial integrity of Syria should be maintained and respected, adding that "the full sovereignty of the central government over the entire territory and the international borders of Syria is the only solution for establishing security and that the vicious circle of replacing occupiers with terrorists and vice versa must be stopped.

In this meeting, the two sides stressed that the principal problem in the world is departure from spirituality.

➤Iran seeks "maximum engagement" with the world on the basis of a "civilized global society"

During the course of his visit to Russian, President Raisi addressed the Russian Duma. He emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks "maximum engagement" with all countries in the world, particularly with its neighbors and



allies, adding that "the purpose and foundation of this cooperation and engagement is the reciprocal interests of the two nations and increasingly shaping a "civilized global society."

President Raisi reiterated that "the excellent geographic position of the Iranian territory, particularly the International North-South Transit Corridor can facilitate and reduce the costs of trade from India to Russia and Europe. Making the relations sustainable and beneficial requires that Iran-Russia cooperation also cover scientific, social, cultural, and media spheres and we are ready to maximally expand sustainable and long-term relations with Russia."

➤ **To prevent the hegemony of alien cultures, Iranian and Russian experts must offer a model of "interactive and constructive pursuit of identity"**

In the next part of his visit to Moscow, President Raisi met with the academicians of the National University of Moscow. He reiterated that we are in a crucial moment in the relations between the two countries, adding that "University professors, thinkers, and research and study centers of the two countries are expected to play their important and historical role in this regard so that the two neighboring countries of Iran and Russia live in welfare and prosper by maximizing engagement and cooperation in different scientific, cultural and economic areas."

At the end of this meeting, Ayatollah Raisi was awarded an honorary doctorate by the National University of Moscow.

➤ **"Comprehensive Plan for Cooperation between Iran and Russia" is finalized**

In yet another part of his visit to Moscow, and during his meeting with Russian entrepreneurs, President Raisi announced the finalization of a comprehensive plan

for cooperation between Iran and Russia, adding that: "the presidents of Iran and Russia share close stances and numerous commonalities in this respect."

Before the president's speech in the meeting, a number of Russian entrepreneurs and businessmen shared their perspective on the removal of the impediments to the expansion of trade relations between the two countries.

In this two-day visit, in addition to giving an interview to the Russia Today TV channel, the president attended meetings with the chairperson of the Council of Muslims of Russia, the worshipers at the Moscow Cathedral Mosque and Iranian families residing in Russia.

Short as it was, it seems the visit of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the official invitation of his Russian counterpart appears to have had crucial and significant achievement including the setting of a \$10 billion target for the expansion of economic relations and trade between the two countries, activating the International North-South Transport Corridor which will considerably shorten the route of transit of goods from Russia and other countries located north of Iran to the southern areas, as well as in the fields of defense and aerospace ◀



Special Look

IRAQ



At this section, in each volume, the Diplomat Journal introduces foreign missions in cooperation with the relevant embassy in Tehran. In this volume, the "Republic of Iraq" is introduced.



Official Languages:
Arabic, Kurdish



Currency:
Iraqi dinar (IQD)



GDP (PPP):
\$733 billion



Oil Reserves:
147 billion barrels



Area:
438,317 km²



Capital and
Largest City:
Baghdad



Population:
41 million



Religion:
Islam (official)
%98 Muslims
%1 Christians
%1 others



Government:
**Federal
Parliamentary
Republic**

POLITICS OR HISTORY?

The important role they play in linking Iran and Iraq

The strategic and geo-strategic position of Iran and Iraq which connects the main east and west transportation routes together, in addition to the high human resources capacities in both countries and at the same time the huge reserves of energy in both countries indicate the fact that if these two countries integrate their powers together and adopt joint decisions, no regional or even international power would be capable to confront them.

Meisam Beiki and Ali Shamsabadi

Iraq Affairs Experts



Iran's and Iraq's strategic and geopolitical position at the main transportation route of east and west, in addition to their high human capacity as well as the huge energy reserves of the two countries all indicate that if these two great actors synergize their powers and make and implement a joint decision, no regional or even international power would be able to resist them. A real example of this fact can be seen in the Syrian crisis, in which the Damascus government survived with the help of Baghdad and Tehran despite the coordinated financial, media and arms support of the United States and many other countries in the region. This has caused many countries throughout history to have a permanent feeling of fear of alliance between Iran and Iraq. Accordingly, enemies who oppose proximity between Iran and Iraq are constantly trying to create Iranophobia in this neighboring country by resorting to misinformation and disinformation under the code "Iran's influence in Iraq".

Of course, the mutual influence of these two neighboring countries is natural and according to the law of international relations, we have been witnessing how the developments in Iraq have affected its six neighbors, and how the policies of its neighboring countries extend to the heart of Baghdad. The point that is constantly repeated by the anti-resistance politicians regarding Iran's influence in Iraq is in fact due to the different level of mutual permeability between Iran and Iraq compared to their other neighboring countries. In other words, the actors who did not have the power to compete with Iran in expanding their influence in Iraq, are trying to reflect the ties between Iran and Iraq in the form of a "destabilizing influence". The question now is whether the intense mutual influence of Iran and Iraq on each other stems from the politics of governments or is it an organic reality originating from history and

geography.

> Ancient-Historical Bonds Between Iran and Iraq

> The study of history, especially the ancient history of the two countries, proves how deep the level of connections has been between Iran and Iraq until today. There is no doubt that relations between Iran and Iraq were established in ancient times with an alliance even stronger than today. In this regard, the following is remarkable:

> The ancient city of Khorsabad in the province of Nineveh, was one of the first ancient discoveries in Iraq, which is one of the most impressive signs of civilization in this region. The name of this ancient city is in fact Persian. Khors means sun and Abad means village.

> Hammurabi Tablet, which can be considered as one of the first legislative documents in human history and is considered as a legal honor for Iraq, was discovered in the ancient city of Susa in Iran.

> The Cyrus Cylinder, the world's first human rights charter drawn up by the Persian Achaemenid King, which substantively focuses on the Babylonian region (located in present Iraq) shows how the defense of Jewish rights became possible with the cooperation of the people of Babylon.

> Taq-e-Kasra (Arch of Ctesiphon) or Eyvan-e-Maden is a magnificent architectural masterpiece, which is in fact an engineering structure jointly built by Iranian and Iraqi architects.

> Al-Darwazeh Mosque in Basra, which has an Iranian name, is one of the historical structures which was constructed by Iranians living in Basra with the contribution of Iraqi experts.

> The mosque of Imam Hassan Basri in the city of Siraf of Iran, is one of the existing historical monuments that shows the devotion of the inhabitants of this city to this great Islamic religious leader, Imam Hassan Basri, from Basra. The tomb of Imam Hassan Basri is now in Iraq and is revered by Iranian and Iraqi pilgrims.

> The Shanashils in Basra, which are known as the historical symbols of this province, carry in fact a Persian meaning. Shanashil is originated from the Persian word "Shahneshin" literally meaning "the sitting place of a Shah" or a "royal palace". In Basra, there are several Shanashils named after Iranian luminaries, for example Shanashil of Sheikh Jafar Kazeruni.

> Religious links

> Religion is one of the factors that strengthens the bond between Iran and Iraq. The factor of religion has led to solidarity between Iranians and Iraqis (whether Shias or Sunnis). A few examples of outstanding religious

figures and places respected by the two nations are as follows:


> Shrine of Imams located in the two countries: Out of the eleven martyred Imams, seven are buried in Iran and Iraq. This encourages the people of Iran and Iraq to travel to each other's countries for pilgrimage. This interest is so great that it attracts an annual seven million pilgrims between the two countries before the outbreak of Covid-19. Meanwhile, in addition to the shrine of the Infallible Imams, thousands of Imamzadehs (tombs of the sons of Imams) revered by the people of the two countries spread in Iran and Iraq, which form an attractive destination for Iranian and Iraqi pilgrims. For example, the tomb of Seyyed Mohammad in Samarra and tomb of Hazrat Fatima Masoumeh (SA) in Qom.

> The tomb of Abdul Qadir Gilani, a great Sunni figure of Iranian descent, is buried in Baghdad. It should be noted that Gilan is a Persian word and the name of a province in the northeast of Iran.

> Great personalities respected by the two nations

> Religious and political leaders are considered as cultural symbols of countries who also play an important role in consolidating links and ties between Iran and Iraq.

> Religious Scholars: The great and respected scholars of Iran and Iraq have mainly had a long history of residence in the territory of both countries. The late Ayatollah Shahroudi Haeri (founder of the Qom Seminary), Ayatollah Javad Khamenei (father of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution) and Imam Khomeini were all born in Najaf or had lived in this city for many years. On the other hand, we see that most of the great scholars of Najaf had Iranian roots. Mirza Shirazi, Sheikh al-Sharia Isfahani, Yazdi, Khoei and Sistani are all surnames of the great scholars of Najaf in the last one hundred years, and their names are given to certain cities in Iran. Interestingly, all of



Mashrabiya in Basra, a historical symbol of this province, is in fact borrowed from the Persian language. It is made of the word "palace" in Persian language. In Basra, there are different mashrabiya called after different Iranian figures, for example Sheikh Jafar Kazerouni mashrabiya.



these scholars considered their identities as largely Iraqi and have explicitly refused to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. More interestingly, the sign of these connection does not exist only among the elites or scholars, but also at the level of ordinary people of the two countries:

In Iran, surnames such as Karbalaei, Najafi, or even Iraqi are quite common. As in Iraq surnames such as Sabzevari, Shahrestani, Shirazi, Strabadi, Taleghani, etc (all of which are Persian names) are taken by Iraqi citizens.

The devotion of the two nations to each other's great scholars is also a special feature of their relationship. While Tehran has given the names of several metro stations, residential towns and 12-kilometer multi-story highways with the name of Martyr Mohammad Baqer Sadr, in Iraq, there are several educational and cultural centers named after Imam Khomeini.

➤ Prominent Political Figures

➤ The bond between Iran and Iraq has been so strong throughout history that we see the bodies of many political leaders of the two countries buried in each other's soil. For example: on the one hand, Amir Kabir and Rais Ali Delvari, two prominent Iranian national figures, are buried in Iraq, and on the other hand, people like Mullah Mustafa Barzani, Seyyed Mohammad Mehdi Hakim, Seyyed Mohammad Sabzevari and Sheikh Jafar al-Hadi, who are among the Kurdish and Shia scholars of Iraq, are buried in Iran.

➤ Sheikh Nehru Kasanzani: The Kasnasani sect has followers in the Kurdish regions of Iran, some of whom traveled to Iraq in July 2020 to attend the funeral of Sheikh Nehru, their great scholar. The interesting thing is that during the ceremony to commemorate this Iraqi religious scholar, the poems of Attar Neushaboori, the great Iranian poet, were played.

➤ Poets and scholars: Fuzuli, Ibn Sina (Avicenna), Zakaria Razi and many other historical philosophers and notable people respected by the Iraqi people, were born or lived in Iran. Accordingly, many historical and well-known Iraqi personalities are honored and respected in Iran.

➤ Similarities between Religious and Ritual Customs

As part of the similarities of customs existing between the two countries, we can refer to the followings:

➤ Religious Celebration and Mourning Ceremony: On the



occasions of religious joy or mourning ceremonies (such as Ashura or the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet of Islam), an identical public atmosphere can be clearly seen in both Iran and Iraq. This level of similarity existing between the two countries on different days of the year, may not be found between Iraq and any other country. In the light of this similar culture, in recent years Iranian and Iraqi eulogists and mourners have jointly praised and given speeches and sermons in Persian and Arabic. The most important example of this common culture can be seen in the march and rally of millions of people on Arbaeen (the 40th day of martyrdom of the third Shia Imam Hussein (AS)), which is definitely the impact of Iraqi culture on Iranians.

> **Nowruz:** Nowruz, which was first declared an official holiday throughout Iraq in 2022, is one of the ancient cultural commonalities of the two nations that brings them common joy at the same time.

> **Qarqiyan:** A long-standing tradition in Iraq that celebrates the nights of Ramadan with the presence of children and thus makes children happy and socialized. This ceremony is performed in exactly the same way as Iraqis in the Arab regions of Iran. A similar tradition exists in central regions of Iran, such as the City of Kashan.

> Similarities in Ethnic-Religious Composition

Ethnicity and religion are recognized as one of the main factors of identity in West Asia. In this context, ethnic and religious similarities between countries have been an important factor in resolving tensions and strengthening cooperation. The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq, have significant similarities in both fields of ethnic and religion. This similarity has historically led to emergence of other common assumptions between the two nations. The Iranians and the Iraqis both have a history of enmity against the Takfiri extremists, the Ba'ath regime of Saddam Hussein, the United States, the Zionist regime and ISIS (Daesh). there is no such similarity between Iraq and any other country. Some of these ethnic and religious similarities between Iran and Iraq are as follows:

> **Religious composition:** Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan Republic and Bahrain are the only countries in the world with a majority of Shia population. This similarity has



*Hammurabi Tablet
which is known as
one of the first codes
in human history is a
legal pride for Iraq.
It was discovered in
Iran's ancient city of
Shush*



Gargee'an is an old Iraqi tradition which brings joy to the people on the nights of Ramadan Month and helps children to be sociable. It is done with the same details in Iran's Arab resident areas as well and a number of similar event are held in central parts of the country like Kashan on other nights of holy Month of Ramadan.

led to a great deal of commonality in the identities of the two nations, so that both want to strengthen the convergence and interaction of the world's Shias for making peace in the world. Both Iran and Iraq consider Wahhabism and Takfiriism as an existential threat to themselves and both countries strongly support the cause of oppressed people (especially in Lebanon and Palestine).

> **The Kurdish ethnicity:** The Kurds live mainly in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria and are considered as an important factor in strengthening people-to-people contacts between these countries. The Islamic Republic of Iran's approach regarding the issue of Kurdish ethnic diversity has made it easier for Iraqi Kurds to have easier exchanges with their Iranian counterparts. Also, because of common history existing between

the Kurds living in Iraq and Iran, the Iraqi Kurds consider themselves very close to Iranian Kurds to the extent that today a wide range of political leaders in the Kurdistan region of Iraq have already lived in Iran for many years and are even able to speak Persian.

> **Arab people in Iran and the Iraqi Persians:** There are millions of people living in southern parts of Iran who are of Arab descent. It is interesting that Iranian Arabs have the closest Arabic accent to the Iraqi people. Moreover, Iranians have lived in Iraq for many years. According to historical documents from Iraq and the West, until a hundred years ago, before the discriminatory policy of the Ba'athists, 75% of the population of Karbala and most of the population of Kazemain were Iranians. Also in



Fav, from two hundred years ago, out of 49 neighborhoods, about 22 were Persian or owned by Iranian Arabs.

> **Iraqi Diaspora in Iran:** As a result of the war and discriminatory policies against the Iraqi Shias by Saddam Hussein, large groups of Iraqis have settled in Iran. There is now at least one Iraqi neighborhood in Qom, Mashhad and Shiraz, and two in Tehran, the capital of Iran. Last Ramadan, Iraqi residents living in the Dolatabad neighborhood of Tehran hosted the biggest Iftar party (with a table spreading one kilometer!).

> **Geographical Neighborhood**
In addition to historical and cultural factors, geography is one of the most important elements for mutual

unity of the countries. It can be clearly said that if there was no geographical link between Iran and Iraq, then this level of convergence would have never occurred between them. Interestingly, the geographical situation of Iraq and Iran is very unique.

> **The Longest Common Border Line Between the two countries:** The length of the border between Iran and Iraq is about 1400 kilometers. This is the longest border line among their neighbors. Certainly, this long geographical connection makes cooperation between the two countries inevitable.

> **Common Rivers:** Some of the sources of the Tigris River in Iraq come directly or indirectly from Iran. It is natural that this fact will cause the two countries to have continuous cooperation and synergy in order to



It is often said that if there were no geographical links between Iran and Iraq, it would not have been possible for them to build up this level of integration between them. It is interesting that even from this perspective, Iran's and Iraq's positions are mutually significant.

Cyrus Cylinder which is one of the first documents in the world on human rights is contently based on the Babylon area in Iraq which shows that defending the rights of the Jewish was possible by cooperation with the residents of Babylon



deal with crisis such as dust storms and the drought, because under such conditions, having a one-sided attitude cannot help to solve environmental crises.

➤ Conclusion

In the field of historical, cultural, religious and geographical commonalities between the two countries as mentioned above, deep cooperation has been formed between the two governments of Iran and Iraq, which is particularly very evident in the political-security fields. This level of connection and mutual influence between Iran and Iraq cannot be seen among other countries. In other words, Iraq is the only country in the world which has the most commonalities with Iran.

Influenced by this fact, the two nations have been able to register common achievements for themselves and sometimes the whole world throughout their long history of ups and downs. For example, the establishment of glorious civilizations in Khorsabad and Madain; joint support for human rights in the Babylonian civilization; joint uprising against the assassins of the third Shia Imam Hussein; joint struggle against Saddam; direct confrontation with US expansionism and the Zionist regime; defeat of Daesh terrorism; the great march of Arbäeen, are all evidence of the synergy existing between Iran and Iraq throughout the history which were mostly fruitful projects. This deep-rooted bond has always been strengthened by sacrificing the blood of Iranian and Iraqi heroes for their common goals and the most recent

examples of whom are Martyrs Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes and General Qasem Soleimani. In this context, basically cutting off Iran's bonds in Iraq and vice versa means ignoring the history and geography of the two countries, which will have no result other than destroying economic, human and cultural capitals of the two countries. In other words, it should be explicitly stated that cutting off Iran-Iraq bonds, requires the destruction of the history, identity and geography of the two deep-rooted nations, which so far, no actor in the international relations has been able to do so. Therefore, despite the poisonous and widespread propaganda to destroy the Iraqi national image in Iran and vice versa, it will not be possible to darken the relationship between the two countries and on the contrary, despite the difficulties and obstacles and with the spread and continuation of threats against the two nations, the importance of creating synergy between the two nations will be further understood ◀



Photos: Zahra Ramezani

Relations with Iran "unique and outstanding"

Necessity of establishing closer ties
between Iran and Iraq: an interview with
Iraq Ambassador

Zahra Mehran Rad

Executive Editor



Nasir Abdul Mohsen Abdullah Taki Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Tehran in his interview with the "Diplomat Magazine", while providing a positive assessment of bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq, told: relations between the two countries are at excellent levels at all fields and they are intertwined at people to people and government to government levels at all political, trade, economic and social sectors.

One spring morning, we left for Iraq Embassy near Valiasr Square in Tehran along with a team from the *Diplomat*.

Our appointment was at 9 in the morning and His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Taki was present in his office. The Embassy staff warmly guided us to the Ambassador's room. Upon entering the Ambassador's room, a large photo frame of Mr. Barham Saleh, President of Iraq which stood on the table above the Ambassador's desk, attracted our attention.

To the right of his desk was a raised Iraqi flag and to the left of the room was a large showcase in which Iraqi handicrafts were carefully arranged.

Later, they welcomed us with unique Arabic cups and Iraqi coffee.

Ambassador Abdullah Taki spoke about his different experience in the field of diplomacy and his assignments in different cities and considered his assignment in the city of Mashhad and next to the holy Shrine of Imam Reza as the most enjoyable and believed that the relations between Iran and Iraq in various political, social, cultural and economic fields are at a high level and that these relations are not limited only to current century. In fact, the people of the two countries have had intertwined relations for thousands of years, especially in cultural fields. But these days, the two countries depend on each other regarding security issues.

What seems important is that Iraq Embassy in Iran is one of the most important



embassies of Iraq in the world. Because Iraq is one of the most important political, economic, and cultural neighbors of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is one of its main allies in the region.

Iran's view of Iraq has always been special and after the fall of the Baathist regime and following events that took place in Iraq, the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Iraq led to further strengthening and deepening of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Throughout history, Iraq has had the highest and most historical and cultural commonalities with Iran, and in the last two decades, while expanding these commonalities, it has increased its economic ties and trade with Iran.

Considering all these issues and with regards to the importance of Iran and Iraq relations, we decided to analyze the relations between the two countries from the perspective of the Iraq's Ambassador in the first issue of the Diplomat. Excerpts follow:

D A very good morning to you Mr. Ambassador and thank you for your time for this interview. May I ask you to tell us more about yourself Excellency?

A My name is Nasir Abdul Mohsen Abdullah Taki, I am the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Ir. I was born in 1961 and I am married and have three children, a son and two daughters. My assignment in Iran as Iraq's ambassador started in August 2020.

I previously served as the Consul General of Iraq in Mashhad for five years, and also worked for many years as the Director of Department of Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq. Prior to my mission in Mashhad, I was Consul General of the Iraqi Embassy in Belgrade/Serbia, and later on in Kuwait.

D How important and necessary do you consider the need to further expand relations between the two countries?

A The Iran-Iraq relationship is unique. It goes back to decades ago. Both, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq have long history of civilization. The relations between the two countries and their civilization go back to thousands of years. The mutual relations between the two countries are very good in all fields, and these excellent relations at the people-to-people contact and governmental level are rooted in the political, commercial, economic and social sectors, and indicate that these relations are intertwined.

Iran and Iraq share about 1,500 kilometers of border. The most common task of any ambassador and Embassy is to serve the citizens of his country. The embassy of Iraq in Iran is no exception to this rule, and serving Iraqi citizens living in Iran is in fact our main duty at the Iraqi embassy. The number of these Iraqi citizens in Iran is very high, and of course the level of bilateral relations between the two countries is also very high.

D How do you find life in Iran Mr. Ambassador?

A Life in Iran is enjoyable. I have a very good relation with my Iranian brothers in all sectors particularly in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran. My colleagues and friends in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran are always trying to make efforts in order to facilitate the affairs of our Iraqi citizens residing in Iran.

So, here I would like to extend my appreciations to all the responsible authorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran for making efforts to further expand the bilateral relations and helping us to solve the problems of Iraqi citizen living in Iran. Basically, the people of Iran are very cultured and have great scientists, thinkers and philosophers. The Iraqi people also have great scientists and poets, and that is why the cultures of the two countries are very close to each other. Even the customs of Iran and Iraq have a lot in common in many cases. On the other hand, many famous Iranian personalities are also famous among the Iraqi people,



**Iran-Iraq
bilateral
relations are
excellent at
all levels and
indicate their
intertwined
civilizations**

such as Omar Khayyam, Saadi and Avicenna, etc.

And other great Iranian scientists, all of whom have global reputation in poetry, and medical science etc. For this reason, there is no difference between the cultures of the two nations, and therefore Iran and Iraq are two Muslim countries with common cultures.

In addition, after 2005, when the border between the two countries was opened to the citizens of both countries, the relations between the people of Iran and Iraq increased and the culture of the two countries became even closer than before and the Iranian pilgrims who come to Iraq can feel this in a tangible way.

D Which Iranian food and culture do you like the most?

■ Food in Iran and Iraq have a lot in common but they may have different names. Although I think you would like to say that Iranian food is more delicious (laughing),

for example, there are different types of Iranian kebabs in Iraq.

Of course, stewed food, as I said, may not have the same names. In fact the people of each country have their own taste. Basically, countries like Iran, Iraq and Turkey have a lot in common in terms of food type and their food follows a common principle. Iranian friends also like the taste of Iraqi food when they come to Iraq.

D Do your children study in Iranian schools or universities?

■ My children are still young and have not reached university age. My eldest child is my son who



is 14 years old; He studies at Salam School in Tehran. This school covers from the first grade of elementary school to the twelfth grade and teaches the lessons of the Republic of Iraq. My daughters are still very young and do not go to school.

Q Do you have any interesting memories of your stay in Iran?

A Life in Mashhad was very enjoyable. When I was the Consul General of Iraq in this city, in addition to living near the shrine of Imam Reza, I had a duty to render services to the Iraqi citizens and the pilgrims of Imam Reza, and this duty became heavier especially during the peak of the pilgrimage. There are several consulates in Mashhad from different countries, all of which have good relations with Iraq. Mashhad is a pilgrimage city in Iran where many pilgrims from all over the world go there for pilgrimage. It is safe to say that 100% of

Iraqi citizens who enter Iran will definitely visit Mashhad. Mashhad is holy. In recent years, the number of Iraqi citizens who have traveled to Mashhad during the peak of the pilgrimage has been about two million. Of course, the Covid-19 outbreak stopped this trend for a while, and we hope that the situation will return to normal. The same has been the case with Iranian pilgrims to Iraq, and as I said, Covid-19 outbreak has overshadowed the travel of Iranian pilgrims to Iraq.

Q How did the news of martyrdom of General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandes affect the Iraqi





people?

■ This news was very painful and sad not only for us but also for all Iraqi people. Haj Qassem Soleimani and Al-Mahdi Al-Muhandes had in fact captured the hearts of the Iraqi people. The day I heard about their martyrdom was a very hard and painful day.

Basically, everyone living in Iraq at the time of Daesh, cannot understand how painful and destructive were the actions of Daesh, and only those who have seen with their own eyes the conditions of Iraq at that time, can understand what I mean about presence of Daesh in Iraq.

Media, television news and social media cannot convey everything. The presence of Daesh in Iraq was very painful for the people of this country because they were very rebellious and criminal and in fact did not adhere to any religion or ethnicity. For this reason, all Iraqis had a common view of Daesh. The people of my country felt and saw with their own eyes the sacrifice and loyalty of Haj Qassem and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandes. The Iraqi people liked these two personalities like their own loved ones. The practical manifestation of this interest was revealed during the funeral of the two martyrs. The love and devotion of the Iraqi people to these two martyrs are an undeniable fact, and these two martyrs, despite being high-ranking commanders, behaved modestly towards all people, including women, men, children and adults.

These two martyrs were in the hearts of the Iraqi people, and their assassination shocked the people, and it was impossible for many Iraqis to believe this. It goes without saying that martyrdom is the peak of human dignity and the highest level of self-sacrifice and people like Haj Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mehdi al-Muhandes wanted to become martyrs.

From the tribune of the Diplomat, I would like to invite Iranian investors and businessmen to invest in Iraq.

■ As the Ambassador of Iraq,

how positive do you assess the willingness of the Iranian private sector to invest in Iraq?

■ The issue of investing in Iraq, like all countries, is regulated by the law.

Many Iraqi infrastructures have been destroyed during recent years and that is why all Iraqi ambassadors are trying to attract investors not only from Iran but also from all over the world to invest in Iraq. The Republic of Iraq needs foreign investment in all fields, and of course it must be said that our Iranian brothers in Iraq have also succeeded to enter into investment markets in Iraq and we always encourage and pursue these investors to expand their investment in Iraq. The Iranian investors have active presence in all the cities in Iraq from north to south and of course our duty is to facilitate the ground for the further expansion of their investment in all areas in Iraq and in this regard, we arrange meeting for them with relevant officials in Iraq. Of course, the mission and duty of every ambassador in every country is to promote the bilateral relations, and thus from the tribune of the Diplomat, I would like to encourage and invite my Iranian brothers to invest in Iraq and expand their investment as much as possible in all areas. Of course, you know that investing is a competitive issue, and there are reputable and large Iranian companies in Iraq who are competing with large global companies. In addition, the Iranian brothers have a big advantage over the others, and that is the proximity of the distance between Iran and Iraq and having a long border between the two countries. Many projects in Iraq have been completed by Iranians and we hope this trend will continue.

■ Will your work at the embassy increase during a particular time or season?

■ In the past and after 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the institutes of Haj and Pilgrimage Organization of Iran and the Iraqi Cultural Organization. According to this Memorandum of Understanding, this Organization arranged for pilgrims to travel to Iraq. Since that time, the number of pilgrims increased and after 2014 and 2015, the borders of the two countries were opened for pilgrims. The peak of pilgrimage in those years was during


Iranian and Iraqi cuisine have a lot of commonalities but their names are different

the Arbaeen pilgrimage season. Iranian citizens went to Iraq and their presence during the pilgrimage seasons was very significant. The presence of pilgrims during the pilgrimage seasons is naturally greater and affects our work as well. But in the meantime, Arbaeen pilgrimage has a higher rank. Millions of pilgrimages and visits to Iraq have greatly expanded over the years and during the special occasions such as Nowruz, the martyrdom of Musa ibn Jafar, Mabath (the day the Mohammad (PBUH) was appointed as a prophet), mid-Shaban, the nights of Ghadr, Eid al-Fitr, the days of Arafah, Eid al-Adha and then the days of Muharram and Arbaeen Hosseini, there are approximately 6 to 7 million Iranian pilgrims present in Iraq. Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the presence of pilgrims, but this is a global problem and its impact has not only been on the Arbaeen pilgrims in Iraq. The spread of Covid-19, especially on the early days and months of the epidemic crippled tourism around the world, especially as doctors did not know much about the disease and people were terrified of leaving their country.

D Which part of Iraq do you recommend for those who want to travel for the first time?

■ Each square meter of Iraqi territory is a place of tourism and sightseeing. In addition to that, Al-Atabat Al-Aliyat in various provinces of Iraq are each a tourist attraction. For example, in Najaf Ashraf, which is the province of Amir al-Muminin Imam Ali (AS), in addition to this holy shrine, there are other shrines as well as historical sites. In Karbala province, there is the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS), Abolfazl al-Abbas (AS) and many of their descendants. Babel and Hillah in Iraq are among the historical cities which are world-famous, and in addition, there are many shrines for the descendants of Imams in this city. Baghdad also houses the holy tomb of Musa ibn Jafar (AS). There are also the tombs of famous scholars in this city. Besides, Baghdad was the capital of the Abbasids and the

number of historical monuments in this province is very large. Other historical cities in Iraq include the city of Samarra, which in addition to the Al-Askari Shrine, also houses the holy crypt of the Imam Zaman (AJ). The western provinces of Iraq also have various ancient monuments that are spectacular and historical.

On the other hand, Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) was born in the southern provinces of Iraq, and there are some pristine natural landscapes and beautiful resorts in that area. Iran's Kurdistan region is also very beautiful, spectacular and famous in terms of natural landscapes and climate. Therefore, the diversity of historical monuments and natural sites in Iraq makes Iraq known as a country with a collection of historical and religious monuments. On the other hand, ethnic and religious diversity is evident in this country and people, from Christians, Yazidis, Zoroastrians, Kurds, Shias and Sunnis, live together in harmony. Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran has the same conditions in which different ethnicities live alongside each other in complete peace and tranquility. That is why the cultures of the two nations are very close to each other, and both countries enjoy an elevated civilization.

D If you have any final words for the end of this conversation, we would be happy to hear them.

■ Iraq has excellent and growing relations with the neighbor and brotherly country of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also cooperate with Iran in all fields. Our brothers in Iran also have constructive cooperation with us. Relations with Iran are special and different from that with other countries, I pray to God that good relations between the two countries are stable and permanent, and I also wish security, health and progress for both nations.

D Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

■ I also thank you and wish you success ◀

RELATIONS ON THE TRACK OF DEVELOPMENT

Iran and Iraq at the peak of bilateral ties

Iran and Iraq enjoy vast bilateral relations at social, economic, cultural, religious and historical levels and these relations would have been definitely impacting their political relations throughout the course of history and at the current time.



The Republic of Iraq is an influential country in West Asia and Middle East and this influence is visible in the contemporary developments in the region (in the twentieth century as well as the beginning of the 21st

century).

These influences are evident in Iraq and the whole region. After leaving the monarchy behind, Iraq became a republican state with several governments coming into power.

In some periods in the contemporary history, Iraq's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran have experienced fluctuations although in other periods, we witnessed perfect bilateral relations. However, after the fall of the Arab Socialist Baath Party – Iraq Region, we witnessed improvement and boosting of bilateral relations.

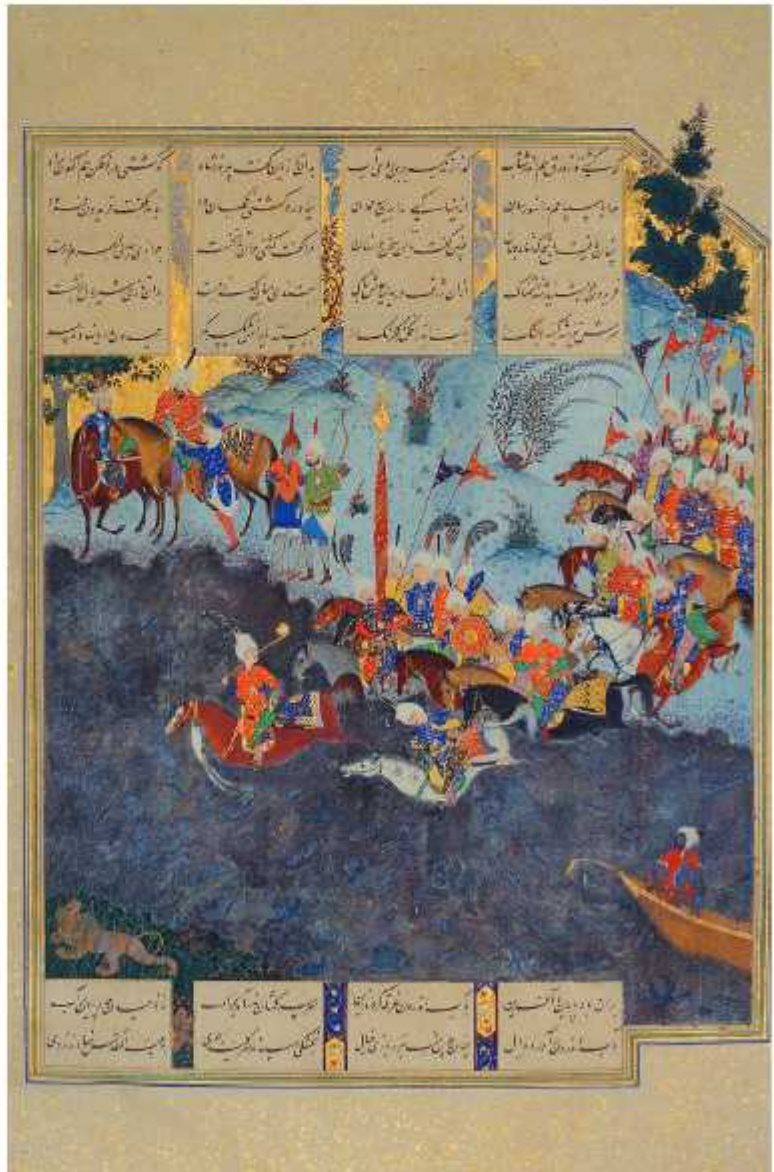
Iraq, with a population of about 45 million, shares long borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran; over 65% of the population in Iraq are Shias that can obviously influence most important strategic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has not spared any efforts to strengthen cooperation with Iraq at all times. As a member of OPEC, Iraq is one of the major oil exporters and is the second largest oil exporter in the region after the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Iraq also plays an influential role in the OPEC. Therefore, cooperation between Iran and Iraq in OPEC can lead to better results for the benefit of the nations of the two countries.

Holy sites such as Karbala, Najaf, Al-Kazemiyah, Samarra and other places are incredibly respected by and attractive for Iranians, and in this regard we can see the development of religious and



Tigris River from the
above (1924)



A page from
Tahnarbi
Shahnameh which
tells the story of
Fereidun passing the
Tigris River

social tourism from Iran to Iraq, and on the other hand religious sites in Mashhad, Qom and other Iranian cities are of special interest to the Iraqis.

Of course, for other groups interested in mysticism, religion and morality, the tombs of great poets such as Attar Neyshaboori, Hafez and Sadi Shirazi have deep historical and ideological connections. Given the shared maritime borders in the Persian Gulf between the two countries, Iran and Iraq can also expand economic cooperation. After the liberation of Iraq from the dictatorial rule of the Arab Socialist Baath Party – Iraq Region, various governments have taken steps towards planning to improve the social and economic situation in Iraq, which has suffered the most in three decades. Of course, the civilians, the environment, the economic environment and the infrastructure of Iraq have also suffered severely during these invasions, and one of the most significant responsibilities of the governments in the new era is to rebuild the ruins and launch development programs and create jobs for Iraqi youth, thirty years of age and under, who make up a large part of the total population. Therefore, in the face of social demands, governments need serious planning, and that's why they need the contribution of other countries and nations in their development and reconstruction. The role that the Islamic Republic of Iran can play in this field, both in the development of infrastructure and completing semi-finished projects, as well as the transfer of technical and engineering experiences to the Iraqi society is invaluable.

By playing a decisive role in the contemporary history of Iraq, the top Shia scholars in Najaf have taken up a more prominent and serious role in the last two decades and have been able to prevent crises and help bring peace to the entire community, including Muslims, Christians, Shias, Sunnis, and the various ethnicities and races living in Iraq at highly critical political turning points.

In Iraq, political parties help improve new democratic atmosphere even though the relevant partisan laws still need to be reviewed, amended and updated. Having a parliamentary system contributes to the governance of the people over their own political destiny. The parliament chooses the president and prime minister while at the same time plays its oversight and legislative role properly.

Exporting Iraqi oil, from its southern and northern regions, is one of the most important domestic issues in Iraq which requires coordination between the Kurdistan Region, a federal governorate in Iraq, and the central government, so that all Iraqis can benefit from these God-given gifts and help rebuild the country. Iraq's cooperation with different countries can also help develop relations in the whole region.

Iraqi people and parties are taking efforts to combat various threats, among which the most important is the threat of Takfiri and extremist groups such as Daesh. Through cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq was able to destroy the foundations of Daesh. Although traces of some of the vexatious actions taken by Daesh can still be seen in some areas, but the decision and insistence of the Iraqi people and government to seriously confront this group, who on the one hand brought about insecurity and on the other hand spread corruption in the social and administrative structures of Iraq, caused the Iraqi people and government to seek to fight corruption and terrorism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has continued its efforts to provide services in various areas, including exporting gas to set up power plants, as well as exporting electricity to other parts of Iraq. These services will continue until Iraq is fully capable to use and extract gas from its territory and generate electricity.

Furthermore, Iran-Iraq cooperation in combating insecurity shall yet continue and these relations will become more appropriate within the framework of developing various relations and signing various agreements ◀

POTENTIALS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

To what extent can the private sector promote the bilateral relations between Iran and Iraq?

President of the Iran and Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce believes: The Joint Chamber of Commerce of Iran and Iraq can be considered as a big capacity to facilitate trade relations between the two countries. This can be realized through promoting bilateral relations between Iran and Iraq in numerous sectors.



Yahya Al-Ishaq

Entrepreneur



Iran-Iraq relations, given the geopolitical, historical, economic, political, cultural and security conditions of the two countries at bilateral level or regionally and globally, have been, and will continue

to be a highly strategic relationship.

All these relations, i.e. economic, political, security, cultural and historical relations, are in such a way that they are completely intertwined, and any positive or negative incident that occurs in either country will definitely have a definite and precise effect in the other country and in the region.

In the global governance architecture, the West Asia region has long had a primary impact in all areas; That is, both in regional wars and in the realm of economic threats, the West Asia region and the Iran-Iraq issue play a very central role today. When this area is in the hands of any movement or block, it is definitely one of the factors of success. There is not a day that the West Asia region does not hit the world headlines. Given the importance of this issue, our diplomacy cannot but strengthen the relations between Iran and Iraq.

Therefore, the importance of relations between the two countries in various economic, political and cultural fields is high. But today, economic issues play a crucial role in all other areas. At one time, the issue of Iran-Iraq relations was of a security nature (eight years of war with many costs and losses); But due to the type of relations and the management system that prevailed, today we do not have a problem with each other regarding land border issues, and the relations between the two countries are friendly in all fields.

A priority in our relations with Iraq today is economic decision-making

If we can regulate our system of economic relations with a regional and global perspective with Iraq, we may be able to organize and resolve some of our economic problems and development strategies. The reason is the existing capacity in the economic field.

Because in other areas of security, military, etc., actions have been taken by the opposing countries and their desired result has not been achieved, so they are trying to use economic tools. That is, if there is to be a threat to our relations with the region and Iraq, it is an economic threat.

If the opposing parties seek to interpret the Greater Middle East and strike at the axis of resistance, the most important issue in priority is economic issues, so in the general plans that are formed, bilateral economic relations should be one of the top priorities of decision-making and diplomacy; "If we accept the priority of the economy, we cannot marginalize its requirements."

One of the problems is that we accept that economics and economic relations affect security and political issues. But the type of valuation, management and its requirements are marginal. That is, economic issues are decision-making material. For example, the number of commercial counselors in the two countries and the nature of their work are one of these issues. Those who are in conflict with us today put their top priority on economic issues. In other words, various investments and support for the Daesh terrorist group have been transferred to the economic front today. At present, the capacity of our relations with Iraq is less than the \$20 billion capacity level. Now, if our relationship with Iraq is an intermediary between us and the region, this figure will be doubled at least. This capacity exists in all areas of the economy. Iraq will be the largest investment center in the region for another five years.

The more secure Iraq is and the safer foreign investors feel, the more it is likely that \$100 billion will be invested in that country. In the past decades, the prevailing atmosphere in Iraq, especially during the time of the Baath party, was military and most of the resources were spent on military affairs, so there is a large market in infrastructure, installation and economic fields.

Iraq also has the best capacity in the fields of agriculture, geopolitics, and regional trade cooperation. Therefore, investing in all areas of infrastructure is a good opportunity for Iran. Of course, the

competitive environment prevails on this platform, and we must also study the considerations of this competition.

➤ The diplomacy of the two countries must provide the necessary legal-security platforms

In the field of exports of goods to Iraq, according to official sources, in some years the target of \$12 billion was achieved. Unofficially, bilateral trade stands at \$14 billion. Basically, goods produced in Iran, from foodstuffs, construction materials, health products to technical and engineering services, find their market in Iraq.

In the field of tourism, there is a traditional relationship between the two countries, and before the Covid-19 pandemic, about 7 million tourists traveled between the two countries annually. There are many areas in the field of joint ventures. That is, if we have a logical relationship and the necessary guarantees on both sides, there is the possibility of joint investment in the two countries.

Our economic advantages are so high in the areas of investment and infrastructure that it is also our comparative advantage over others. Of course, bureaucratic issues and problems in the areas of executive administration between us and Iraq must also be resolved appropriately. Therefore, the diplomacy of the two countries must provide the necessary legal, political and security support.

If we consider the issue of economic presence as one of the priorities, the necessary context and support in the form of embassies and senior economic counselors of the two countries should be supportive of economic issues. Turkey and China seem to be taking such steps to support economic actors. Ambassadors of the two countries play a key role in facilitating the presence of investors. That is, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should not think that this is an unreasonable assistance, and when the private sector benefits, we (the government) no longer have to spend our energy in this direction. If the economic sphere ranks as a priority of the goals today, it cannot be expected to be achieved without cost. The costs of this sphere also include legal, support and insurance costs. Thus, an internal insurance system must be set up so that in case of a political crisis, a strong insurance



**Today, our
priority in
Iran and Iraq
bilateral
relations is to
consolidate
economic
ties**



**If we agree
with the
economic
priority,
we cannot
push its
requirements
to the
margins**

system will support it.

Our banking system and relations must also be in a way to encourage investors. In the current situation, the number of competitors may be small. However, when full security is achieved in Iraq, all European countries will have a serious presence in Iraq, all of which will have financial, banking, insurance, etc. support. If the totality of banking and trade relations, transportation regulations and legal relations are facilitative, Iran-Iraq relations will be two or three times greater than the current level and its impact on the system of regional politics is evident both in the form of resistance and regional development. It requires strengthening the strategic-economic perspective in the decision-making system that must be facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In promoting the presence of Iranian and Iraqi



In the field of exports of goods to Iraq, according to official sources, in some years the target of \$12 billion was achieved. Unofficially, bilateral trade stands at \$14 billion. Basically, goods produced in Iran, from foodstuffs, construction materials, health products to technical and engineering services, find their market in Iraq.

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investors in each other's countries, it should be said that the Iraqi ambassador to Iran or our country's ambassador to Iraq play a very effective role. It remains to be seen how economically-driven these ambassadors' decisions are, given that the priority is trade and economy. Some ambassadors are mainly diplomats and focus on political relations. It's worth it too. But such an ambassador is worried about entering the economic sphere. The first argument is that those who are chosen as ambassadors of the two sides should prioritize economic issues.

➤ Resilience economic policies reinforce the need for economists to be present in embassies

The economy also has its requirements. If we want to develop these requirements, all fields must be ready and all grounds must be paved. One of the areas is the



If there is going to be a threat to our relations with the region and Iraq, it will be of economic nature

atmosphere in the embassies of the two countries. However, we need to have economic officers at the embassy level. However, the general policies of the Resilience economy and the economic orientations of a country's governing system require that the level of presence of the embassy's economic personnel be raised to the level of deputy and deputy ambassador. The assigned economic deputy must have the courage to make a decision and create an atmosphere in which he can be given the necessary authority. If the economic sphere wants to develop, the expansion of relations between the two countries requires that the movement of Iranian and Iraqi businessmen and the issuance of long-term and multiple-entry business visas be facilitated for them and the necessary legal support be provided to entrepreneurs on both sides.

► The role of Iran-Iraq Chamber of Commerce

Regarding the role of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce in facilitating mutual investments, it should be said that this chamber is a national, non-profit and non-governmental entity with a mission to develop economic activity with Iraq, which can play an important role in this regard. The Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce has a capacity of boosting trade to at least \$12 billion, as mentioned above, and can solve problems by laying the groundwork, creating space, and pursuing, as well as establishing the necessary interactions for laying the groundwork and communication. It can provide a great capacity to facilitate relationships in various areas of the business process. Because the performance of this national organization is professional in the economic field, Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce is a position that can play a key role in developing relations between the two countries, provided that economic system finds its way to the top of its priorities and the role of chambers of commerce should be at the core instead of periphery ◀



A SYMBOL OF ARCHITECTURAL GLORY

Taq Kasra; Symbol of Proximity between Iranian and
Iraqi Nations Since Ancient Times

*Taq Kasra which is one of the most beautiful and glorious edifices remaining from that era
in the world reminds us that if the Iranian and Iraqi elements adopt a common goal together,
they will last and shine forever throughout the course of history like Taq Kasra.*





Dr. Ali Nekouei

Iranologist



If you talk with graduates of political sciences, they would probably calculate the history of countries based on their political developments in recent centuries and when it comes to establishment of Iraq, they would say: Iraq's new borders were created in 1920 by the League of Nations, following the division of Ottoman Empire, according to the Treaty of Sèvres and the treaty ceded Iraq to the United Kingdom. In 1921, the Iraqi kingdom was formed and 11 years later in 1932 it gained its independence from the United Kingdom. Yes, this is a reality but it is not the truth. Iraq's cultural truth and its inhabitants are not a 90 year-old civilization. Probably the most apt definition for Iraq is to call it "cradle of civilization", because this country enjoys the old and rich cultures of Sumer, Akkadian Empire and Assyrian homeland thousands of years before B.C. Some 4000 B.C. in a place where is called Iraq now, the first writing system was invented. Following this invention, the historical developments were registered and the Sumers were the first human beings who created wheel and established city-states. In the writings remained from the Sumers, we can witness the first organized signs of mathematics, astronomy, medicine, religious beliefs and written laws. Interactions between the Iranian and Iraqi lands are not limited to hundreds of years. These two civilized countries have enjoyed a common life together along the history and they were integrated together in forming the ancient empires in a way that separating them is very difficult. When in 556 B.C. Nabonidus reached the Babylon throne, his country was experiencing some circumstances: he ruled a rich and civilized country with a number of palaces, libraries and pleasant landscapes but this was only the appearance. In fact, people were deeply dissatisfied with the ruling system, there was a big gap among the people and there was a rich minority against a poor majority. Along with this gap between poor and rich, there existed a large number of prisoners who had been captured by the previous kings. Most of these prisoners were Jewish people who had been captured 58 years prior to Nabonidus's coronation in Babylon (in 597 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar II and before collapse of Jerusalem). Besides these people, the ordinary people were dissatisfied with Nabonidus as well, because he did not like Marduk (the patron god of Babylon and its biased priests) and he worshiped Sin instead. These religious tendencies of the king damaged the Marduk rituals and traditions. Thus, the priests and the majority of the indigenous people turned away from the tyrant ruler. In addition, Nabonidus had appointed Baltasar de Babilonia, his orgy, bloody and unworthy son as the ruler which created all means of a public dissatisfaction in Babylon. At the same time, in proximity of Babylon, Cyrus the Great, son of Cambyses, ruler of Anshan, had rebelled against Astyages, the tyrant king of Medes. When the Medes king moved his great army to Anshan to suppress him, he, prior to start of war,



was arrested by his own soldiers and handed over to Cyrus the Great. Cyrus the Great overthrew dynasty of the Medes and he was the king of the people.

Probably, in the eyes of the people of Babylon, they were experiencing the same circumstances like the people of the Medes. They pinned their hopes on savior of the Medes to save them from the evil of the dark kingdom of Nabonidus; as a result, the religious leaders of Babylon began ensuring their secret connections with Cyrus the Great.

The Jewish prophets like "Daniel" and "Isaiah" who had been captured gave the good tidings of arrival of a Christ and savior. In their revelations, it was Cyrus the Great who was titled as Christ and a divine savior.

This led Cyrus the Great to deploy his forces to Babylon in 539 B.C. Historical documents show that Cyrus the Great captured Babylon without any war or fighting and on 29 Oct. 539 B.C. he occupied this city and moved to Marduk Temple and called himself Chosen by Marduk and "the King of Babylon" and not the king of Pars. Cyrus Cylinder which was found in Babylon demonstrates exactly his measures and conditions in Babylon.

> He (Nabonidus) promoted the improper action of sacrifice which they did not exit previously... he took inappropriate actions, violence and maltreatment daily (paragraph 6 of the Cyrus Cylinder).

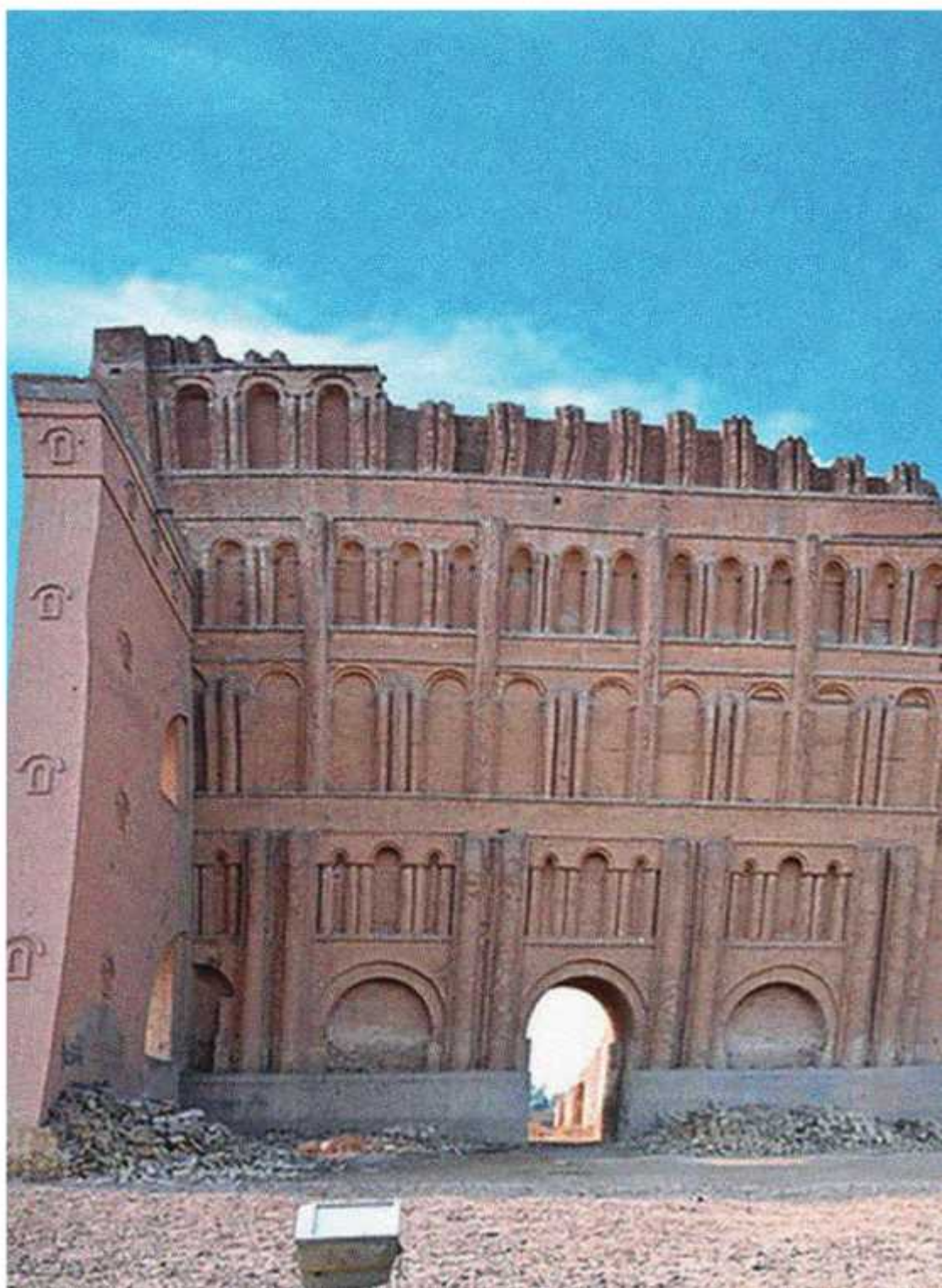
> My big army entered Babylon with peace and calm. I did not allow the people of this city and this land to receive any

damages (paragraph 24 of the Cyrus Cylinder).

> All people recognized my steps with satisfaction. I sat on the seat of kingdom in Babylon court. Marduk drew the attention of Babylonian people to me, because I respected and honored him (paragraph 23 of the Cyrus Cylinder).

> The internal situation of Babylon and its holy stands shook my heart... I tried for peace. Nabonidus had slaved the poor people of Babylon which did not deserve them (paragraph 25 of the Cyrus Cylinder).

> I abolished slavery. I ended the misery of



people. I instructed people to worship freely and no one to bother them. I ordered no one was allowed to eradicate life of the people. Marduk was happy with my good deeds (paragraph 26 of the Cyrus Cylinder).

From this point on, the history of the great civilization of Mesopotamia added to the richness of the Iranian civilization, art and

architecture and these two elements were intertwined like branches of a strong tree. During more than two centuries of the Achaemenid governance, Babylon was one of the capital cities and the inscriptions were not only written in Old Persian cuneiform but also in Elamite cuneiform and Babylonian cuneiform as well. Following the collapse of the Achaemenid dynasty and start of the Parthian Empire once again Ctesiphon (a place along the Tigris River in Iraq) was the western capital city of the Parthian dynasty for five centuries in Mesopotamia. Ctesiphon included



seven cities; therefore, the Arabs called it "the Cities". While the Parthians were in power, they attached more honor and dignity to Ctesiphon. The historical reports and remaining works since ancient times do not demonstrate any hostile attitudes among the Iranian and Iraqi rulers on those days nor their intention to delete each other; rather, as supported by evidences and proofs, the identity of the Iraqi habitants was independent and respected by the Iranians. They enjoyed cordial relations and mutually benefited in art, architecture, language and writing and created the necessary means for the progress and development of both nations in the ancient time and the unique mutual sense of belonging to Ctesiphon among the two nations is a clear example of it and they called Ctesiphon "the Heart of Iran". It is very interesting to note that the Heart of Iran was neither located in Fars province nor in Khozestan, it was rather located in today's Iraqi lands which is a testimony to the deep proximity among the Iranian and Iraqi people in ancient times.

During Sasanian Empire, 37 km south of Baghdad along the Tigris River there was a big palace called "Taq Kasra" built in charming dimensions. An arch of 25 meters length which was the widest ancient architectural arch following the Gavmishan Bridge. It is some 30 meters in height and 43 meters in width. The internal walls of the Taq Kasra had detailed decorations and were decorated with colorful marble stones brought from Church of Antioch and glass mosaics which pictured fighting scenes including the scene Khosrow II was riding a yellow horse in Antioch city. The floor was covered with thick marble stones and some silk carpets with garden, trees and rivers patterns on them were thrown on the floor.

The king's sitting place was located at the end of a big arch and behind a curtain which would have been closed only by the permission of the king. This great common Iranian and Iraqi architectural masterpiece was built not only to

demonstrate the engineering techniques but it was done also to show the "greatness" to picture the wealth and might of the kingdom so that it would astonish ambassadors of other countries and warn the hostile and rebellious governments that they had the power to win in every fight.

Following the collapse of Sasanian Empire, Taq Kasra was abandoned and during the history some efforts were made for its destruction, but this building which is a sign of Iranian and Iraqi nations' unity and greatness in ancient times, is still remaining. This building, in the eyes of the Iranian and Arab culturists and advocates of literary works, was a glorious and probably advising piece and no Arab intellectual or poet along the history had ever any opposition with Taq Kasra (which was a symbol of ancient interconnectedness between the Iranian and Iraqi peoples). Let's have a look at the English translation of Al-Buhturi's poem, describing Taq Kasra:

See the inscriptions on the walls of the palace / to find out how the Iranians fought the Romans in Antioch

Where Anoushirvan wears a green / trendy saffron yellow cover

And glorious and glorious slowly / under the flag of Kaviani sees his army

Khosrow Palace is so glorious and proud / as if there is a high mountain there

Or the 42-bit ode of "Taq Kasra" which is an elegy for Sasanian kings that Khaqani made it while passing Taq Kasra. It includes some advices for next generations. Some bits of the ode are followed:

O the thoughtful heart, learn from what you see

Consider the porch of Madain as a mirror of learning

Walk from the Tigris to Madain

From the second eye make Tigris on the soil of Madain

*The Tigris itself is like a hundred bloodthirsty Tigris
From the heat of its blood fire is dripping fire from its eyelashes*

Cry from time to time on the porch

Until you hear the answer from its heart

The points of each palace advise you

Listen fully to the advices given

He says you are from soil and we are your land now

Take some steps on us and shed some tears

We got into trouble with the owl's monody

Shed some tears, lessen our trouble

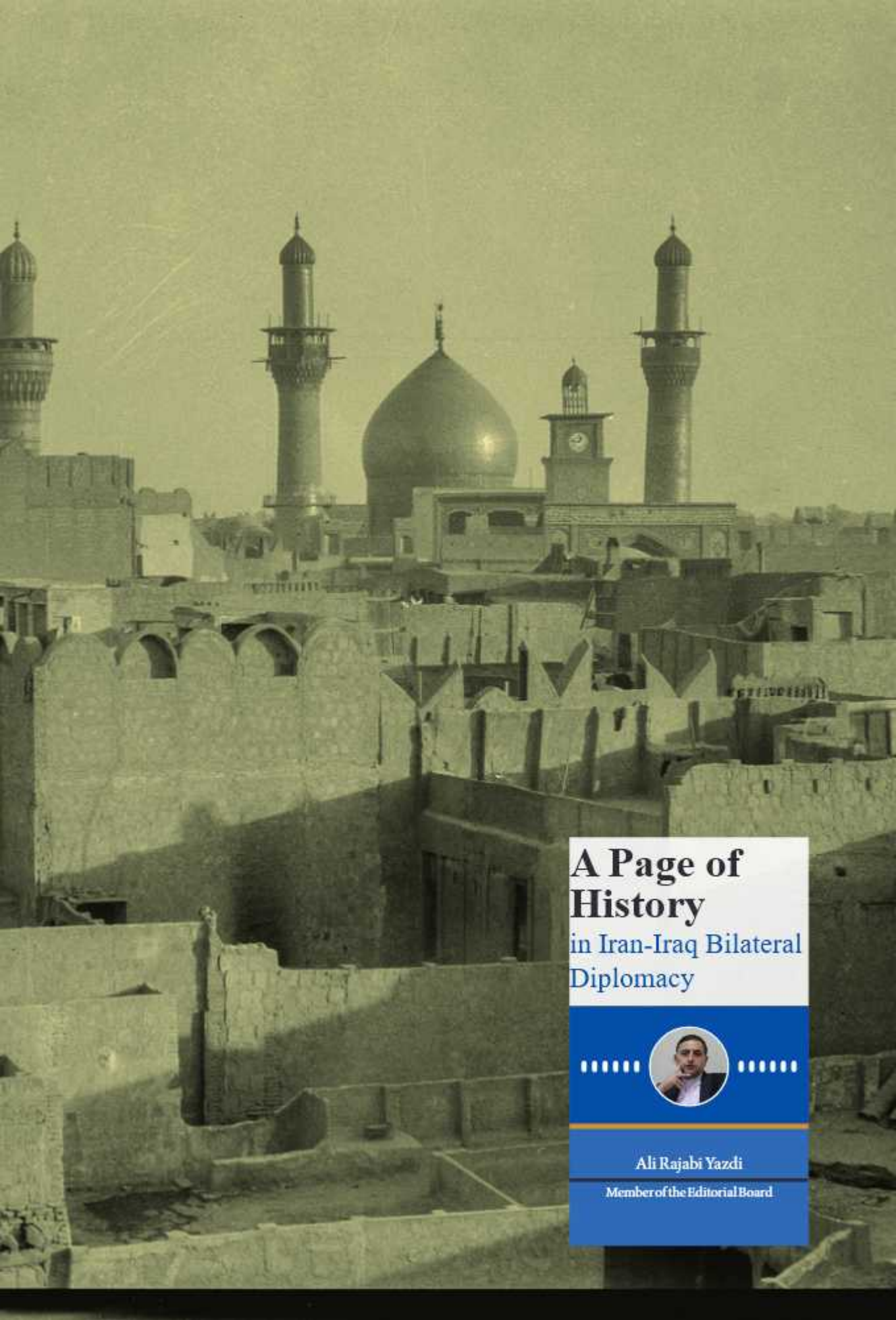
Yes, what a wonder in the green of the world

The owl approaches the nightingale, the lament follows the song

We gave the burden, it oppressed us

On the evil palace let alone the evil

Probably, the advice of Taq Kasra, one of the most beautiful and most glorious buildings in its own time, for us today is that if two Iranian and Iraqi elements have a common goal, the outcome of that mutual objective will remain along the history with utmost glorious and lasting ; just like Taq Kasra ◻



A Page of History

in Iran-Iraq Bilateral
Diplomacy



Ali Rajabi Yazdi

Member of the Editorial Board

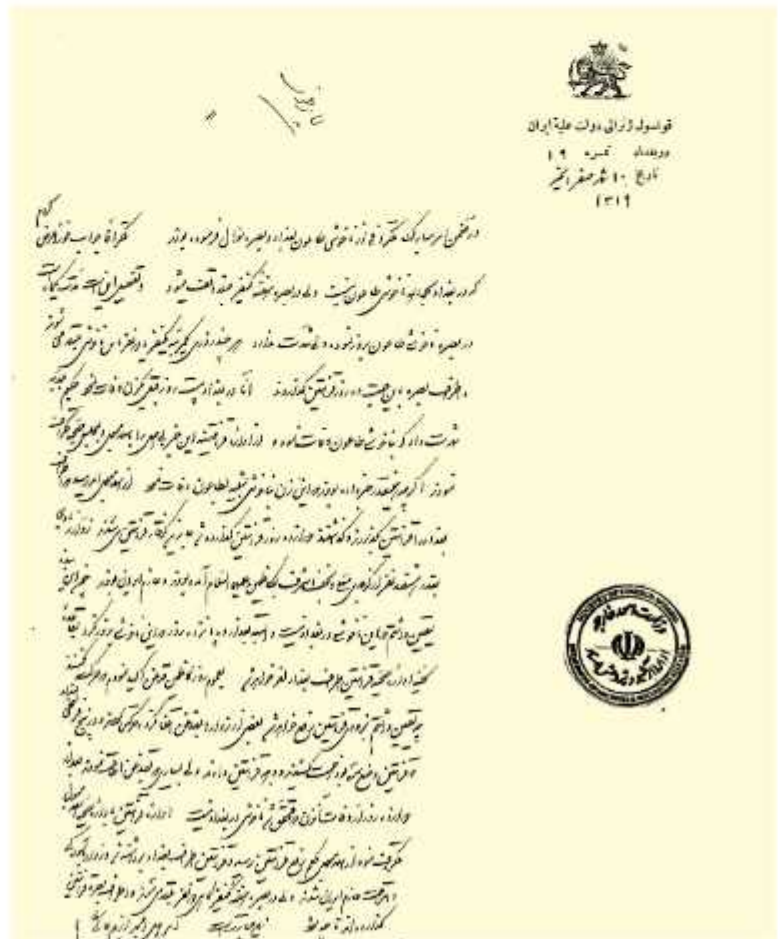
Course of developments and trend of ties between the two neighboring countries of Iran and Iraq date back to some 100 years ago in 1929. Enayatollah Samiei was the first Iranian Minister Plenipotentiary to Iraq. 20 years later, Mr. Muhammad Shayesteh was appointed as the first Ambassador of Iran to Iraq.



On 21 March 1948, the diplomatic mission of Iran in Baghdad was promoted to a plenipotentiary embassy, and Mr. Mohammad Shayesteh was appointed as the first Iranian Ambassador to Iraq.

On 04 December 1971, Iran and Iraq cut diplomatic relations and Mr. Mohammad Khakpour was appointed as the head of the Interests Section of Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad. In post-Islamic Revolution period,

despite the fact that the imposed war lasted for eight years, the two countries severed relations only from September 1987 to February 1991; in other periods, bilateral relations continued at chargé d'affaires level, till these relations were upgraded to the level of ambassadors with the appointment of Mr. Seyyed Hassan Niknam as the first ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Baghdad in March 1993. Since then, bilateral relations have continued uninterrupted at the ambassadorial level. Below, you can find the list of heads of Iran's diplomatic mission in Iraq ◀

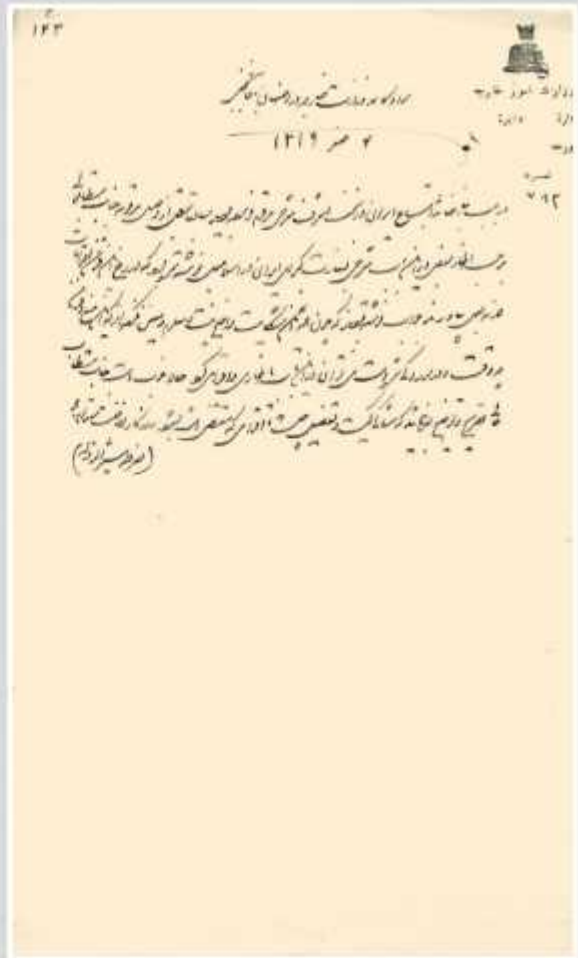


A telegram sent by Iran's general consul in Baghdad concerning the spread of plague in Baghdad in 1901

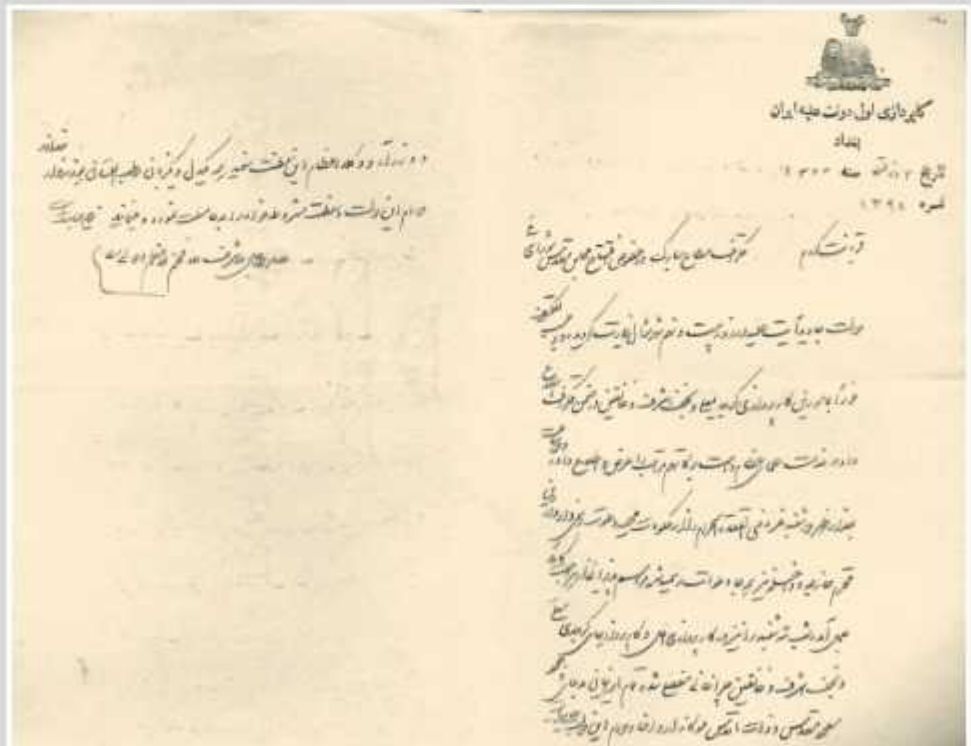
List of Heads of Diplomatic Mission of Iran in Baghdad since 1928

No.	Name	Rank	Duration of assignment	
			From	To
1	Mr. Hassan Ali Khan Hedayat Nasr ol-Malek	Diplomatic Representative	1928	1929
2	Mr. Enayatollah Sam'i	Minister Plenipotentiary	1929	1931
3	Mr. Mirza Taghi Khan Nebavi	Minister Plenipotentiary	1931	1932
4	Mr. Bagher Kazemi	Minister Plenipotentiary	1932	1933
5	Mr. Enayatollah Sam'i	Minister Plenipotentiary	1933	1936
6	Mr. Mosafer Alam	Minister Plenipotentiary	1936	1938
7	Mr. Musa Nouri Esfandiari	Minister Plenipotentiary	1938	1940
8	Mr. Abolqassem Najm (Najm ol-Malek)	Minister Plenipotentiary	1940	1940
9	Mr. Mousa Nouri Esfandiari	Minister Plenipotentiary	1941	1943
10	Mr. Mohsen Raza	Minister Plenipotentiary	1943	1947
11	Mr. Mohammad Shayesteh	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1948	1950
12	Mr. Mahmoud Salahi	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1950	1951
13	Mr. Hossein Qods-Nakhat	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1951	1952
14	Mr. Mosafer Alam	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1952	1953
15	Mr. Hossein Qods-Nakhat	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1953	1956
16	Major General Nader Batmazghelidj	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1956	1958
17	Mr. Amzollah Ardalan	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1958	1960
18	Mr. Yadollah Asemi	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1960	1960
19	Mr. Abbas Aram	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1960	1962
20	Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mashayekh Faridani	Charge d'affaires	1963	1963
21	Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mashayekh Faridani	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1963	1964
22	Mr. Seyyed Mahdi Pirasteh	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1964	1967
23	Mr. Ezzatollah Ameli	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1968	1970
24	Mr. Majid Mehran	Charge d'affaires	1970	1972
25	Mr. Mohammad Khakpour	Head of the Interests Section	1972	1974
26	Mr. Hossein Shahidsadeh	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1974	1976
27	Mr. Mir Sadegh Sadriah	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1976	1978
28	Mr. Ferydoun Zandfarid	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1978	1979
29	Mr. Seyyed Mahmoud Dosei	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1979	1980
30	Mr. Mahdi Besharat	Interim Head of Mission	1980	1983
31	Mr. Mohammad Ali Faripour	Interim charge d'affaires	1983	1987
32	Mr. Seyyed Kazem Hassani Tabatabaei	Interim Charge d'affaires	1991	1994
33	Mr. Seyyed Hassan Niknam	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1994	1999
34	Mr. Amir Saeed Irvani	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	1999	2001
35	Mr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian	Interim Charge d'affaires	2001	2002
36	Mr. Alireza Haghghian	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	2002	2003
37	Mr. Hassan Kazemi Qomi	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	2003	2010
38	Mr. Hassan Dasseifer	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	2010	2017
39	Mr. Iraj Masjedi	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	2017	2022
40	Mr. Mohammad Kazem al-e Sadeq	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary	2022	

A copy of the note verbal by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Mr. Aqazajfi concerning a complaint by Iranian citizens in Najaf in 1901



The report by Iran's first diplomatic agent in Baghdad concerning a congratulations message to Persian King Ahmad Shah for his coronation in 1909



Treaty of Amity between the Imperial Government of Iran and the Royal Government of Iraq in 1937



The original copy of the Treaty of Amity between the Imperial Government of Iran and the Royal Government of Iraq in 1937



بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَتَوْفِيقِهِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الى كل من يطلع على هذا الكتاب تحية وسلام

الى وفينا وصاحب ثقتنا الدكتور ناجي الاصيل
وزير الخارجية

اما بعد فانه لما كنا قد دخلنا في المفاوضات مع حضرة صاحب الجلالة
الامبراطورية شاهنشاه ايران بقصد عقد معاهدة تحكيم بين العراق والامبراطورية
الابراتية فقد عيناكم مندوباً لنا لتفاوضوا باسمنا وتقوموا بالنيابة عنا على المعاهدة
المذكورة مع من يتقدمه حضرة صاحب الجلالة الامبراطورية شاهنشاه ايران ويخوله
مثل ما نخولكم بارادتنا الملكية هذه من السلطة آخذين على نفسنا قبول كل مسا
تقومين به بالنيابة هنا واهرام المعاهدة المذكورة بعد تصديقها من قبل مجلس
الامة -

واقراراً بذلك اصدرنا هذه الازادة الملكية وختمتها بختنا الملكي ووقمتنا
عليها بيدنا الملكية -

صدر عن بلاطنا الملكي في بغداد في اليوم السابع عشر من شهر ربيع
الآخر سنة ١٣٥٦ هجيرة الموافق لليوم السادس والعشرين من شهر حزيران سنة
١٩٣٧ ميلادية وفي السنة الرابعة من حكمنا -

عبد الله
عبد الله



Special
Look



Lasting Heritage

Culture of Arbaeen: a shared ever-lasting global heritage

Jaber ibn Abdullah Ansari, a great companion of Prophet Mohammad, arrived in Karbala with his cane.

No one expected the visit of that old and blind man to the tomb of Imam Hossein would mark the start of a large annual event for the years to come.



Seyyed Raziuddin Kazemi
Mazandarani

General Consul of the Islamic Republic of
Iran in Najaf



On the first day of Arbaeen (20th of Safar 61 AH) when Jabir bin Abdullah Ansari, arrived in the land

of Karbala with his cane, few people predicted that the pilgrimage of this old and enlightened man from this clean soil of Karbala would be the starting point for the formation of a magnificent annual Miqat (place of pilgrimage for pilgrims) in which the millions of people from all over the globe create the largest world march with the slogan "Al-Habib" ("to my beloved").

Also, those barbaric criminals who, after the sunset of Ashura, were intoxicated with victory and cheered with arrogance and ignorance, never thought that the hot and victorious land of Karbala became the biggest place of freedom for justice seekers and every year the most unique world gathering and march will be held in this land.

> Arbaeen, Shia's ever-lasting and global culture

The Islamic Revolution of Iran, which has emerged from the depths of Shia beliefs, has taken its dynamism from the rich Shia culture and its identity is based on Shia values, and that is evident in the school of thought of Ashura and Mahdism, where waiting and the rule of a just jurist during the age of absence, is evident.

This valuable capital has tied the strategic depth of its national interests to a huge and valuable capacity that can play a decisive role in the future of humanity and realization of the Islamic civilization.

It is evident that one of the most important sources of soft power are culture and cultural values, because these values are the main infrastructure of social integration and as far as the scope of cultural values of a society are more inclusive and extensive, then more software potentials will be recreated in the realm of power and thus it will lead to national authority. Hence whenever culture and cultural values possess transnational capacities and are able to expand beyond geographical borders, it can generate a huge social capital that will lead to a









lasting power. These are the messages of Arbæen march, and in fact they are the driving force of hearts and according to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, it is the "magnet of Imam Hossein".

Ashura discourse holds such a huge capacity to attract Muslim communities, which can lead to further solidarity and integration among Muslim nations, and this unique soft power can be the ending point of the historical conspiracies related to the fake and seditious confrontation between Shias and Sunnis and thus, seriously endanger the existence of the followers of the domination and hegemonic system.

➤ Imam Hussein (AS) School of Thought and the Basis of the Legitimacy of the Struggle

The social function of Islam and its valuable principles of justice, which have been hidden throughout history due to the moral corruption of rulers, and the lofty goals of Shariat-e-Muhammadi, which is the foundation of social justice.

By arguing the need and obligation to obey the ruler (even if he is unjust) or saying sedition is worse than oppression, they try to show that the realization of the rights is considered illegitimate, and this causes frustration in creating political and social reforms in the framework of religious beliefs, and thus by doing so, they are creating the ground for the growth of atheist, corrupt and takfiri groups.

It was school of thought of Imam Hossein and Ashura that theorized the basis of the legitimacy of struggle against oppression, corruption and deviance in Islamic society and by relying on rationality and enlightenment awareness and jihad explanation (one of the most important agendas to deal with any deviation and distortion in the discourse and values of the Islamic Revolution) this school of thought seeks to pursue the transcendent goals of Islam in creating an ideal society. Accordingly, standing against oppression, corruption, deviation, humiliation and avoiding illegitimate methods and blind violence and promoting self-sacrifice and loyalty, are the pivotal foundations of Ashura discourse in order to create fundamental reforms in





the Islamic societies.

> March of Arbaeen or Unique and Inclusive Media

The glory of the march of millions of people on Arbaeen is not limited to its ethnic, racial, or religious diversity. This march is unique in creating great human manifestations such as self-sacrifice, kindness, generosity, hospitality, social vitality, high spirit of cooperation, helping others and providing comfort for others at the cost of the hardships created for Iraqi host families.

This rally of millions of people with the slogan of "Labaik Ya Hussein" is not only a great call for all freedom seekers in the world, but also it is influenced by the Imam Hussein's way of fighting against oppression, racism and tyranny in order to establish justice. The Arbaeen march is in fact an exercise of love and the practice of kindness and self-sacrifice to achieve a higher goal and resolve all differences and resentments and create a unique epic with the raised flag of freedom.

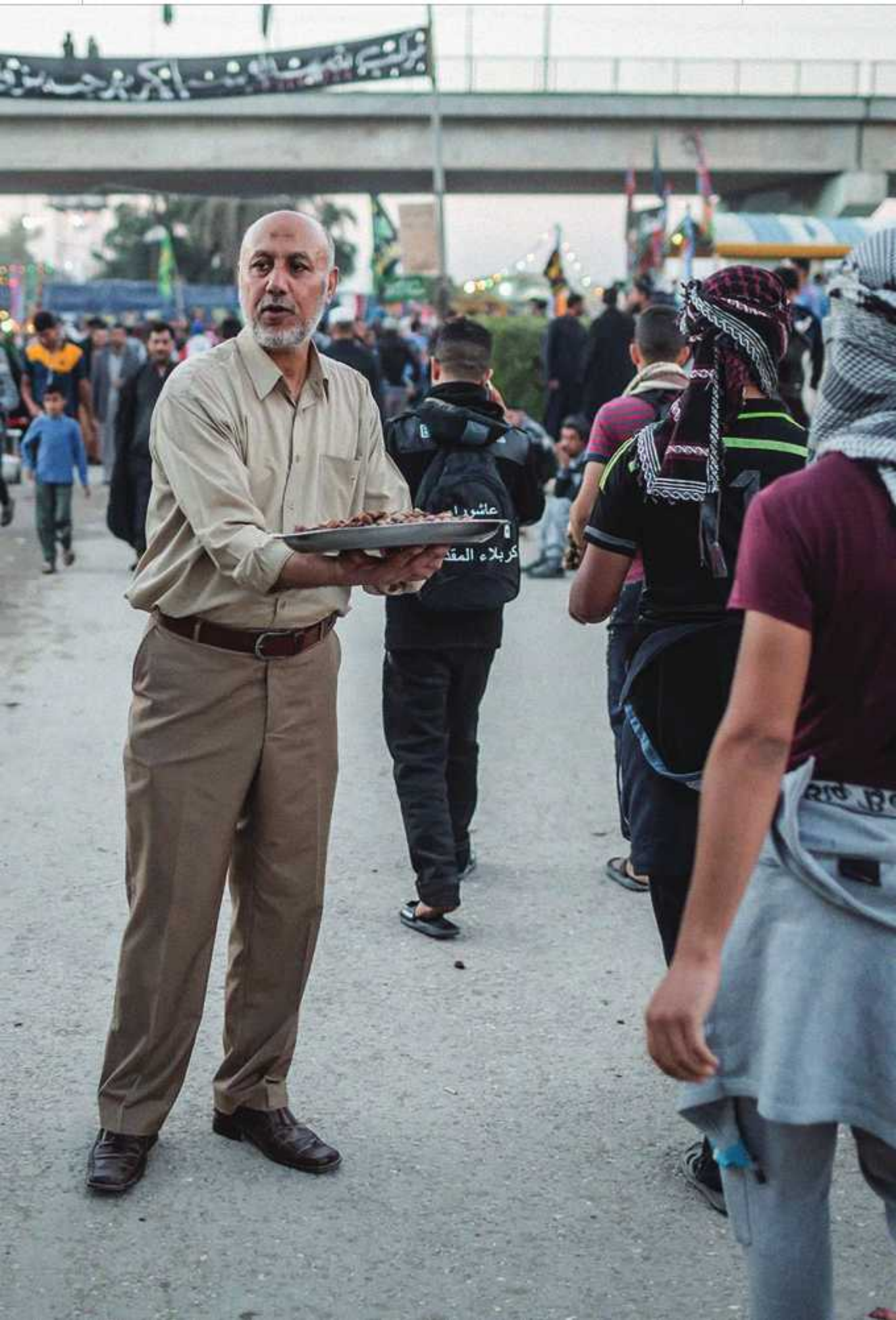
The Arbaeen rally marks the firm and determined steps that demonstrate stability on the right path by the participation of men and women with the painful and blistering legs and even young and old and wheelchair users.

All these marches and rallies are a sign that Arbaeen has been a huge and inexhaustible asset for humanity and an unparalleled power and an endless reserve for all human beings during all centuries. It is also a unique media with an enlightening and universal function and the historical mission to introduce the path for saving humanity in the light of the global guidance.

Regarding the universality of this pure culture, it should be said that: When the Imam of the time and the savior of the human world and the promised world announces the beginning of the age of appearance, He introduces himself as Imam Hussein and this shows that this luminous name in the age of appearance is a familiar and sacred name for all the world and this means that the broad-based and inclusive media of Arbaeen has been able to fulfill its historical mission.

And that day is not late ◀





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

عاشورا
كربلاء المقدسة

عاشورا

In the following pages, the attractions, traditions and customs of amazing Iran are introduced.

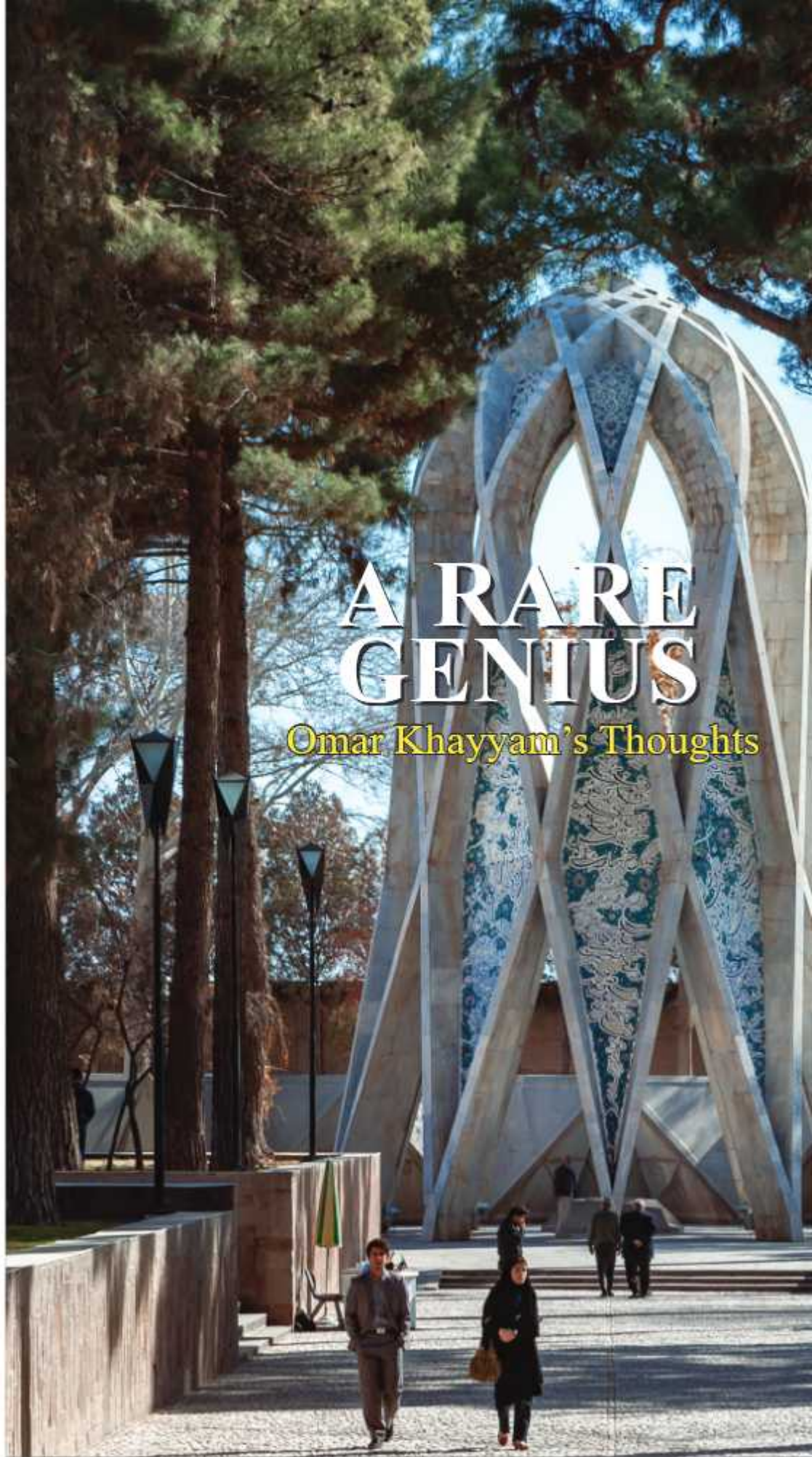
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DIPLOMAT
April - May 2022

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A RARE GENIUS

Omar Khayyam's Thoughts





Omar Khayyam had no time to hold discussions so that it would be possible for us to further

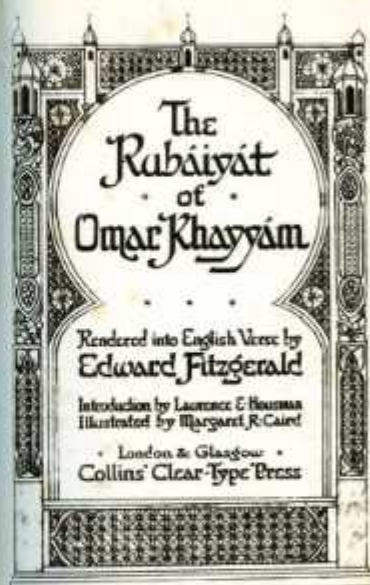
understand his thoughts through his discussions. However, we all know that he was in constant contact with his contemporary scholars on science especially astronomy.

Khayyam was born in an era where the Iranian essence, having been repulsed for a couple of centuries by Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties, relying on Iran school of thought, was gradually regaining lead in science, culture and politics from a number of conquerors whose only art was gripping the sword. Nowadays, Khayyam's lifetime is interpreted as "renaissance" of Iran. A testimony to this claim is the story of "Three Elementary School Friends" which is mentioned in some references. Although the base of the story is not true, it includes a fundamental reality that the three elementary school friends, i.e. "Khayyam, Abu Ali Hasan ibn Ali Tusi and Hassan Sabbah", who established the Iranian wisdom, philosophy and mysticism (following Avicenna), represented political and reviving structure of pre-Islamic utopia in Islamic era and represented the Iranian rebellious and defiant spirit respectively, chose a small sect of Islam (Hassan Sabbah and his Ismailism which if not all but was mostly a mix of religion and mysticism) and created fear among the Abbasid agents. It was Hasan Sabbah who like an old monk did not leave his room in Alamot Fortress and exercised austerity mystically. He ruled all followers of Ismailism living in different parts of the world and if the Mongols had not arrived, he and his beliefs would have probably conquered the whole world.

Khayyam's thoughts were developed in three parts of Iran in this era. These areas were: Balkh, Neishaboor, Isfahan and Baghdad. Balkh was a city which hosted the Nobahar fire-temple of the Zoroastrians and Nowruz was celebrated much greater in this city in comparison with other parts of



Stanza 48
"A potter thumps his wet clay, and with his all-obliterated tongue it exclaims, 'Gently brother, gently pray.'"



the country. This city inspired Khayyam to write his book of Epistle of Nowruz. Regarding the importance of Balkh, we will cite Ata-Malik Juvayni as saying in pre-Islamic era "In East, Balkh was like Mecca in West" and Abu Mansur Daqiqi wrote:

When King Lohrasb gave the throne to Goshtasb and left the throne and became ready to travel, he went to the selected Balkh city which had Nobahar fire temple that was revered and respected by the then worshipers in a manner that pilgrims revere and respect Makkah. Balkh was a junction which connected east to west and incorporated Buda, Zoroastrian and Hindu thoughts and western trade convoys brought their Christian believes to this city.

When Khayyam was young and a student, he lived in Isfahan for a while. Later, Malik-Shah (1072 -1092) invited him along a number of other scholars to Isfahan and instructed them to set up "Jalali calendar". On those days, Isfahan was the most important city in Iran and became the center of politics and knowledge in the Islamic world. Khayyam for a while was attending Malik-Shah as the greatest and most powerful Seljuk king who respected Khayyam a lot. While Khayyam lived in Isfahan, he was accompanied by great scholars of science, religion and mysticism. He also lived for some time in Baghdad. There is no doubt Baghdad was the most important and credible city on those days which was influenced by Iranian culture and bureaucracy. By virtue of his trips and as a result of studying the works of great scholars such as Al-Maarri, Avicenna, Al-Zamakhshari, Abul-Fazl Bayhaqi, Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali and Sanaee and keeping company with them, Khayyam accumulated his wisdom.

Khayyam was born in Khorasan, north of Iran, a short time following the death of Ferdowsi there. The most outstanding feature of Khayyam's mysticism thoughts pitied the glorious past of Iran. Khayyam in his quatrain said: That palace which was the residence of the kings, was home to a dove singing cuckoo, cuckoo.

When we study Khayyam's Epistle of Nowruz, we realize that he was fully familiar with the history of the ancient Iran and he felt an attachment to Iranian heroic stories and rituals. He knew these stories for sure as a result of reading Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and other sources and his attachment was seen in quotations he made. For instance, Khayyam, in his Epistle of Nowruz, wrote: "non-Arab kings made a lot of efforts as their rituals to ensure justice, develop, learn, be wise and honor the wise people". At the same time, among more than one hundred quatrains attributed to Khayyam, there are 17

quatrains which are directly and indirectly mentioning the names of ancient Persian (mythical or historic) kings. All these quatrains start with being and end with non-existence. Unfortunately, little works of Khayyam are available today and those available are in mathematics, geometry, astronomy and climatology, which do not allow us to understand the essence of his thoughts. Unlike other scholars, Khayyam did not have enough time to hold discussions and exchanges with other scholars so as to enable us to understand his thoughts. Probably, the reason for this reticence is that he was more knowledgeable than others or he could not find an able scholar to share these thoughts with or he felt the danger of being accused of excommunication by the bigot muftis, but we know that he was in regular and continuous contact with his contemporary scholars and especially astronauts and his students did not leave him alone. Probably, Khayyam's most important goal was to know "inexistence" and "being". Thus, among all sciences that he was a master in, he loved astronomy more and the reason for this claim is the amount of time he dedicated to astronomy in order to recognize "inexistence and being".

Khayyam passed away in 1311 when he was almost 80 years old while he was honored by the rulers and respected by his students at all times of his life. In 1859, Edward FitzGerlad, the British poet, translated the quatrains attributed to Khayyam into English, which played a key role in introducing him to the west. There is a quotation from "FitzGerlad" regarding the translation of Khayyam's quatrains into English which indicate the depth of the poems: "I doubt I have given but a very one-sided version of Omar: but what I do only comes up as a Bubble to the Surface, and breaks" ❏

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Trinity of water, tree and mountain

Why is Cheshmeh Ali in Damghan sacred from the scenery perspective?

In ancient times, wherever Iranians saw a spring, tree and mountain, they sanctified water as the symbol of life. As a result, they preserved it throughout years. Cheshmeh Ali in Damghan has always been considered sacred and pure, although its function has changed in the course of history and from one generation to the other.



Historical findings on Damghan region, home to Cheshmeh Ali ("Spring Ali") indicate human habitat and urbanization dating back to pre-Islamic era and its golden time was concurrent with the Parthian Empire (247 BC to 224 AD) when "Sad Darvazeh" (literally translated as "One Hundred Gates"), now known as Damghan, was chosen as capital city. Pre-Islamic historical items found at Moghan Plain and around Cheshmeh Ali indicate the precedence of place over time in Damghan. Naming this location after Ali (the first Shia Imam) was a tradition of the time in the Islamic era, with two outcomes: "Firstly, the importance of the region for the inhabitants of a land named after the first Shia Imam and secondly, the level of respect among ancient Persians for Imam Ali after converting to Islam (Mansoori, 1397:3). Most of the ancient Persian beliefs related to Mithra in the Islamic era have been sanctified with the name of Imam Ali in order to be preserved (like Cheshmeh Ali in Rey and Morteza Ali Spring in Tabas).

Defining springs as an important landscape is an Iranian custom. Mythical naming, constructing governmental buildings at the bank of the springs and rivers, establishing social traditions on specific days and promoting mythical beliefs when describing its identity are all symbols of formation and preservation of spring landscape. Cheshmeh Ali in Damghan is a natural structure which symbolizes

the significance of water thanks to the climatic and geographical characteristics of its watershed. In different parts of Iran, especially at the Iranian plateau, there are some "sacred" water sources like springs, lakes and qanats which were created or owned by Prophets or Imams.

When moving from Damghan city towards Cheshmeh Ali, the road can indicate the rich history of Moghan Plain. On the way, you can see historical monuments which date back to pre-Islamic era. Castles like Gardkooch, Mansoorkooch and Mehrnegar and their function at different times from the Parthian Empire to Ismaili Dynasty and the following empires, indicate the strategic significance of this region as a connecting route; a historic route which starts at Cheshmeh Ali (as the source of greenness and life) and ends at Tappeh Hesar (as the oldest point of urbanization in this area). Based on studies and archeological findings of Professor Erich Schmidt, Tappeh Hesar dates back to 5900 B.C. All these points indicate that Moghan Plain as a pleasant climatic and fertile area located between the Alborz range and Dasht-e Kavir has been considered as the main artery and route of trade and transport at ancient times and was the only natural and appropriate path for military expeditions and shuttle of convoys and tourists (Qazanfari and Karimi, 2016).

Meanwhile, about 30 kilometers north-west of Damghan, on the way of Damghan-Kiasar-Sari, en route the Astaneh and Kalateh villages, there is a very beautiful and natural lake. Cheshmeh Ali in Damghan, as the source of the only permanently flowing river of the town, which begins at springs located at the bottom of lake and from the surrounding mountains, is an example of sacred places which dates back to pre-Islamic era. Nowadays, people of Damghan consider this place and water sacred and tie a faith ribbon to a plane tree there and immerse their bodies in its water. These people even believe that the fish living in the spring water are sacred and are

not to be hunted.

Inhabitants of this region believe that the spring came into birth when Doldol, Imam Ali's horse, hoofed the ground. "... one of them (springs) is located next to an old tree and the water is flowing out very strongly. It is said that the hoof of Doldol, Imam Ali's horse, hit there and the water started flowing. There is a piece of stone next to the spring which is engraved and there is a plain tree as well that visitors of Cheshmeh Ali tie ribbons to its branches and it is called "tying ribbons". This is the known appellation". (Qazanfari and Karimi, 2016, Damghan city Cultural Heritage Archives, 2007). Astaneh village is connected to this complex by Mashhad-Tehran road as well as a shortcut dirt road which has been created by the local inhabitants and it is called "Salavati Passage" (Passage of Peace Sending). The appellation is the local inhabitants' belief in Cheshmeh Ali. On days of Moharram (mourning month of Muslims), commemorators from this village and other neighboring villages use this path to Cheshmeh Ali to hold processions and congregate for prayers. When moving on this road and upon sighting Cheshmeh Ali, villagers stop and send peace to Prophet Muhammad and members of his household (peace be upon them). Based on the existing facts and evidence, Cheshmeh Ali is a holy place attributed to Imam Ali while he never travelled to Iran (Mirshokraei, 2003).

Cheshmeh Ali is such a pleasant and beautiful place that attracted kings and rulers and was a place of camping for them. Among the Iranian rulers, Qajar kings travelled frequently to this place. Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar (1742-1797) and Fath-Ali Shah Qajar (1769 -1834), who was born in Damghan, established significant and beautiful buildings and mansions in Cheshmeh Ali and in fact lived there. In 1867, Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, on his way to Khorasan, stayed for a couple of days in Cheshmeh Ali and people of Damghan narrate interesting stories from that trip. Mansions



Water springs constitute an important territorial perspective in the Iranian tradition. Mythical naming of places, constructing state buildings next to springs, establishment of social traditions on some specific days and promoting mythical beliefs describing the identity of spring are all symbols behind water springs.



Photo 1. Aerial picture from Damqan Cheshmeh Ali, from "Joy of Bathing In Qajar Kings' Summer Resort - Iran Front Page," 2018



Photo 2. Aerial picture from Damqan Cheshmeh Ali, from "Joy of Bathing In Qajar Kings' Summer Resort - Iran Front Page," 2018



Photo 3. Palaces and the springs originating from Damqan Cheshmeh Ali

Photo 4. The historical path of moving from Damghan to Cheshmeh Aii, the outstanding and historical elements are: 1. Mehrnegar Castle, 2. Mansorkooh Castle, 3. Bakhsan Dam, 4. Gerdkooh Castle, 5. Martyr Cheraghi Dam (Qazanfari, Karimi, 2016)

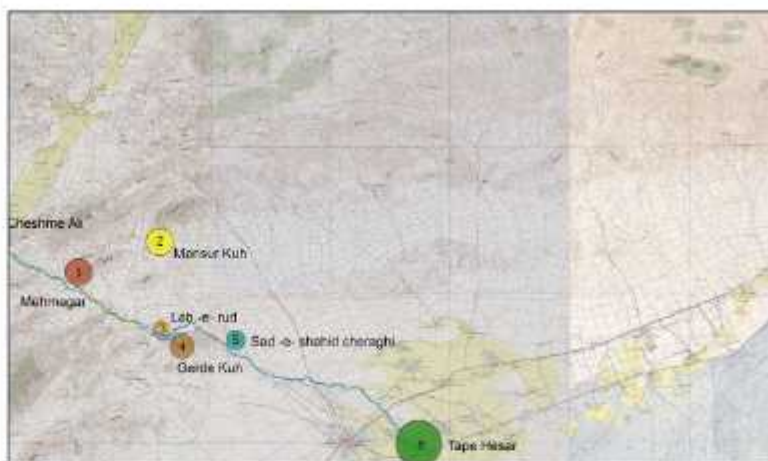
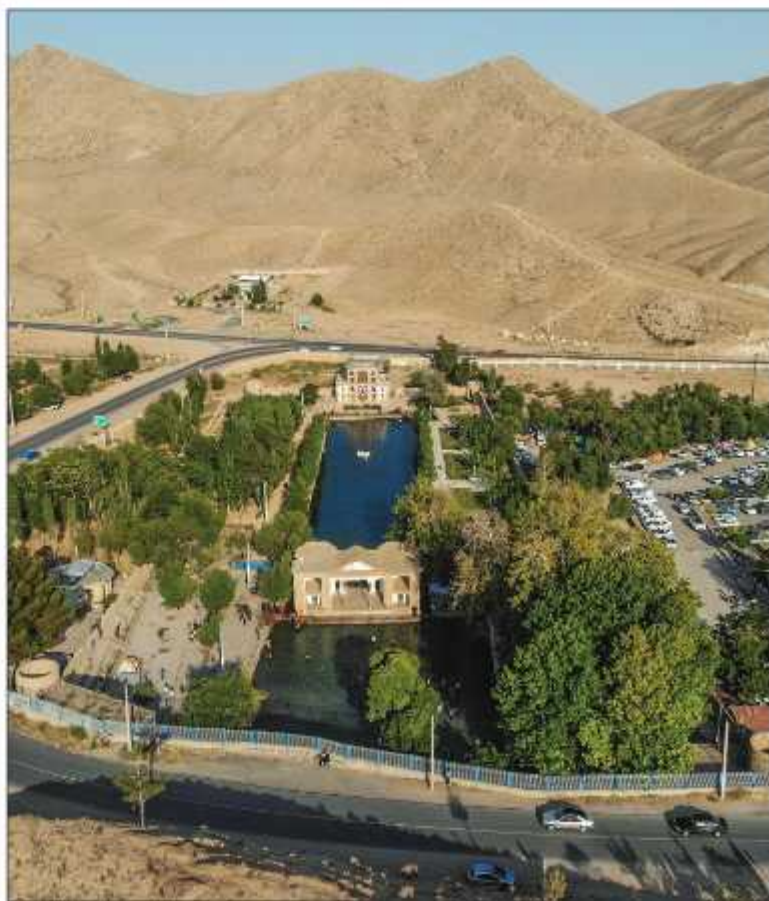


Photo 5. Swimm in Damghan Cheshmeh Aii from "Joy Of Bathing In Qajar Kings' Summer Resort - Iran Front Page," 2018





built by Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar and Fath-Ali Shah Qajar in Cheshmeh Ali are as follow: 1. Fath-Ali Shah Qajar's palace at the middle of the Cheshmeh Ali lake which is encircled by water, 2. Fath-Ali Shah Qajar's mosque at the west side of the complex with a simple construction, 3. Another building at the south part of Cheshmeh Ali at the bank of river -, 4. A castle-like building at the west of the complex and at the top of a hill which was built probably at the Qajar's era and for security

guards (Nejati, 1967). At Fath-Ali Shah Qajar's palace, there is a deed of endowment in Nastaligh font in 9 paragraphs engraved on two marble stones (Najati, 1967, pp 544545-).

There are different examples in Moghan Plain geographical region which fully reflect the thoughts and beliefs of the local people and constitute the roots of our beliefs today. In line with items found at Tappeh Hesar, existing beliefs regarding Fikhar Qanat, located 20 kilometers away from Damghan, as well as beliefs about Badkhan Spring which is most probably the same Cheshmeh Ali of Damghan and the "Chehel Dokhtaran" dome and decorations used there in Damghan city are all very clearly narrating myths which have been totally integrated in the life of the inhabitants of this region.

For people whose lives are closely connected with nature, agriculture, fertile plains and cultivation are dependent on rainfall and water flowing from the Cheshmeh Ali spring which is the source of only ever running river in this area. At the same time, analyzing the findings of Tappeh Hesar explorations and clarification of beliefs brings this theory to the mind that probably this spring, as a result of its role in the lives of the inhabitants of this region, has been always sacred since the presence of mankind in this plain and start of inhabitation there (Qazanfari and Karimi, 2016).

Due to their roles in the lives of ancient human beings, such natural elements were considered sacred and were therefore dedicated gods for protection. Wherever Persians saw any springs, trees or mountains which were a source of life, they considered them sacred and protected them through the years. What matters is the fact that Cheshmeh Ali of Damghan will always remain a symbol of cleanness, purity and sanctity, although its functions have changed in history and from one generation to other generation ◀

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Guest of Flowers

**Traditional ceremony of rolling in
flowers in Semnan Province**



Mohsen Shamsizade Ravandi

Editorial Secretary



Iran is full of traditions and ceremonies which are entangled with the spirit and life of humans

and demonstrate the pure nature and delicate soul of Iranians.

Spring is fragrant in different parts of Iran with the scent of beautiful flowers. People in those areas have beautiful flower-bud collection ceremonies one of which is 'Golqaltan' (or rolling in flowers).

Various rituals and celebrations are held in Semnan province in different seasons of the year due to its geography and desert-like climate. In spring, as damask roses blossom, Golqaltan ceremony is performed in

Rolling in flowers is one of the most prominent rituals of Semnan Province. It is done for one year-old or younger babies by their next of kin, including mother, aunt and grandmother.



some cities of the province.

➤ Golqaltan ceremony

Golqaltan ceremony is one of the most famous traditions in Semnan province. The ritual is performed for one-year-old or younger infants by close relatives such as mothers, aunts, uncles and grandmothers.

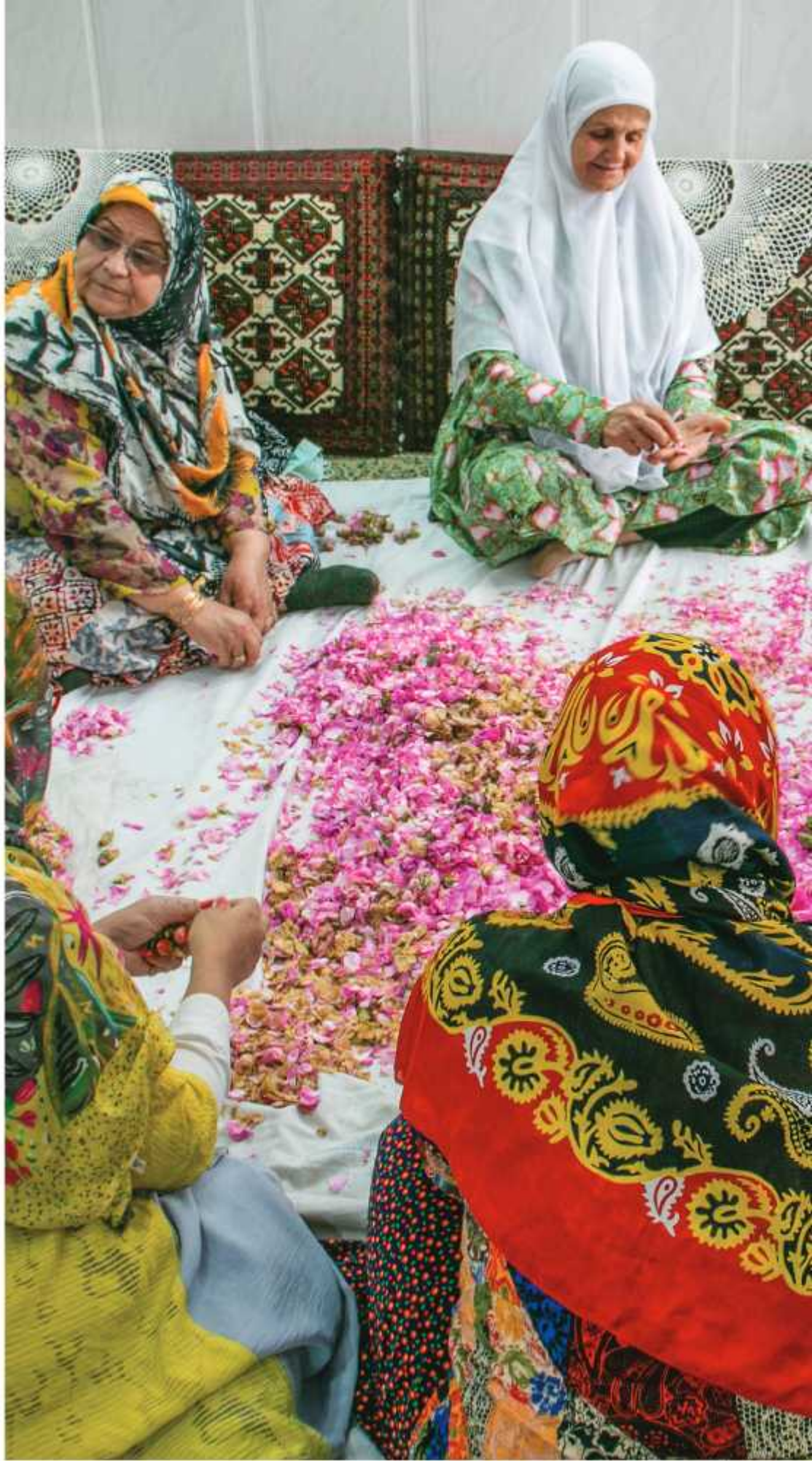
In the past, the Golqaltan ritual was mostly performed in different counties of Damghan city. The origin of the ceremony goes back to Damghan and Amirieh cities, but today it is also performed in other cities of Semnan such as Miami, Shahroud, Kalateh Khaj and Dizaj. The Golqaltan ceremony was nationally registered in 2010 for the

city of Amirieh as the first spiritual heritage of Semnan province. Of course, the ceremony has also been held in the cities of Kashan, Khorasan Razavi and Gonabad and is 100 years old.

➤ Time of Golqaltan

The Golqaltan ceremony is held when damask flowers blossom. The ceremony comes with diverse details in different cities and regions. In some places, ceremonies are held on the occasion of a baby's one-year-old birthday. In some areas it is performed for babies who are in their first spring of life, and in some places it is performed after the tenth day of birth. (Sometimes families who know the time of birth of their baby in future seasons collect damask roses in advance and keep them refrigerated to be used in the ceremony after the tenth day of the baby's birth.) In general, the ceremony marks the first spring of a child's life.









➤ **Manner of celebration**

Days before the ceremony, female relatives of the baby go to the damask rose gardens early in the morning and collect flowers while reciting religious mantras and prayers as well as pieces of poetry. After collecting the flowers, they separate the petals and thorns, pouring them into a bright (usually white) cloth.

Then, the baby is given a bath usually by the baby's grandmother. In some areas, they put henna on the

baby's hands. After the bath, they dry the baby and put him/her on the flowers that are already spread on the cloth and cover him/her with petals. Afterwards, the family members grab the four corners of the cloth and roll the baby among the flowers while reciting poetry and religious mantras wishing the baby good health and



prosperity.

After they put the baby down on the ground, the guests leave their gifts by the side of the cloth. At the end of the ceremony, they serve the guests with tea, sweets and drinks. The flower petals are dried and kept for the baby's future by the mother. If the baby is a boy, they put the petals in

his prayer rug and groom's clothes and if it is a girl they put them in her dowry prayer rug.

➤ **Philosophy of Golqaltan**

The people in this region believe rolling a baby among damask roses brings happiness and joy to the baby and save it from disease and evil. In addition, the fresh flowers protect the baby's skin and keep it fresh and joyful ◀

Events

This section will cover diplomatic events and receptions held by foreign missions during the first two months of the Iranian calendar year 1401.



2022/05/08

National Constitution Day of the Republic of Poland

Polish National Constitution Day and the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Polish refugees in Iran during World War II, were held at Vahdat Hall in Tehran.

The ceremony of the National Constitution Day of Poland and the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Polish refugees in Iran during World War II, were held on Sunday, May 8, 2022 (corresponding to Ordibehesht 18, 1401) at the Vahdat hall in Tehran, with the presence of Mr. Zbigniew Rau, Polish Foreign Minister and Mr. Ali Bagheri, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs and Mr. Saeed Khatibzadeh, Foreign Ministry spokesman, as well as a group of political officials.



The 49th Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

The 49th Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was honored in Tehran on Monday, May 9, 2022 (corresponding to Ordibehesht 19,1401) at the Parsian Hotel. It should be noted that Mr. Hamid Reza Alaei Tabatabai, Deputy Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, was one of the guest of this ceremony.



2022/05/09

The European National Day ceremony

The European National Day ceremony was held at the residence of the French Ambassador in Tehran.

The European National Day ceremony was held on Monday, May 2, 2022) corresponding to Ordibehesht 19, 1401) with the presence of all EU member states at the French Ambassador's residence in Tehran.

Mr. Peyman Saadat, advisor and Director General of Western Europe at Foreign Ministry, and Mr. Abdul Majid Mozaffari, Head of European Organizations at Foreign Ministry, attended the Ceremony on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



2022/05/15

The 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kyrgyz Republic

The ceremony of 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, was held at Cultural Institute of ECO.

The commemoration ceremony of 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran was held on Sunday, May 15, 2022 (corresponding to Ordibehesht 25, 1401) at the Cultural Institute of ECO.

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Hassan Sheikh al-Islami, Head of the Center for Political and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr. Khosrow Nazeri, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) were among the guests participating in the ceremony.



The World Portuguese Language Day in the residence of the Ambassador of Brazil

The ceremony of the World Portuguese Language Day was held on Monday, May 16, 2022 (corresponding to Ordibehesht 26, 1401) at the residence of the Ambassador of Brazil in Tehran. Mr. Issa Kameli, Advisor to the Foreign Minister and Director General of America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Reza Nazar Ahari, Advisor to the Foreign Minister, participated in this ceremony on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

New Ambassadors Appointed to the Islamic Republic of Iran

This sections presents a list of departing and newly-appointed ambassadors to the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first two months of the Iranian calendar year 1401.

2021|09|01

His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copies of the letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Belarus (Mr. Dmitry Koltsov), Switzerland (Mr. Christian Dussey), Austria (Mr. Wolf Dietrich Heim), Sri Lanka (Mr. Wishwanath Aponso) and the United Kingdom (Mr. Simon Shercliff).



Ambassadors of Belarus



Ambassadors of Switzerland



Ambassadors of Austria



Ambassadors of Sri Lanka



Ambassadors of UK

2021|09|26

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of UK, Austria, Sri Lanka and Belarus.



Ambassadors of UK



Ambassadors of Austria



Ambassadors of Sri Lanka



Ambassadors of Belarus

2021|09|30

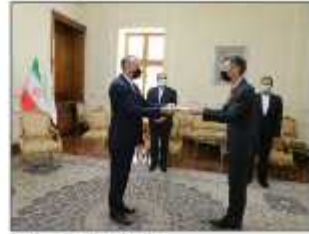
His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copies of the letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Kirgizstan (Mr. Sydykov Turdakun), Spain (Mr. Angel Losada Fernandez), Netherlands (Mr. Frank Mollen), Cyprus (Mr. Andreas Kouzoupis), Azerbaijan (Mr. Ali Alizada), Finland (Mr. Kari Kahiluoto) and Belgium (Mr. Gianmarco Rizzo).



Ambassadors of Kirgizstan



Ambassadors of Spain



Ambassadors of Netherlands



Ambassadors of Cyprus



Ambassadors of Azerbaijan



Ambassadors of Finland



Ambassadors of Belgium

2021|09|30

His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received the credentials of Stefan Priesner, the UN Resident Coordinator and Robin Nandy, UNICEF Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Robin Nandy



Stefan Priesner

2021|10|25

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Switzerland, Kirgizstan, Belgium, Finland, Cyprus and Azerbaijan.



Ambassadors of Switzerland



Ambassadors of Kirgizstan



Ambassadors of Belgium



Ambassadors of Finland



Ambassadors of Cyprus



Ambassadors of Azerbaijan

2021|10|31

His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copies of the letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of New Zealand (Michael Wohi) and Vatican (Andeji Yusovic).



Ambassadors of New Zealand



Ambassadors of Vatican

2021|11|22

His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copies of the letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Armenia (Arsen Avagyan) and Brunei Darussalam (Ismail ben Haji Abdul Manap).



Ambassadors of Armenia



Ambassadors of Brunei

2021|1|23

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of New Zealand, Vatican, Netherlands and Spain.



Ambassadors of New Zealand



Ambassadors of Vatican



Ambassadors of Netherlands



Ambassadors of Spain

2022|0|06

His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copy of the letter of credence of the new Ambassador of Algeria (Ali Orouj).



Ambassadors of Algeria

2022|0|24

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam and Algeria.



Ambassadors of Brunei



Ambassadors of Algeria

2022|02|07

His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copies of the letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Palestine (Salam Al-Zawawi) and Cuba (Alberto González).



Ambassadors of Palestine



Ambassadors of Cuba

2022|02|08

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Palestine (Salam Al-Zawawi) and Cuba (Alberto González).



Ambassadors of Palestine

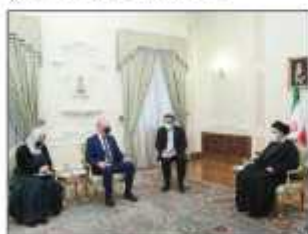


Ambassadors of Cuba

2022|02|13

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letter of credence of the new Ambassador of Ireland (Saina McGuinness).

His Excellency Dr. Amir Aabdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copy of the letter of credence of the new Ambassador of Ireland (Saina McGuinness).



Ambassadors of Ireland



Ambassadors of Ireland

2022|03|09

His Excellency Amir Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copy of the letter of credence of the new Ambassador of Vietnam (Luong Quoc Huy).



Ambassadors of Vietnam

2022/04/24

His Excellency Dr. Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received copies of the letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Latvia (Pēteris Vaivars), Nepal (Tapas Adhikari), Burundi (Gerard Ntahorwaroye Bikebako), Monte Negro (Periša Kastratović) and Estonia (Anelli Kook).



Ambassadors of Latvia



Ambassadors of Nepal



Ambassadors of Burundi



Ambassadors of Monte Negro



Ambassadors of Estonia

2022/04/25

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letters of credence of the new Ambassadors of Armenia, Burundi, Latvia, Nepal, Monte Negro and Estonia.



Ambassadors of Armenia



Ambassadors of Burundi



Ambassadors of Latvia



Ambassadors of Nepal



Ambassadors of Monte Negro



Ambassadors of Estonia

In the following report, Municipality of Tehran's activities and its relations with foreign missions in Tehran as well as Tehran's attractions are presented.





Unique Exhibit of Glass and Light

Iran Museum of Glass
and Earthenware at the
Heart of Capital



Tehran is the beating heart of Iran and a modern city with numerous "tourism attractions" which represents thousands of years of art, culture and civilization. "Iran Museum of Glass and Earthenware" is one of the top attractions of the city.

> Introduction

The Glassware & Ceramic Museum monument is a historical house relevant to the Qajar Period registered in the National Heritage List (1998). The two-story Museum was built in an octagonal brick mansion in a garden with more than 7,000 m² under the command of Ahmad Ghavam (Ghavam A1 Saltaneh) at the early Pahlavi Era, and was used as Egypt and Afghanistan Embassy. The mansion was sold to the Farah Pahlavi's Office and has been transformed to the museum in 1975. The building is ornamented by wood-carving doorframes, stairs, and brick working of the facade in Seljuq's architecture style. The plasterworks of the museum belong to two periods: The Ghavam period and the western style during the embassy of Egypt, and the mirror works at the second floor dating back to the Qajar Period. In general, the five halls of the museum (The Crystal Hall, Mina Hall, Zarin Hall (seashell hall), Zarrin Hall, library) are divided into two parts, Pre-Islamic and Post-Islamic artworks. The first floor dates back to the Pre-Islamic period and has two main halls. Potteries consist of clay relevant to the first millennium as well as the ones donated to the museum by European in the 18th and 19th centuries are kept in the corridor of the first floor. The most important discovered antiquities and potteries including colored pottery figures, glass ornamentations of the 4th and 54 centuries, and potteries related to the first millennium B.C. are shown in the first floor.

> General Information:

Visiting Time: 9-17

Duration of Visit: 1-12 hrs

Weekly Holiday: Monday

Annual Holidays: Official Holidays and Days of mourning

Location: No. 55, Si Tir St., Jomhouri Ave., Tehran

> Suggestions

Best Time to Visit: No limit

Nearest Tourist Attractions: Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, National Art Museum of Iran, Saba Museum, Communication Museum, Park-e Shahr.









Amazing
Tehran



