

# DIPLOMAT

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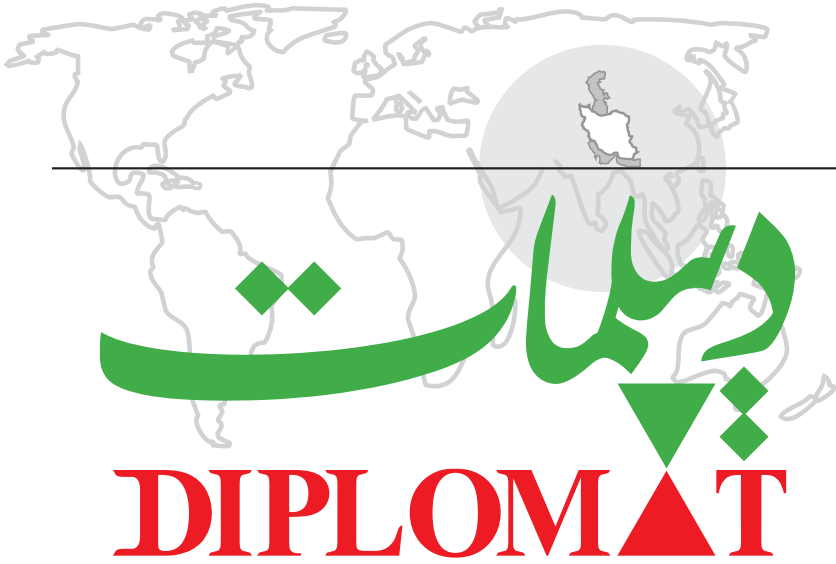
Journal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran



## THE JEWEL OF SHARED HERITAGE OF PERSIAN SPEAKERS

Common Roots of Nations in Culture and Literature  
Deepened by Luminaries such as Roodaki

In the Name of God  
The Merciful, The Compassionate



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

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

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With thanks to Soroor Poormansoori and Hamidreza Gholamzadeh AMF Secretary-General

**Print:** Hamshahri Institute

**Publisher:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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# ALL BOAST THAT IRAN IS GREAT, SO MUCH GREAT



In the second issue of the *Diplomat*--now a *quarterly*--, our readers become more familiar with the Republic of Tajikistan—a relative—a country with which we share the same language and feel the same sense of unity. Brotherhood and harmony between Iran and Tajikistan are age-old and remain so much strong and durable as the strength and durability of poems by Roodaki—the renowned Persian poet of the first centuries of the solar calendar.

I am very pleased that the second issue of the *Diplomat* is now being looked at and ready by you. My colleagues received appropriate feedback on the first issue of the *Diplomat* and appreciate further useful and constructive comments. The feedback and comments of our dear readers were adequately discussed in the Editorial Board and helped improve the content of the second issue of the *Diplomat*. We welcome more feedback and comments by our distinguished readers for the improvement of our *Diplomat*.

In the first issue of the *Diplomat*, we reviewed relations with the friend and brother country Iraq and here we review Tajikistan as —a relative— a country with which we share the same language and feel the same sense of unity. Brotherhood and harmony between Iran and Tajikistan are age-old and remain so much strong and durable as the strength and durability of poems by Roodaki—the renowned Persian poet of the first centuries of the solar calendar. As we recite the words of Roodaki, “The fragrance of the River Mooliyan always being felt, The recall of the nice friend always being sensed”, we dedicate this issue to the “nice friend” of Roodaki i.e. Tajikistan—the nice friend.

This issue of the *Diplomat* begins with the words of Roodaki; then Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani, one of the shared prominent luminaries of Iran and Tajikistan in Kulob is introduced. He brings the mystical and divine ritual from Iran to Kashmir and the Indian subcontinent and whispers the call of faith and mysticism in the ears

of the people; as if searching the truth and spirituality have been the binding connection among the Persian speakers. The current issue of the *Diplomat* depicts the personality and life of Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani.

Dr. Haddad-Adel, a distinguished scholar and researcher of the Persian language, has eloquently and exquisitely explored and touched upon issues related to the Persian language and literature. The area under the influence of the Persian culture is vast, age-old and everlasting and Tajikistan is one of the main and authentic pillars of such a glorious culture. The Persian language has been described as strong by Khosro Qobadiani in his famous verse which reads “I will not sacrifice this strong priceless Persian language before the holders of power”. Persian remains the main linkage and strongest bond connecting two brother nations who speak the same language and practice the same faith. Relations between Iran and Tajikistan are valuable and cherished but do not reflect all their capacities and efforts. Fortunately, there is strong determination and tireless efforts in Tehran and Dushanbe to take a huge leap in bolstering bilateral relations in all the dimensions.

In this issue of the *Diplomat*, we continue the chronology of Iran’s foreign relations to represent a short review of Tehran’s active and dynamic diplomacy. Other aspects of Iranology are further described in the second issue of the *Diplomat*. Some of the activities of the embassies in Tehran including the appointment of new ambassadors are also covered in this issue of the *Diplomat*.

Let’s remind our dear readers that the *Diplomat* welcomes your comments and remarks for publication. In conclusion, I would like to recite a piece of poetry by Tajikistan’s renowned poet Mr. Mehman Mohabbatov Bakhti who construes the compassionate and intertwined views of the people of Iran and Tajikistan:

*All boast that Iran is great, so much great  
This is explicit in the words and minds of the elderly wise,*

*The enemy of you, the beautiful country  
Will remain forever in shock of your high status ◀*



**Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani brings the mystical and divine ritual from Iran to Kashmir and the Indian subcontinent and whispers the call of faith and mysticism in the ears of the people; as if searching the truth and spirituality have been the binding connection among the Persian speakers. The current issue of the *Diplomat* depicts the personality and life of Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani.**

# IPIS AT A GLANCE

Let`s learn more about the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) affiliated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran



*During the past four decades after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has undergone numerous changes, taking into account internal and international developments with the objective of further optimizing the functions of this Ministry in line with the advancement of the foreign policy goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran; however the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), due to numerous reasons, including its recent history and research and study needs, and sometimes in line with the wishes and will of the hierarchy, has been subject to most structural changes.*

According to the existing documents, the Employees' Club of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was opened back in 1972. Upon the request of Mr. Khalatbari, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, from Mr. Hoveida, the then Prime Minister the Employees' Club was established on a 10,000-square-meter land leased from the Endowments Organization; later, five more plots of land with a total area of 13,514.71 square meters were purchased and annexed to the club. In 1978 and with the victory of the Islamic revolution, the club was suspended and the Administrative and Financial Deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appointed a supervisor and took charge of the club.

The process for converting the club into an academic and research institute, especially the obstacles and challenges in practice, can be studied in another writing and occasion which deserves attention. The influential role of the high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs require them to be consistently updated by findings of relevant research and studies as a support to the foreign policy. This was a leading factor behind the incorporation of the IPIS. In 1983, this institute was established under the title of Political and International Studies Office; in 1985, the proposed organizational chart of the institute was presented to the State Employment Affairs Organization. In 1989,

the Deputy for Educational and Research Affairs was established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under a new name i.e. “Institute for Political and International Studies and Planning and Educational Services Office”. From 1989 to 2017, the organizational chart of the IPIS and its mission and functions were shifted on different occasions. In 2017, the Center for International Education and Research changed name to the Institute for Political and International Studies. This institute has been running since then under the Ministerial Cabinet with three deputies for research and study, executive affairs and documents as well as the School of International Relations. According to the organizational chart proposed to the State Employment Affairs Organization in 2020, the IPIS is placed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and not the Ministerial Cabinet. It is noteworthy that due to the recent decision to restore and restructure the organization, the sub-groups of the IPIS have also been subject to changes and a Deputy for Education has been added to the institute.

### Approaches of the IPIS

Despite all the changes described above, including the structural changes under different directors with various perspectives, the IPIS has maintained its academic and research approach. The most important pillars of this approach are as follows:

- The importance of research, study and production of literature in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy
- Creating a platform for the exchange of opinions, dialogue, and generation of thoughts and ideas with the presence of international researchers in the form of holding bilateral and multilateral conferences and roundtables.
- Strengthening knowledge and awareness in the field of foreign policy by using efficient and capable human resources in order to play an effective role in policy making.



**The IPIS publishes outstanding books and academic journals and findings of research into a variety of international relations issues.**

- Linking the foreign policy of Iran with the surrounding regions through holding international and regional conferences, including the regular conferences of the Persian Gulf, Central Asia and Afghanistan, as well as the Tehran Dialogue Forum.
- Satisfying the inherent needs of foreign policy
- Consolidating engagement and successful presence in international study forums with professional capacity to defend the country's national interests in academic and research formats
- Producing literature on foreign policy and international relations and publishing it in the form of books, magazines, quarterly journals and numerous other publications
- Preserving and publishing the valuable collection of historical document archives amounting to 50 million historical documents, agreements and memoranda of understanding, historical maps, images, films, etc.

### The IPIS Performance

In order to achieve its goals and fulfill its responsibilities, the IPIS has taken effective measures in various fields of its assigned duties. Providing a platform for further interaction among foreign policy elites and connecting with the scientific, academic and research community have been important functions of the IPIS, especially in the early years of its establishment. This function becomes even more significant taking into account the considerations and pressures on the fields of humanities and social affairs in the early years after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. This performance and the use of university professors by this fledgling institute greatly contributed to the survival of the fields of political science and international relations. On the other hand, research activities and creating links with the country's scientific and academic community



have led to improvements in human resources training and knowledge of young diplomats, providing a modeling role for other research institutes.

Providing scientific support and encouragement for the foreign policy experts in the diplomatic apparatus are considered to be other important functions of the IPIS. This important objective has been realized by publishing books, holding regional and international conferences, as well as setting up academic roundtables with the presence of elites and thinkers to analyze global and international developments. To help achieve this, the IPIS Library was established in 1999 and the written, visual, and audio resources were collected and provided to researchers as rich academic resources in the fields of political science in Persian and English languages.

The high number of conferences held in the institute and greater participation of political and academic figures in these conferences are among other admirable IPIS activities. Some of these conferences are held in consideration of the regional and global developments; some others are organized regularly. Among them are the Persian Gulf Conference, the Central Asia Conference, the Afghanistan Conference, the Iran Conference and the Tehran Dialogue Forum. Other conferences have also been held in this institute, which were not annual or regular, but at the same time, were of considerable importance. For example, the Conference on a World Free from Violence, the Conference on the United Nations Work Program, the Conference on Human Rights, the Conference on the Indian Ocean, the Conference on the Islamic world, Challenges and Opportunities.

The initiative of holding bilateral and multilateral roundtables with the participation of research institutes from other countries is one of the other strong points in the performance of the IPIS. This important subject did not stop even during the Covid-19 pandemic and was held in the form of webinars and

teleconferences. Last year alone, more than 70 webinars were held in IPIS with the effective participation of political figures and researchers and heads of research institutes.

Generating literature and publishing academic and research books and journals are among the other prominent and effective functions of the IPIS. Some of the published journals and articles are unique in terms of expertise and science. The initiative of publishing the Journal of Central Asia and the Caucasus at the beginning days of the formation of the newly established republics of the former Soviet Union and the studies conducted on Central Asia, publishing English and Arabic journals, publishing academic and research articles in Africa Journal, writing more than 350 issues of bulletins of events and analyses, publishing books in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy, promotion of diplomatic experience of ambassadors in the form of oral history and academic journal of foreign policy are outstanding in this part of the IPIS's performance.

Educating and training professional diplomatic staff, admission of students in majors such as Diplomacy and International Organizations, Regional Studies, International Relations and World Studies at the master's level are among the activities of the School of International Relations which have been realized with the help of distinguished professors and experienced diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Academic cooperation and exchange with domestic and foreign universities and educational institutes is organized and facilitated by the School of International Relations.

Realization of the above-mentioned objectives is undoubtedly the result of the admirable and continuous efforts of the efficient group of colleagues at the IPIS, including directors and senior experts who with their knowledge and academic ability and diplomatic experience, have assisted this institute in achieving its goals and fulfilling its responsibilities. ◀



**The IPIS prepares the ground for further interaction among the foreign policy elites; it also strengthens the link between academicians, universities and research centers. This has been a primary function of the IPIS right from its establishment.**

# SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION ON THE 22ND STEP

## Iran is now officially a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

*President Raisi's three-day trip to Samarkand ended with Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), meetings with the leaders of the SCO Member States, and conclusion of 17 memoranda of understanding and cooperation documents between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.*



The 22nd Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States was held on Friday, September 25th 2022, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, with the presence of H.E. Mr. Raisi, the honorable President of

the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This meeting was chaired by H.E. Shaukat Mirzayev, the honorable President of Uzbekistan at the Silk Road Complex in Samarkand.

Heads of State from China, Russia, India, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Turkey, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan attended the summit in the presence of Mr. Zhang Ming, the Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Mr. Ruslan Mirzayev, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

**> With the active and effective engagement of Iran in the SCO activities, Iran's membership will be recorded as one of the important developments in the history of this organization.**

At the 22nd SCO Summit, Iran's President promoted "maximum interaction and cooperation" with the regional countries, including the SCO Member States, and Iran's effective participation in regional and international arrangements as the core of Iran's foreign policy. He stated that "by the active and effective engagement of Iran in the SCO activities, this membership will be recorded as one of the important developments in the history of this organization".

He added that "the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which is a symbol of the "great family of civilizations", is now standing in a position that can open new horizons for regional integration and security-building cooperation based on its unique characteristics including justice, spirituality and respect for human dignity".



➤ **The Shanghai Cooperation Organization can open new horizons for regional integration and security-building cooperation.**

President Raisi stated that “in addition to the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in ensuring stability and security in the region, especially when it comes to confrontation with Takfiri terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking and other forms of international organized crime, as well as hosting millions of people from our neighboring countries, we have put "deepening economic multilateralism" on our agenda as well”.

➤ **US Imposing its demands and domestic laws on the international system.**

While emphasizing the main pillars of the US policy in imposing its demands on the international system, President Raisi said that “in recent years, economic and political multilateralism have been seriously threatened, and the US has placed in its agenda imposing its demands and domestic laws on the international system”.

➤ **The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is in need of adopting new solutions and special measures to deal with unilateralism and cruel sanctions.**

President Raisi pointed out that “promoting sustainable trade among the SCO Members States requires joint development of infrastructures in the field of financial, commodity





and data exchange among the countries”.

**>The combination of the owners of the largest energy reserves with the largest consuming economies would form diverse and effective cooperation.**

In conclusion, emphasizing the importance of energy, President Raisi said that the owners of the largest energy reserves in the world are contributing to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, along with the major energy-consuming economies. Other Member States also enjoy great advantages of energy transit between production and consumption centers.

**>Iranian business community in Uzbekistan should use the**

**good opportunities created to deepen relations between our two countries.**

In another part of his three-day visit to Uzbekistan, President Raisi attended a gathering of Iranian entrepreneurs and economic activists living in Uzbekistan and identified Iran's scientific and economic developments as good capacities for deepening relations with Uzbekistan. While referring to Iran's progress in various economic and scientific fields, he asked the Iranian business and economic activists living in that country to use the good capacities created in order to deepen the relations between the two countries.

**>The relations between Iran and Uzbekistan are based on**



**historical relations and common beliefs of the two nations, and the two countries have planned to develop relations as much as possible.**

Also, on the sidelines of this visit, President Raisi, along with other presidents, participated in the ceremony of planting a memorial sapling.

President Raisi also attended the prayers of Ahl al-Bayt Rasoolullah Mosque in Samarkand and stressed that Muslims, like Ahl al-Bayt, should represent symbol of solidarity and unity.

President Raisi stated that “Iran and Uzbekistan bilateral relations are based on historical bonds and shared beliefs of the two nations, and the two countries have planned to develop relations as much as possible”.

In this visit to Samarkand, President Raisi also had bilateral meetings with honorable presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, China, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and the

Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Seventeen memoranda of understanding and cooperation documents were concluded and a joint statement was issued by the high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan as other achievements of President Raisi's visit to Samarkand.

The SCO Summit is held annually with a focus on the strategy of multilateral cooperation and priority areas of development, dealing with important issues and strengthening economic and political cooperation among the Member States. ◀



ШЕСТОЙ  
КАСПИЙСКИЙ САММИТ

29-30-июнь 2022 года, Ашхабад



ششمین اجلاس سران  
کشورهای ساحلی خزر  
شماره ۶، ۲۹ و ۳۰ ژوئن ۲۰۲۲

ALTYNJY  
HAZAR SAMMITI

ШОҶИМОҶИ ҚИТЌОҶИ ҚАСПИЙ



## Progressive Foreign Policy; Iran to Host 7th Caspian Summit

President Raisi Meets Presidents of the Caspian Sea states during his visit to Turkmenistan



Raziye Ranjbar

Senior Foreign Policy Correspondent



*Turkmenistan is the only Central Asian Muslim country that enjoys the longest borders with Iran. Some 1,200 kilometers of joint land and maritime borders between Iran and Turkmenistan have created safe and reliable neighboring conditions for a long time between them to ensure smooth trade, transit, cultural and political cooperation.*

Regardless of political and regional ups and downs, Turkmenistan has pursued a political and military doctrine based on the principle of “positive neutrality” and has managed to play a critical role in regional trade, transport and transit, logistics and natural resources for the past 27 years.

Iran and Turkmenistan, in addition to their bilateral relations and interests, are members of some regional entities such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Caspian Summit which pave the grounds for further cooperation between the two countries. In this respect, President Raisi visited Turkmenistan at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation to participate in the 6th Caspian Summit in the historical city of Ashgabat.

The 1st Caspian Summit was held in 2002 upon the initiative of former Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov in Ashgabat, with the aim of establishing the Caspian Sea legal regime with the participation of the leaders of Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan. The 2nd Caspian Summit was held in Tehran on





16 October 2007; the following summits were held respectively in Azerbaijan, Russia and Kazakhstan. Upon a proposal of President Raisi, Iran will host the 7th Caspian Summit in Tehran.

Caspian Sea countries have gathered in the last two decades to settle the legal and political issues of the world's largest inland body of water through mutual agreement. The key principle of the "exclusive and consensual competence of the Caspian Sea littoral states" was one of the important subjects at the 6th Caspian Summit which was raised by President Raisi as well in order to make decisions about the Caspian Sea and resolve its issues.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, referring to this principle as agreed by all member states, told the summit that "this principle will prevent any third and non-littoral countries to intervene in the Caspian Sea issues, transgress and take any other measures against the Caspian Sea littoral states and at the same time would avert any possible unpleasant incidents".

President Raisi further pointed to the 2018 Caspian Summit and signing of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea as a document which outlines the rights and obligations of the littoral states and the fundamental principles of movement and activity in the Caspian Sea and said that "the implementation of this document would certainly pave the ground for further cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states and would also create further opportunities for wider activities there. Certainly, achieving this end requires a fair delimitation of boundaries, the enforcement of sovereignty, governing law and competence of the littoral states regarding the seabed and sub-seabed, the surface and water column as well as the space above of the Caspian Sea".

In this regard, it is crucial to finalize the agreement on drawing the baselines; and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a country whose coastal form is evidently in an improper condition, has always clarified that the issue of drawing the baselines has been significant and decisive.

Peaceful use of the Caspian Sea with the intention of promoting security, ensuring cooperation among the member states in transportation, transit, trade and management of maritime resources, protecting the environment and preventing the presence of foreign forces in the Caspian Sea were other topics raised by President Raisi in his statement to the 2018 Caspian Summit.

In his one-day visit to Turkmenistan, President Raisi participated in the 6th Caspian Summit and met with the Chairperson of the People's Council of Turkmenistan and leaders of the Caspian Summit member states.

In his meeting with the Russian President, President Raisi defined Iran and Russia's interactions as strategic, saying that "our two countries' trade and energy exchanges are at a high level and enjoy great capacities for further expansion".

President Putin, for his part, referred to an increase in trade between Iran and Russia in 2018 and emphasized that such increase should continue in future.

The necessity of strengthening North-South Corridor, consolidating cooperation on energy, including energy swap, and reinforcing banking and monetary relations between the two countries were among the other topics discussed in this meeting. ◀



THE NEIGHBORHOOD POLICY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:  
AN APPROACH TO FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST

سیاست همسایگی جمهوری اسلامی ایران:  
رهیافتی به دوستی و اعتمادسازی



TDF 2022

TDF 2022





# TEHRAN DIALOGUE FORUM 2022

# مجمع گفتگوی تهران

## TEHRAN DIALOGUE FORUM PROMOTING GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS

The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of good neighborliness with an approach towards friendship and confidence-building is the main objective of the Tehran Dialogue Forum.



Hossein Mohammadi

Member of the Editorial Board





*The 3rd Tehran Dialogue Forum was held in Tehran last December with a focus on the Islamic Republic of Iran's "policy of good neighborliness" with the participation of representatives from 36 countries among political officials, directors of think tanks and research institutes.*

The 3rd Tehran Dialogue Forum (TDF 2022) was held on Monday, December 19, 2022, with the presence of Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and a group of thinkers, researchers and political activists from 36 countries at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS).

Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian

was the keynote speaker at the opening session of the conference. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, the President of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Dr. Abbas Araghchi, former deputy foreign minister were also present in this meeting.

In the first part of his speech at the Tehran Dialogue Forum, Minister Amir-Abdollahian emphasized the government's focus on the role and importance of Iran's relations with its neighbors and reminded that this year's Tehran Dialogue Forum has adopted the pivotal concept of "the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of good neighborliness with an approach towards friendship and trust-building". This forum is held to remind that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in its foreign policy, has focused on the concept of good neighborliness and with all its might and capacity intends to build trust and strengthen the foundations of friendship with its neighbors in the region and is taking strong steps in this direction.

Referring to the anniversary of the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, the minister commemorated these great counter-terrorism heroes who protected Iran and Iraq and the security of the region and the world against Daesh terrorism.



In another part of his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that President Raisi's government, since the beginning of its establishment, has warmly shaken the hands of its neighbors and stands ready to continue the path of dialogue and constructive and forward-looking cooperation in order to focus on further practical steps to realize inclusive development in the whole region.

Iran's neutrality in the Ukraine war, the Islamic Republic's responsible attitude towards Afghanistan, and the need to maintain the current geopolitical borders in the Caucasus region were among the other key subjects that Dr. Amir-Abdollahian raised in his remarks.

**>The Iranian nation has been paying the price for its independence for four decades and is fully committed to**



**The neighborliness policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran contributes to more friendship and confidence-building; Those are the main goals of the Tehran Dialog Forum**

**the idea of “neither East nor West” in the path of political independence.**

Dr. Amir-Abdollahian also warned those who interfere in Iran's internal affairs and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran carefully monitors any interference in its internal affairs and warns the intervening parties. The Iranian nation, including men and women, old and young, have been paying the price for their independence for four decades and are fully committed to the idea of neither East nor West in the path of political independence.

**>The US should end its hypocritical policy**

In other part of his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran criticized the US double standards and said that “on the one hand, the United States today talks about





nuclear negotiations and reaching the final steps of an agreement, and on the other hand, it supports insecurity and destabilization in Iran. This hypocritical policy must be ended and if it happens and the United States seeks to reach an agreement and return to its obligations in the JCPOA in a practical and real way, the Islamic Republic of Iran is also ready to follow the final steps of the agreement to lift sanctions and welcomes the return of all parties to their commitments”.

\* The Islamic Republic of Iran does not compromise with any party in maintaining its territorial integrity. Pointing to the continuation of strategic cooperation between Iran and China, Dr. Amir-Abdollahian emphasized that Tehran and Beijing have upgraded their relations to long-term strategic cooperation in recent years. “But I feel it necessary to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not compromise with any party in maintaining its territorial integrity”.

In the final part of his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasized the importance of Iraq's role in the West Asia region: “The geopolitical and geostrategic position of Iraq has created a capacity for this friendly

and brotherly country in our neighborhood to foster regional cooperation and Iraq's efforts to develop and advance comprehensive regional cooperation are on the agenda of the region today thanks to Iraq's capacity and position”.

It should be mentioned that H.E. Adel Abdul Mahdi, the former Prime Minister of Iraq, H.E. Denis Moncada”, the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua, H.E. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khelaifi, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar for regional affairs, H.E. Carlos Martinez, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, and H.E. Kamal Kharazi, the President of the Strategic Council for Foreign Relations and former Iranian foreign minister were also present as special guests in this forum. ◀

# 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 Raeisi's government (during August 2021 and March 2022)*

**2022 02 22**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

**2022 03 21**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Tajikistan

**2022 03 23**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meeting with the President of Syria as well as the National Security Adviser of the Syrian Arab Republic

**2022 03 24**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meets with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, the leaders of the Palestinian resistance groups in Beirut, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Lebanon

**2022 03 25**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meets with the Secretary-General of Hezbollah and the President of Lebanon

**2022 03 26**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium

**2022 03 27**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meets with the Deputy Chief of the European Union Foreign Policy

**2022 03 30**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meets with the foreign ministers of Qatar, the Republic of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Russian Federation

**2022 03 31**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian meets with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Interim Governing Body of Afghanistan

February-March 2022



**2022 03 04**

- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and H.E. Barham Saleh, the President of Iraq

**2022 04 05**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman and the Secretary General of the United Nations
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

**2022 04 06**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

**2022 04 07**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

**2022 04 08**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the foreign ministers of the government of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq

**2022 04 09**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

**2022 04 12**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso

**2022 04 14**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of Ukraine, the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Iraq

**2022 04 15**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the head of the Hamas political office

**2022 04 17**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

**2022 04 18**

- Telephone conversation between Amir Khan Motaghi, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Governing Body of Afghanistan, with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 04 19**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

**2022 04 21**

- The telephone conversation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 04 23**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the EU Foreign Policy Chief

**2022 04 27**

- Meeting of President Raisi with the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Iraq
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Vatican, the Federation of Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and also a meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Iraq

**2022 04 28**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of Kuwait and the Republic of Azerbaijan

**2022 04 28**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lebanon

**2022 04 30**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Interim Governing Body of Afghanistan and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei

**2022 05 1**

- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and the President of Tajikistan
- Telephone conversation between H.E.



Hamid Karzai, the former President of Afghanistan, and Dr. Amir-Abdollahian”

#### 2022 05 02

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Ireland
- President Raisi’s telephone conversation with the Emir of Kuwait

#### 2022 05 04

- Telephone conversation between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden and Dr. Amir- Abdollahian
- President Raisi’s telephone conversation with the President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq

#### 2022 05 06

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the United Nations

#### 2022 05 08

- Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution meeting with the President of the Syrian Arab Republic
- President Raisi’s meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

#### 2022 05 10

- Meeting of the delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 05 11

- Telephone conversation of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium with President Raisi
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s meeting with the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lebanon

#### 2022 05 12

- President Raisi’s meeting with the Emir of Qatar
- Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution meeting with the Emir of Qatar

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

#### 2022 05 14

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Greece and the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as a meeting with the Special Vice President of Cuba.

#### 2022 05 16

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s visit to the United Arab Emirates

#### 2022 05 17

- Meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Minister of Culture, Art and Tourism of the Republic of Ghana with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 05 18

- Meeting between Shahin Mustafayev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Meeting of H.E. Ricardo Caprisas, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Cuba, with President Raisi

#### 2022 05 19

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
- Meeting between H.E. Shahin Mustafayev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with President Raisi

#### 2022 05 20

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Policy Chief of the European Union and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India

#### 2022 05 22

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian’s meeting with Mrs. Valislav Petrova, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and Mrs. Kandit Mashgo Dlamini, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

#### 2022 05 23

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and also a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

- President Raisi's meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Sultanate of Oman

**2022 05 24**

- President Raisi's meeting with H.E. Haitham bin Tariq al-Saeed, the Sultan of Oman
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq and Kuwait

**2022 05 24**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's visit to Switzerland to participate at the Davos Summit

**2022 05 26**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway

**2022 05 28**

- "Mozaffar Hosseinzadeh", Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan's meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 05 22**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland, as well as a meeting with the Secretary General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

**2022 05 30**

- Meeting between the President of Tajikistan and President Raisi
- Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution meeting with the President of Tajikistan

**2022 05 31**

- "Cheng Guoping", the Foreign Security Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China's meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 06 02**

- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of

the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of Kenya

**2022 06 03**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Policy Chief of the European Union and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

**2022 06 06**

- Spiritual and political leaders and officials of Palestinian and Lebanese groups with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 06 07**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with Osman Al-Anami, the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Iraq

**2021 11 29**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as a group of eminent scholars and clerics of the Republic of India

**2022 06 08**

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

**2022 06 10**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

**2022 06 11**

- President Raisi's meeting with the President Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution meeting with Nicolas Maduro, the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**2022 06 12**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the United Nations

**2022 06 14**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, as well as a meeting with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkmenistan

and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

- Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with President Raisi

#### **2022 06 15**

- President Raisi's meeting with "Sardar Bardi Mohammadov", the President of Turkmenistan
- Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution meeting with the President of Turkmenistan

#### **2022 06 16**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq and a meeting with the Speaker of the Republic of Armenia

#### **2022 06 17**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

#### **2022 06 18**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the European Union Foreign Policy Chief and meeting with the head of the Croatia-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group.

#### **2022 06 19**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Turkey
- President Raisi's meeting with the President of Kazakhstan
- Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution meeting with the President of Kazakhstan

#### **2022 06 23**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, the Sultanate of Oman, and also a meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation

#### **2022 06 25**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with "Amir Khan Motaghi", Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Interim Governing Body of Afghanistan

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the High Representative of Foreign Policy and Security Affairs of the European Union
- The meeting of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq with President Raisi"

#### **2022 06 26**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

#### **2022 06 28**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and also attending the meeting of Foreign Ministers of Caspian Litoral States in the Republic of Turkmenistan

#### **2022 06 29**

- President Raisi's participation at the Summit of the Caspian Litoral States in Turkmenistan and a meeting with the chairman of the People's Expediency Council of the National Council of the Republic of Turkmenistan.

#### **2022 06 30**

- President Raisi's meeting with the President of the Russian Federation and also a telephone conversation with the Emir of Qatar
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of Qatar, Ukraine and the Republic of Iraq

#### **2022 07 02**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the President, Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Security Adviser of the Syrian Arab Republic as well as the leaders of the Palestinian resistance groups based in Syria

#### **2022 07 04**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France and the Sultanate of Oman, as well as a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- The meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan with President Raisi"

#### **2022 07 05**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with Mrs.

Joanna Veronika, the special coordinator of the United Nations in Lebanon

#### 2022 07 06

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden and also a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

#### 2022 07 10

- President Raisi's telephone conversation with the Presidents of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Tunisia, the Emir of Qatar and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

#### 2022 07 11

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the head of the Foreign Affairs and Immigration Commission of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, as well as attending the meeting of industrialists and businessmen in this country

#### 2022 07 12

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with Iranians living in the Republic of Italy and delivering a speech to the researchers and thinkers of the Research Institute of the Republic of Italy
- President Raisi's participation at the meeting of Ministers of Environment of 11 regional countries in Tehran

#### 2022 07 13

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Vatican

#### 2022 07 15

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

#### 2022 07 16

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

#### 2022 07 18

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

#### 2022 07 19

- Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution meeting with the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey
- President Raisi's meeting with the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the EU Foreign Policy Chief

#### 2022 01 27

- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Qatar

#### 2022 07 20

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

#### 2022 07 21

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the State of Qatar and the Republic of Iraq

#### 2022 07 22

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

#### 2022 07 27

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's speech at the 20th meeting of the D8 Council of Ministers in Dhaka, as well as a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman and the European Union Foreign Policy Chief

#### 2022 07 29

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with "Amir Khan Motaghi", Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Interim Governing Body of Afghanistan
- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and "Xi Jinping", the President of the People's Republic of China

#### 2022 07 30

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar



**2022 08 02**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with "Ziyad Nakhale", the Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement

**2022 08 05**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

**2022 08 06**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

**2022 08 07**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the United Nations as well as the Foreign Ministers of the State of Qatar, the Republic of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic

**2022 08 08**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the EU Foreign Policy Chief

**2022 08 09**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Political Office of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement

**2022 08 10**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Turkey and the Sultanate of Oman
- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

**2022 08 15**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting of the Minister of Labor and Commerce of the Republic of Mauritius

**2022 08 23**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mali

**2022 08 24**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the head of the Transitional Government of the

Republic of Mali

**2022 08 25**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's visit to Tanzania and a meeting the President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

**2022 08 26**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the President of Zanzibar

**2022 08 31**

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

**2022 09 01**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**2022 09 02**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

**2022 09 04**

- The meeting of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Yemeni affairs with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian
- Telephone conversation between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India and the State of Qatar with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 09 06**

- Meeting of "Khalil Hamdan", the Special Representative of the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Lebanon with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 09 07**

- President Raisi's meeting with Mohammed Sharifuddin, the President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia

**2022 09 08**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of South

South Africa and the People's Republic of China

**2022 09 09**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**2022 09 11**

- Mohammed Abdul Salam, the Spokesman of Ansarullah, with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 09 14**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Azerbaijan
- President Raisi's meeting with the President of Uzbekistan

**2022 09 15**

- President Raisi's meeting with the Presidents of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- The meeting of the Political Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 09 17**

- President Raisi's meeting with the President of Turkey

**2022 09 19**

- President Raisi's visit to New York to participate in the United Nations General Assembly and meet with the Presidents of France, Bolivia, President of the European Council, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq

**2022 09 20**

- Foreign Ministers of the State of Qatar and the Republic of Lebanon meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 09 21**

- President Raisi's meeting with the Presidents of Switzerland, Republic of Finland, Republic of Serbia and Prime Ministers of Lebanon, Japan and Armenia

**2022 09 22**

- Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic

of Ireland meeting with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 09 23**

- President Raisi's meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of Zimbabwe and Iranians living in the United States
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Azerbaijan

**2022 09 24**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kuwait and also the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross

**2022 09 25**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Republic of Eritrea, the Republic of Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic

**2022 09 26**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and also the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Syrian affairs

**2022 09 27**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Brunei, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Slovenia, the President of the General Assembly and the UN Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator

**2022 09 28**

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

**2022 09 30**

- Telephone conversation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 10 02**

- Telephone conversation between the

Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 10 03

- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and the Secretary General of the United Nations

#### 2022 10 04

- Telephone conversation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 10 05

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Policy

#### 2022 10 06

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Ireland and the Republic of Iraq

#### 2022 10 07

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Finland

#### 2022 10 09

- The meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 10 12

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of France and also the head of the Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Republic of Armenia

#### 2022 10 13

- President Raisi's visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan and participation at the SICA Summit

#### 2022 10 15

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Portugal, the National Security Adviser of the Republic of Iraq and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Policy

#### 2022 10 16

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

#### 2022 10 17

- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and the Sultan of Oman

#### 2022 10 18

- The meeting of the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 10 19

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

#### 2022 10 20

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the High Representative of the Foreign Policy of the European Union and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

#### 2022 10 22

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meetings with the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

#### 2022 10 23

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meetings with "Adel Abdul Mahdi", former Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

#### 2022 10 26

- The meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus with President Raisi
- The meetings of the Secretary General of the World Ahl al-Bayt Assembly and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Qatar with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 10 27

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Foreign Ministers of Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman

#### 2022 10 28

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri

Lanka, Ukraine and the Republic of Iraq

**2022 10 30**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**2022 10 31**

- Meeting of the Secretary General of the Union of Councils of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 11 01**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Vice Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey
- President Raisi's meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

**2022 11 02**

- President Raisi's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

**2022 11 05**

- Meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine and the Minister of Advisor for the Middle East, Africa, and Arab Countries of the Presidency of Nicaragua and the Special Envoy of the Republic Algerian people's democracy in international security affairs with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 11 06**

- The meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the spouse of the President of Zimbabwe with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 11 09**

- President Raisi's meeting with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Russian Federation
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone

conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy

**2022 11 10**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman
- The meeting of the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 11 11**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Sweden, the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Bulgaria

**2022 11 14**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the High Representative of the Foreign Policy of the European Union and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

**2022 11 15**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**2022 11 16**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of South Africa

**2022 11 19**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

**2022 11 16**

- Meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

**2022 11 21**

- Telephone conversation between President Raisi and the President of Kazakhstan

**2022 11 23**

- President Raisi's meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus

**2022 11 24**

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone



conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Namibia and the United Arab Emirates

#### 2022 11 84

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Poland and the Syrian Arab Republic

#### 2022 11 29

- Ayatollah Khamenei's meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq
- President Raisi's meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

#### 2022 11 30

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq

#### 2022 12 01

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar

#### 2022 12 02

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Secretary General of the United Nations

#### 2022 12 03

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the High Representative of the European Union's Foreign Policy

#### 2022 12 05

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Speaker of the Parliament and the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Serbia

#### 2022 12 07

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Chairman of the Assembly of Nations, the

Chairman of the Islamic Community and religious elites of Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### 2022 12 08

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland

#### 2022 12 09

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

#### 2022 12 13

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes telephone conversations with the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of India, the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Ireland
- The meeting of the Deputy Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China with President Raisi

#### 2022 12 15

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

#### 2022 12 18

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua

#### 2022 12 19

- The meeting of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for Regional Affairs with Dr. Amir-Abdollahian

#### 2022 12 20

- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian's visit to Jordan and meeting with the High Representative of the Foreign Policy of the European Union, the King of Jordan and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France, the Republic of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the Government of Qatar, the Government of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Dr. Amir-Abdollahian makes a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkmenistan







# Special Look TAJKISTAN





**Official Language**  
Tajik Persian with  
Cyrillic alphabet

**Area**  
Total 143,100 km<sup>2</sup>, the  
smallest country in Central  
Asia



**Capital and the  
Largest City**  
Dushanbe



**Currency**  
Somoni (TJS) each  
Somoni is equal to  
009/ USD

**National Day  
(Independence)**  
9 September 1999



**Population**  
9.5 million



**Water Resources of  
Central Asia**  
%60Billion



**GDP in 2021**  
\$9.6 Billion



**Mountainous Areas**  
%93



**Exportations**  
\$2.1 Billion

**Annual Foreign Trade  
Volume**  
\$6.3 Billion



**Importations**  
4.3 Billion







# BEYOND HISTORY

## Shared identity of Iran and Tajikistan goes beyond history.

*The cultural, linguistic, civilizational, historical and identity commonalities and links between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan are so deep that many Iranian and Tajik thinkers describe them as “one spirit in two geographical bodies”.*



*The Republic of Tajikistan is one of the five countries in Central Asia. Tajikistan has an area of 143,100 square kilometers and a population of 9.5 million people. It is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west and north, Kyrgyzstan to the north and the People’s Republic of China to the east. It was one of the 15 Union Republics until 1991 and gained its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Some 93 percent of Tajikistan’s area is covered with mountains while it holds 60 percent of the Central Asia’s water resources. Located in an important part of the Central Asia, and as a junction, Tajikistan connects the east to the west and the south to the north. Neighboring regional and transregional powers such as China and Russia multiplies the significance of Tajikistan.*

The cultural, linguistic, civilizational, historical and identity commonalities and links between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan are so deep that many Iranian and Tajik thinkers describe them as “one spirit in two geographical bodies”.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan enjoy identity similarities including in history, language, religion, culture, customs, traditions, festivals, celebrations and share historical figures, scholars, scientists and artists. The common cultural and identity elements of the two nations have paved the ground for stronger cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan while integration and joint historical experience of the two countries have brought their nations closer together. The reciprocal affection of the Iranian and Tajik people is also undeniable and remains so strong that it is described by some as “a family relationship”. Bakhti Mehmon, a well-known Tajik poet and author, states his love and affection to Iran in the following manner:

### ➤ From eternity Iran is my part,

Which is full of Phoenix feathers and lion hearts  
Everyone says that Iran is great, so great  
It is placed in the words and wisdom of the elders  
Forever your enemy, the beautiful country, will even  
Be surprised by your high status  
International relations are significantly influenced by  
cultural and identity elements. Identity, as a semantic  
element, plays a key role in carrying out international  
affairs. Common identity of nations would result  
in common foreign policy behaviors. Throughout  
history, Iran and Tajikistan have enjoyed a common  
identity and it has played a crucial role in bringing  
the two nations together and forming a mutual  
understanding. In other words, integration between  
Iran and Tajikistan is mostly affected by their common  
identity. The most important identity elements linking  
Iran and Tajikistan throughout history are as follow:

### ➤ Common History

Tajiks believe that the Samanid Empire played a key  
role in forming their cultural and national identity.  
Tajik people love the Samanid Empire in a way that  
their national currency is called Somoni. Following the  
second half of the third century of the Lunar calendar,  
the Samanid Empire ruled Transoxiana and north  
of Khorasan. The Samanids were the first rulers of  
Transoxiana after Islam. The Samanid rulers spared no  
efforts to expand and develop the Persian literature and  
poetry. Scholars believe that this era was the turning  
point of the history of the Persian language and literature.

The Samanid Empire promoted ethnic unity among  
different Iranian tribes and mingled Iranian ancient  
heritage with the Islamic culture. At the same time, the  
Samanids were faithful and committed to their Islamic  
faiths. They were very interested in their nationality as  
well, and the Persian language and literature are indebted  
to the wisdom-loving Samanid Empire, particularly to  
Emir Ismail Samani.

A great scientific and literary movement was  
encouraged and supported by the Samanid rulers and  
ministers in Transoxiana and Khorasan which founded  
the bases of the national stories in that era; and in  
Khorasan it led to the formation of the Iranian national  
epic, namely Shahnameh (The Book of the King) of  
Ferdosi. There is a great statue of Ismail Samani, as  
the founder of the Samanid Empire, installed at the  
main square of the capital city Dushanbe as the national  
symbol of Tajikistan.

**Persian language can be considered as the  
cornerstone of Iran-Tajikistan shared identity.**

### ➤ Persian language

Language is one of the most important characteristics  
which forms national identities. In other words, “Persian  
language can be considered as the cornerstone of  
common identity” between Iran and Tajikistan which  
has been the most crucial factor in linkage and proximity  
between the Iranian and Tajik peoples. The treasury of  
the Persian language is a jointly-owned jewel belonging  
to all Persian speaking nations. Poets like Roudaki,

Balkhi, Daqiqi Toosi and Ferdosi  
are all from Transoxiana and  
Khorasan. Persian language can  
be the most important element in  
the promotion and consolidation of  
ties among countries located at the  
Iranian civilizational sphere.

Tajiks are honorable, wise,  
hardworking people, patriots and  
lovers of poetry and art. They are  
very interested in Persian language  
and Iranian poets. In Tajikistan, you  
cannot find a family who has lost  
interest in poetry. Molavi, Ferdosi  
and Hafez books of poetry are very  
easy to find in Tajikistan.

**The biggest mosque of Central  
Asia is located in Tajikistan.**

### ➤ Islam a common religion

Islam is the official religion in  
Tajikistan. Some 95 percent of  
people in Tajikistan are Muslims.  
Islam penetrated Central Asia in  
seventh century AD; since then,  
Islam has become associated to the  
Tajik culture. Currently, the biggest  
masque of Central Asia is located  
in Tajikistan with a total area of 12  
hectare.

### ➤ Common Eids and Festivals

The most important common  
cultural heritage of Iran and Central  
Asian countries, particularly  
Tajikistan, is Norooz. Norooz is  
a national and ancient festival in  
Tajikistan and the Tajik people,  
like the other Iranian tribes, have  
specific traditions and customs  
for its celebration. The Day of  
Physicians (Birth anniversary of  
Avicenna), Eid al-Adha and Eid al-  
Fitr are among the most important  
common Eids of Iran and Tajikistan.

### ➤ Iran-Tajikistan ties after independence

Following the collapse of the  
Soviet Union and independence of  
Tajikistan back in 1991, the Islamic  
Republic of Iran and the Republic  
of Tajikistan officially commenced  
their bilateral relations. Iran was  
the first country to recognize  
Tajikistan’s independence and  
opened the first foreign Embassy in  
that country. The Islamic Republic  
of Iran has played an irreplaceable  
role in realizing national conciliation  
and ending civil war in the 1990’s

Language is one of the main contributors to the formation of the identities of nations. In other words, the Persian language forms the cornerstone of the identity shared between Iran and Tajikistan and is considered the main linkage of the two nations. The Persian literature is another shared heritage which binds the speakers of Persian language. Poets such as Roodaki, Shahid Balkhi, Daqiqi Toosi and Ferdosi are the luminaries of the same literature in Khorasan and Transoxiana.



in Tajikistan. Iran has always adopted the policy of supporting peace and stability in Tajikistan. Following the establishment of peace in that country, Iran, due to its crucial role in the peace process, succeeded in expanding its bilateral relations with Tajikistan and turned into one of the most important partners of that country.

In the last 31 years, Iran and Tajikistan have enjoyed good bilateral relations in political, economic, trade, cultural and security sectors. In these years, more than 170 memoranda of cooperation have been signed between the two countries and officials of Iran and Tajikistan have continued high-level exchanges. Iran's Presidents have visited Tajikistan for 12 times and Tajikistan's President has paid visit to Iran for 18 times. Tajikistan, as the only Persian-speaking country among

the five Central Asian states, has always enjoyed a special position in the foreign policy of the Islamic republic of Iran.

The period between 2000 and 2015 marked the peak of bilateral relations between Iran and Tajikistan in all areas of mutual interest during which their trade volume hit 300 million dollars. In 2015, due to misunderstanding, the trade volume shrank but was railed back to the correct path in 2019. Following the election of President Raisi in Iran and the priority he set





in Iran's foreign policy for the expansion of relations with the neighboring countries, he paid an official visit to Tajikistan.

This visit marked a turning point in mutual relations; Tehran and Dushanbe agreed to further expand bilateral relations. During the visit eight memoranda of cooperation were signed and a joint statement was issued by the Presidents of Iran and Tajikistan.

Iran-Tajikistan bilateral relations entered into a new phase after the visit of President Raisi in 2021 when mutual trade hit 130 million dollars from 23 million dollars in 2020 and 41 million dollars in 2019. The increase in bilateral trade in 2021 was more than five times bigger than previous year. According to the joint statement of the two Presidents, Iran and

Tajikistan intent to increase bilateral commerce to 500 million dollars in the near future.

In line with promoting bilateral relations and upon the invitation of President Raisi, President Emomali Rahmon paid a visit to Iran in June 2022 after more than nine years. Less than one year after President Raisi's visit to Tajikistan, President Rahmon reciprocated and signed 17 memoranda of cooperation which indicated firm determination to further expand bilateral relations.

Considering its strategic

importance throughout the history, Central Asia has always been the scene of confrontation of the interests of major powers. This region's rich energy resources and special geopolitical position in the neighborhood of China and Russia have turned Central Asia into a significant place in international arena. Numerous historical, cultural and economic bonds have linked Iran and Central Asia. Meantime, due to its stronger commonalities and wider links, Tajikistan is of double significance for Iran and is considered as Iran's entry gate and bridge to Central Asia.

Taking into account the rapid regional developments, it is necessary to adopt some new policies and approaches to confront the challenges and create new opportunities to stabilize Iran and Tajikistan's cooperation. Adopting cooperative and integration-based approaches, in the light of cultural, historical and linguistic commonalities and avoiding divergent elements, would serve the national interests of both countries. Expanding economic and trade cooperation and linking Iran and Tajikistan's national interests would guarantee their political and security cooperation in future.

This can happen by giving priority to realizing the potential and maximizing the capacities of both countries especially in areas such as the export of Iranian engineering and technical services to Tajikistan, oil and gas cooperation, energy trade, water cooperation, using Iran's unique transit points in Bandar Abbas and Chabahar ports, encouraging the private sectors and chambers of commerce and supporting the commercial counselors.

Security, police and defensive cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan are also among the most significant areas of cooperation between the countries which is also on their agenda. Despite the existence of some security arrangements including the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization among the Central Asian countries, there are some security problems in this

region as a result of neighboring Afghanistan.

Trafficking narcotics, ethnic insecurities, extremism and border disputes in the vicinity of competing regional powers have expose Central Asian countries to insecurities and threats. Considering the Islamic Republic of Iran's high military capacity and its positive background in fighting terrorism and extremism, strengthening defensive and military cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan would play a key role for the enhancement of relations between the two countries.

In this regard, the visit paid by General Baqeri, Chief of the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, to Tajikistan and the manufacture of Iranian ABABIL-2 drones in Tajikistan turned a new chapter in Iran-Tajikistan defensive and military cooperation.

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**Central  
Asia's  
biggest  
mosque in  
Tajikistan**





## **A faded difference in the shadow of commonalities**

The difference in lifestyle in Iran and Tajikistan has faded in the light of historical and cultural commonalities.

Zahra Mehran Rad

Executive Editor



*The honorable  
Ambassador of  
the Republic of  
Tajikistan  
recounts cultural  
and historical*

*similarities between Iran and  
Tajikistan in an exclusive interview  
with the Diplomat.*

**D** The readers would like to know more about you Mr. Ambassador. Would like to introduce yourself please?

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** I am Nizamuddin Shamsuddin-zadeh Zahedi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran. I was born in 1957 in the city of Kanbadam in Tajikistan. I am a graduate of the College of Oriental Languages from the National University of Tajikistan. After graduating from university, I worked for three years in the Republic of Iraq as an Arabic and Russian translator in the economic representation of the former Soviet Union in Baghdad. After my return from Iraq in 1981, I started my work at the Tajik Academy of Sciences and after one year, I went to St. Petersburg to continue my studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union, and for three years under the supervision of the famous Soviet Orientalist Anas Khaledov, Alexander Baldrif and others, I was engaged in the research of the Arabic poetry of Khorasan and Transoxiana in early Islamic era. After defending my postgraduate thesis, I returned to Tajikistan and continued my academic activity at the Rudaki Institute of Language and Literature as a researcher and academic secretary. From 1997 to 2010, I was at Khojand State University. In 2004, I completed my PhD on the influence of Arabic

literature in Iran during 8 and 9 A.D. and was honored to be given professorship by the Russian Federation. For nine years, I was the academic vice-chancellor and the president of the above-mentioned university for one year. In 2010, I was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister and in 2016 First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan. In April 2019, I was appointed as the Ambassador of Tajikistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran. As of 2017, I am an affiliated member of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. I have authored eight books and more than two hundred academic articles on various subjects such as Arabic literature in Iran, history, literature and culture of the Samanid era, and literary relations between Arabs and non-Arabs, which have been published in Tajikistan, Russia, Iran and other countries.

**D Diplomat:** For how long you have been in Iran?

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** I have been in Iran as the ambassador of my country for three years and four months.

**D** During this period, how necessary and vital do you consider the need to expand the relations between the two countries?

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** One of my goals as the Ambassador of Tajikistan was to help expand cooperation in various aspects between the two countries of the same language and culture: Tajikistan and Iran. Therefore, with the instructions of the leadership of my country, from the first days of my activity, I made necessary efforts to resolve some misunderstanding and bring the cooperation process into its natural track. Expanding cooperation between two countries that share the same language and culture is one of the necessities of bilateral relations. To achieve this goal, the political will of the top leaders of the two countries was important. Fortunately, the official visit of the honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E.



**The  
expansion of  
cooperation  
between  
Iran and  
Tajikistan  
depends on  
the political  
will of our  
leaders.**

Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi to Tajikistan in September 2021 and the visit of the honorable President of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Imam Ali Rahman to Iran at the end of May 2022 turned new chapters in the relations between the two countries. The expansion of relations between Tajikistan and Iran in various fields is now on its normal track, and we thank God that relations are expanding today.

**D What do you think about life in Iran?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** In my opinion, the general atmosphere of life in Iran is good. Sanctions, which have been imposed on Iran for more than four decades, are primarily aimed at worsening the general atmosphere of people's lives, but sanctions have failed to accomplish this. It is true that sanctions are essentially threats to the country, but the people of Iran turned these threats into opportunities for growth and development and achieved admirable achievements in various areas of economic, industrial, scientific and technological life.

**D Which Iranian customs and traditions appeal to you?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** There are many attractions in Iran, because Iran is a country with ancient culture and civilization, decent customs and traditions, and its people have good morals and culture. Most of all, I like kindness, eloquence, compassion and intimacy in relationships between each other, which originate from ancient culture and civilization and original moral and spiritual values.

**D Which Iranian dishes and culture do you like the most?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** Since Tajiks and Iranians are relatives, most of our dishes and cultural traditions are similar and are considered part of the cultural commonality of Tajikistan and Iran. Therefore, I like Iranian dishes and Iranian cultural traditions. Our traditional food in Tajiks is " Oshi Palow", which is included in the list of UNESCO cultural material. Iranian food is similar to this traditional food of ours and I like them and I invite my Iranian friends to enjoy Tajik " Oshi Palow", which is also good for friends. This is the product of kinship and historical and cultural commonality of the people of our countries.

**D There are common culture and customs between the people of Iran and Tajikistan; in your opinion, which of these customs are more attractive and important?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** Commonalities between the people of Tajikistan and Iran since ancient times have led to the emergence of similar culture and habits among our people. There are lots of such commonalities. To know these

commonalities, it is enough to refer to Ferdosi's "Shahnameh", which is the encyclopedia of the culture and habits of Iranian people. All those customs and traditions that Ferdosi mentions in his Shahnameh exist in Tajikistan today and reflect the commonality of Tajiks and Iranians in a very attractive way.

**D How many children do you have and do your children study in Iranian universities and schools?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** I have three children, all of whom were born during the Soviet era and studied in Tajik universities, and today they are operating in their chosen fields.

**D Is life in Iran very different from life in Tajikistan?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** In general, people's lives, who, according to Saadi, "are of the same essence", are similar. Therefore, life in Iran has similarities with life in Tajikistan. At the same time, each country is different from another country based on historical, social, cultural, religious and geographical factors.

From this point of view, there are some differences in life in Iran and Tajikistan, but these differences are not major in the light of historical and cultural commonalities.

**D Can you recount any interesting memories from your time in Iran?**

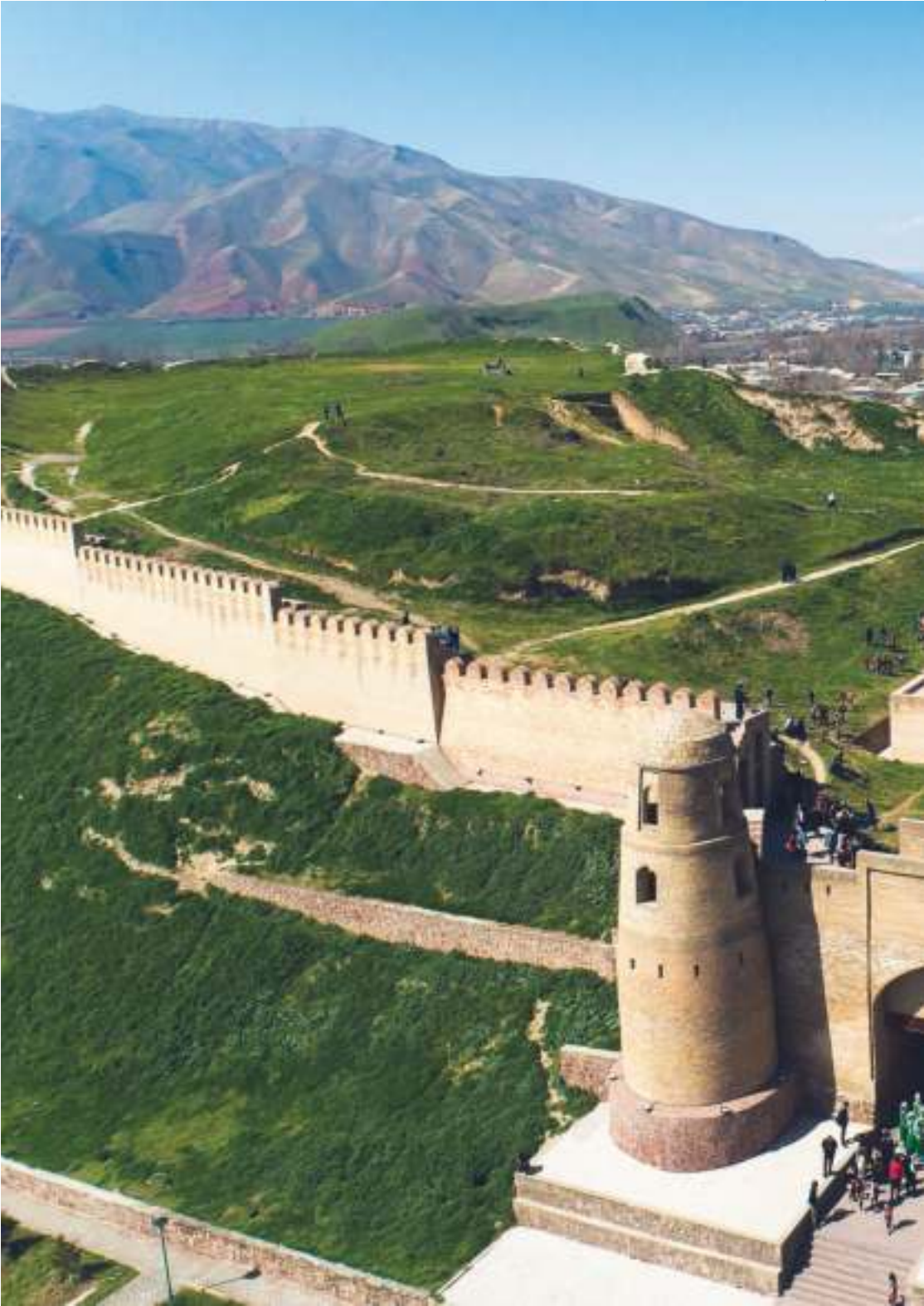
**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** There are many such memories, because Iran is considered the cradle of culture and civilization and has given the civilized world many literary, scientific and cultural prominent figures and countless material and spiritual works, which today are the sources of pride for the world. When I visit the historical monuments of Iran or the tombs of Iran's cultural eminent characters, I say thank you to this nation and in these moments, in my mind, I turn the pages of the proud common history of Iran and I take pride in the fact that my Tajik



ancestors along with other Persian-speaking nations contributed to the creation of the great civilization of Iran. In this sense, each of my trips to different cities of Iran is connected with interesting memories of this ancient country.

**D** Do you remember any events or memories from the day you presented your credentials to the Iranian President?

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** Presenting credentials to the President of the host country is an unforgettable event for any ambassador. I also submitted my credential letter to the then president of Iran H.E. Hassan Rouhani on June 25,





2019, during which a friendly conversation was held about the expansion and development of bilateral ties between Tajikistan and Iran, and I relayed the message of the President of Tajikistan H.E. Imam Ali Rahman to his Iranian counterpart regarding the opening of a new page in the

mutual relations of the two countries. I remember every moment of that meeting, and in my subsequent activities, I tried to fulfill my promises to help the development of relations between the two countries. I remember that during the meeting to present the credentials to the President, I read the verse of Hakim Ferdosi, who said:

*All Iran is my home,  
The good and the bad are for me.*



**D** Considering the recent reciprocal visits of the Presidents of the two countries as well as the proximity of our cultures, what impact do you think these visits will have on the relations between the two countries in various fields, including the cultural, economic and political areas?

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** Much has been said about the recent reciprocal visits of the presidents of Tajikistan and Iran in political and analytical circles, and there have been many assessments published in the press. In my opinion, these two trips can be considered a turning point in the relations between the two countries. In support of this claim, I would like to mention a few points. Firstly, the exchange of delegations increased significantly during the last seven to eight months. In particular, in the last six months, 12 delegations at various levels have made fruitful trips from Tajikistan to Iran and 11 Iranian delegations to Tajikistan. These exchanges play an important role in the development of relations. Another point, which I would like to emphasize, is the signing of more than 25 bilateral intergovernmental memoranda of cooperation during the two visits of the presidents to Dushanbe and Tehran, which have further consolidated the legal basis of bilateral relations. It is also interesting that after these visits, trade between the two countries increased significantly. In 2020 bilateral trade amounted to a total of 57 million dollars; this figure increased to 121 million dollars in 2021, and during only the first six months of this [Iranian] year, the value of bilateral trade reached 120 million dollars. In their meetings, the presidents of the two countries agreed to increase the value of bilateral trade by nearly 500 million dollars. We hope that this agreement will be implemented soon.

**D** After nine years, the President of Tajikistan visited Tehran and met with the Leader of the Islamic revolution in June of this Iranian year. Do



**The most obvious feature of the meeting of the President of Tajikistan with the Leader of Islamic revolution was its cordial atmosphere.**

**you remember a special point or memory from this meeting?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** Yes, the cordiality of the meeting and the talks was a really special point, which is imprinted in my memory. In this meeting, the parties once again emphasized the kinship relations between the two countries and emphasized that there is no restriction from both sides in the development of bilateral political, economic and cultural relations.

**D** As the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Iran, how do you evaluate the willingness and readiness of both sides to





**develop business relations and make investment? And what measures have been taken to facilitate commercial relations?**

■ **Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** For any ambassador, the development of business and investment relations is considered the fruit of his activities. From the first days of my assignment in Tehran, I felt the desire of my Iranian friends to develop trade with Tajikistan, and I witnessed such a desire among the economic activists of my country as well. Therefore, I made the effort to facilitate business relations as one of my permanent goals.

Fortunately, during the mentioned visits of the two presidents, the long-term program of economic and commercial cooperation and investment until 2030 was signed; this program outlines the target of increasing trade relations, and how this goal should be realized. One of these tools, which helps facilitate trade and investment relations, is the establishment

of the Joint Tajikistan-Iran Investment Council. The legal documents of this council, as well as the establishment of the Joint Chambers of Commerce, were signed during the visit of the honorable President of Tajikistan to Tehran last June. These documents, as emphasized by the presidents of the two countries, should be implemented and play an important role in facilitating trade and investment relations. As a facilitator of trade and investment relations, the Embassy of Tajikistan in Iran tries to play an active role in holding meetings between economic activists of the two countries, and organizing trade forums and exhibitions of goods and products of our countries.

**D** Considering the cultural commonalities, what are the obstacles in the way of facilitating the travel of the citizens of the two countries as tourists, and what measures are needed to remove these obstacles?

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** The cultural commonality that exists between Tajikistan and Iran provides a suitable platform for the development of tourism between the two countries. A tourist in a country with the same language and culture will not feel homesick in any way. Therefore, there are many possibilities for the development of tourism between our countries. The Covid-19 pandemic created a certain obstacle for tourists as flights between the two countries were canceled and the number of travels decreased. Thank God, the situation has improved today and two weekly flights are operated between Tajikistan and Iran, one from Mashhad and the other from Tehran to Dushanbe. The number of tourists has also increased in recent months. Today, there are no problems for tourists to apply for visas for both countries. The authorities of the two countries are trying to create tools to further facilitate tourism between the two countries. The relatively high price of plane tickets is something which can be mentioned as an obstacle in the way of tourists. We hope that with the increase in the number of flights and the entry of more airlines into this market, there will be a healthy competition

and this will reduce the price of tickets.

**D** Considering the countless cultural commonalities such as the celebrations of Norooz and Mehregan festivals and commemoration of literary figures and poets such as Ferdosi, to what extent do you think it is necessary to hold joint seminars and conferences and what measures have been taken in this regard?

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** Indeed, the cultural commonalities of the Persian-speaking world, such as Nawruz, Mehregan, and the celebration of our common literary, scientific and cultural figures are considered to be important in strengthening human and cultural ties between Tajikistan and Iran. In Tajikistan, after gaining independence, one of the most important elements of restoring national identity was the revival of the ancient festivals of Nawruz, Mehregan, Sadeh, Tirgan, etc., which took place with the pleasant initiatives of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahman. Today, these events are celebrated in Tajikistan with special honor and magnificence. About 10 to 12 years ago, the countries of the Nawruz region took specific measures to jointly celebrate this great festival of ancestors, but unfortunately, due to various reasons, these measures did not continue. Today, it is possible to celebrate Nawruz and other ancient festivals as a good tradition. In Tajikistan, the conditions are ready for this initiative. The joint celebration of these events will be the revival of cultural memories of the past, as well as the connection between the people of Nawruz region in this conflicting and changing world. This point can also be emphasized regarding the conferences to honor our common cultural figures. Today, in Tajikistan and Iran, the days named after our luminaries such as Roodaki, Avicenna, Ferdosi, etc., are celebrated separately, even the dates of commemorating common cultural figures are different in Tajikistan and Iran. If in Tajikistan,





the Roodaki Day falls on September 22, but recently in Iran, they have decided to declare January 4 as the Roodaki Day. There are similar differences in the commemoration of other cultural figures as well. In my opinion, the cultural authorities of the two countries should agree on harmonizing the dates of commemorating the common cultural figures of the two countries. In this case, it is possible to hold commemoration conferences in Tajikistan and Iran alternately.

**D Do you have more works to do at the embassy in certain seasons?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** No. The working process of the ambassador continues with a certain routine in all seasons. It is obvious that as the amount of political, commercial and cultural relations increases, work of the ambassador also increases, which pleases us and reflects the development of bilateral relations.

**D In which countries have you been previously assigned on mission or an ambassador?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** I told you that I am basically a scientific and academic personality and I have been active in this field for many years, but later I became one of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan for nine years, and Iran is the first country where I have been posted. While working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, I traveled to more than 50 countries and participated in multilateral and bilateral meetings. My background helps me in carrying out my mission in Iran.

**D What is your advice for visiting the tourist attractions of Tajikistan for first-time travelers to your country?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** My advice to a person who comes to Tajikistan for the first time is to start getting to know Tajikistan from the city of Dushanbe, because Dushanbe,

as the capital of Tajikistan today, is a full-length mirror of the achievements of independent Tajikistan. This beautiful city has completely changed its appearance in the last few years and has become one of the tourist attractions of Tajikistan. Also, to get to know Tajikistan better, I recommend that Iranian tourists visit the tomb of the father of Persian poetry, Roodaki, in the ancient city of Panjkant. Also, a visit to the tomb of Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani, who was born in Iran but buried in Kolab, and at the same time, a visit to the birthplace of Kamal Khojandi, who died in Tabriz, would help Iranian tourists understand the deep historical ties between the two countries and nations. There are all kinds of tourism attractions in Tajikistan, including historical and cultural tourism, health, mountaineering, medical, etc., which will be favored by tourists. It is noteworthy that Tajikistan has a lot of water resources and resting and relaxing on the banks of many rivers and lakes in the heavenly nature and environment of my country will be unforgettable for tourists. Tajiks are hospitable people and warmly hug and host foreign guests, including their Iranian brothers.

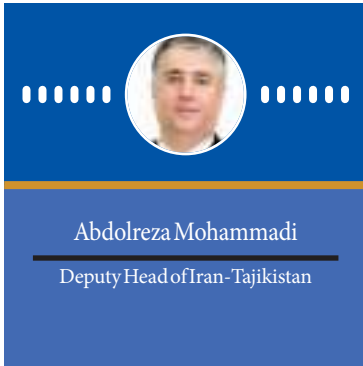
**D And in conclusion, would you like to add anything?**

**Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan:** I wish the "Diplomat" more and more success in promoting the values of friendship and cooperation between countries and paying attention to the good traditions of diplomacy. Also, I wish that the people of our countries - Tajikistan and Iran - get to know each other better and stronger and use the existing historical, cultural and linguistic commonalities to serve the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the two countries. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the esteemed authorities of the Diplomat journal for allocating a special issue to Tajikistan and wish them more health and happiness.

**D Thank you for your time and consideration. ◀**

# IRAN AND TAJIKISTAN ON TRACK FOR BOLSTERING ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Tehran and Dushanbe expand economic ties



*Iran-Tajikistan diplomatic relations were established on 08 January 1992 and the Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries to recognize Tajikistan's independence; Iran was also the first country which opened its embassy in Dushanbe.*

From 2015 to 2019, economic cooperation and trade between Iran and Tajikistan plummeted due to some problems in bilateral relations. Fortunately, since 2019, there have been positive developments in the bilateral relations of Iran and Tajikistan—two important countries in the region which share the same culture and language. These developments included:

- Exchange of visits between high ranking political, military, security, economic and cultural officials;
- Establishment of the 13th round of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation in December 2019;
- Establishment of direct flights between Tehran and Dushanbe and Mashhad and Dushanbe;
- Holding two specialized exhibition of Iranian products in 2019 and 2021 in Dushanbe;
- Conclusion of a contract between the Tajikistan's Ministry of Transportation and Iran's Farab company in 2020 on the implementation of the second phase of the construction of Esteqlal Tunnel including planning, supply and installation of ventilation systems, lighting and security and firefighting systems. The value of the contract was 11 million dollars shared equally between Iran and Tajikistan. The first phase of the Esteqlal Tunnel project was carried out by Iran's Sabir company with 39 million dollars in investment from 2004 to 2015. Some 7.8 million dollars of the project was funded by the Tajik government and the remaining by Iran in the

form of develop assistance;

➤ Establishment of the 14th round of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation in June 2021;

➤ Historic and successful visit of President Raisi to Tajikistan in September 2021 and conclusion of eight memoranda of cooperation and a joint statement;

➤ Historic and successful visit of President Emomali Rahmon to Iran in June 2022 and conclusion of 16 memoranda of cooperation mostly in economic fields;

➤ Submission of more than 200 memoranda of cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan which form the necessary legal basis for expansion of bilateral economic and trade relations;

Iran has played a crucial role in realizing Tajikistan's energy independence plan and the supply of energy by constructing two hydroelectric powerplants and dams namely Sangtuda 2 and the Rogun. Iran's foodstuff manufacturing and exporting companies and investors in Tajikistan's agricultural sector have contributed to food security in that country. Their partnership in mechanized fish farming, establishment of a jointly-owned tractor manufacturing company, the "Taj Iran", and other dairy and foodstuff factories are among the other Iranian projects in Tajikistan.

As part of the 14th Iran-Tajikistan Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation which was held in June 2021 in Dushanbe, the two countries clinched agreements to promote the level of bilateral trade.

During the past three years, there have been positive developments resulting in the enhancement of relations between Iran and Tajikistan. The turning point of bilateral relations was the historic visit of President Raisi to Tajikistan in September 2021 to take part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit and at the same time pay an official visit. President Raisi was received and hosted warmly by HE Emomali Rahmon, the Honorable President of Tajikistan and other officials of the country. In their

joint statement, the two presidents reiterated the expansion of bilateral relations in all areas particularly in economic and trade sectors and emphasized boosting annual trade to 500 million euros.

According to Iran's Customs Department and provincial Khorasan Razavi Department for Industry, Mines and Trade, commercial relations between Iran and Tajikistan increased by 4.5 times in 2021 and registered an 800-percent growth during the first two months of the present Iranian calendar year (started 21 March 2022) in comparison with the same period of last year; Also an Iranian company concluded a contract with the Tajik government for the export of technical and engineering services to Tajikistan in 2021; three more contracts were inked in 2022; and many well-known Iranian companies contributed to the construction of Rogun Dam and Hydroelectric Powerplant.

Initially, Iran and Tajikistan relations were mostly based on exchange of non-oil products. Iran's major products to Tajikistan are detergents, plastic products, glass, machineries, foodstuff, construction materials and technical and engineering services. Currently, Iranian companies export construction materials including rebar, tiles and ceramics, faucet, wire, cable and electronic devices, doors, bitumen and waterproofing materials to Tajikistan.

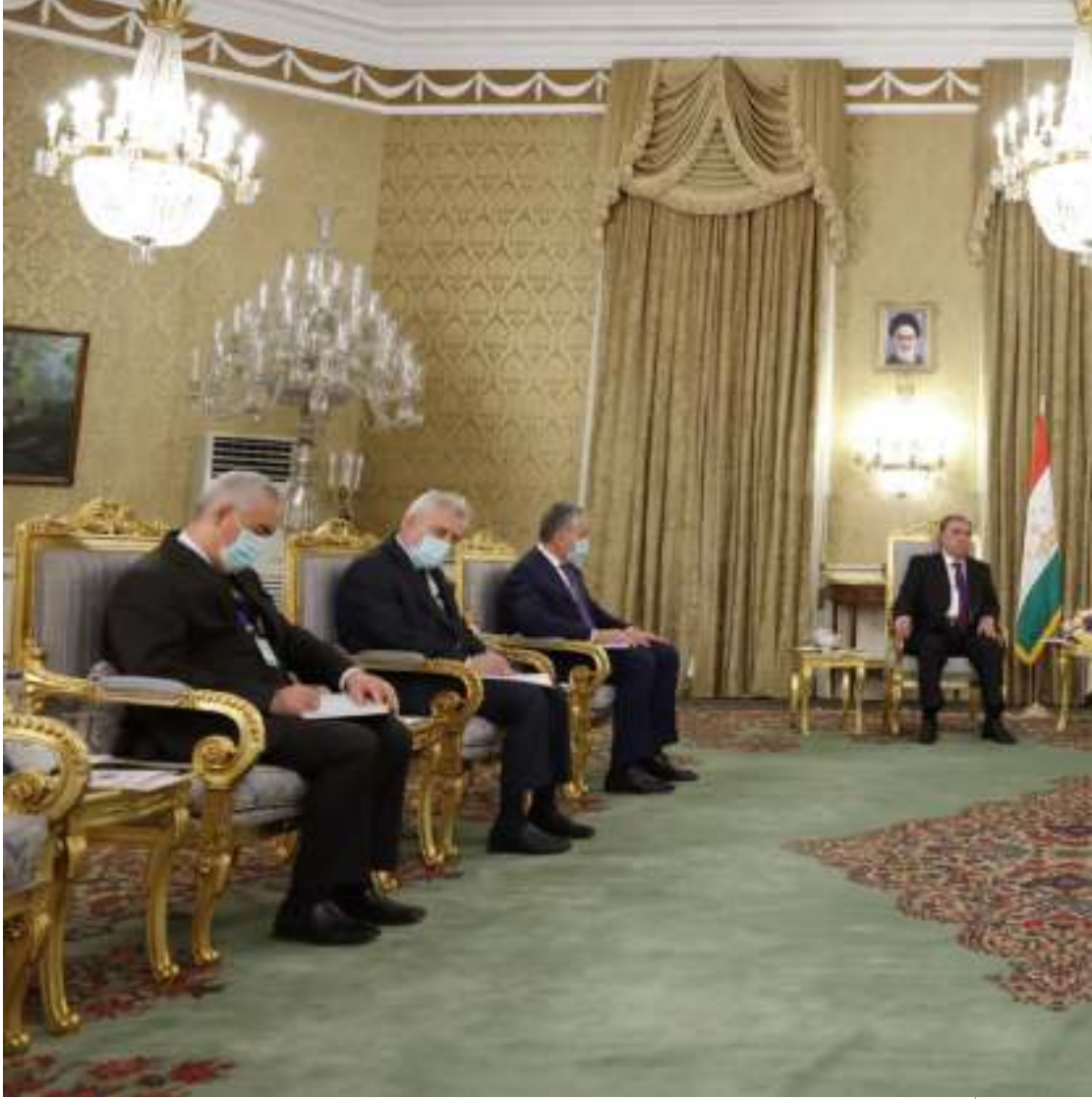
Regarding investment, there are numerous opportunities for Iranian companies to invest in Tajikistan in the form of establishing joint companies in free zones and ensure cooperation among knowledge-based companies on transfer of technology and expertise and production of different commodities at economic sectors as following:

**1.Agriculture:** There are ample opportunities for the participation of Iranian companies in Tajikistan's agriculture sector including farming, horticulture, animal husbandry, processing industries, agricultural machineries, aquaculture and fish farming and cold storage of agricultural produces.

**2.Industry and Mines:** The Tajik officials are going to open 870 industrial parks in this country within the next five years which will create



**There is great capacity for investment by Iranian companies in Tajikistan. They can engage in joint ventures in free trade zones especially in the knowledge-based sectors such as the transfer of technology and experience in various areas of commerce and trade.**



**There are untapped mines in Tajikistan particularly for iron ore, gold, silver, copper, zinc and manganese. Iranian companies are welcomed to cooperate with Tajikistan in exploration, extraction and processing of mineral materials.**

more than 500,000 employment opportunities. There are five free economic zones in Tajikistan that provide foreign investors with numerous incentives such as the delivery of land, tax and customs exemptions, long term residence permit and tax holiday for exporting commodities. Investors are encouraged to establish a production line, import raw material and produce final products for use in markets across Tajikistan.

3. In Tajikistan, there are some untapped mines particularly for iron ore, gold, silver, copper, zinc and manganese. There are considerable opportunities for Iranian companies to enter into the Tajik mines exploration, extraction and processing sectors.

4. **Electricity:** Tajikistan enjoys numerous water resources for construction of hydro powerplants. There are lucrative opportunities for the export of technical and engineering services to Tajikistan with the aim of constructing powerplants and electrical grids and exporting relevant equipment. At the same time, there exists remarkable potential for construction of solar and wind powerplants.

5. On infrastructural projects including roads, dams, bridges, railway renovation, housing, construction of malls, commercial centers and office space, Iranian companies can ensure cooperation with Tajik partners.





6. Regarding oil, gas, refineries and petrochemicals, there are plenty of opportunities for Iranian companies. Despite the Russian monopoly of supplying oil to Tajikistan, local officials are keen on importing parts of their needs in this sector from Iran. Providing crude oil by Iran to two new refineries in Tajikistan has been on agenda since last year. These two refineries have not become operational yet due to the failure of the Chinese side to provide crude oil.

Considering its significant expertise in designing and implementing industrial plans especially in foodstuff, electronics, home appliances, construction materials, mining, machineries and equipment for industrial parks, powerplants, refineries, petrochemical products and pharmaceuticals, the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to share its knowledge and experience with the Republic of Tajikistan to develop and expand the above-mentioned sectors from 2022 to 2026. Economic relations and trade between Iran and Tajikistan are set to be further expanded in the coming years in the light of determination to enhance bilateral relations in political, economic, trade and cultural areas and remove obstacles on transportation of commodities and participation of the private sector. ◀



**The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan have declared readiness to expand relations in various political, economic, commercial and cultural areas and remove impediments on the way of transporting goods and activities of the private sector.**



# A SAGE OLD MENTOR OF IRAN AND TAJIKISTAN

Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani; a reminder of the depth of Iran-Tajikistan common culture

*Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani was a unique character born in the Iranian city of Hamedan and buried in Kulob city in Tajikistan. He played an unprecedented role in the history of literature, culture and mysticism of Iran and Tajikistan.*



Shahmansoor Shahmirza  
Tajikistan Expert at ECO Cultural Institute



Historian and researchers agree that the cultural integration of Iran and Tajikistan, as two friendly and brotherly countries with shared language and culture, is indebted to well-known figures and luminaries who are revered by both nations. One such luminary was Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani (1314-1407 AD) who was a distinguished Iranian thinker, mystic, philosopher, poet and social reformer. This unique personality who was born in the Iranian city of Hamedan but buried in Kulob city of Tajikistan, played an unprecedented role in Iranian Islamic history of literature, culture and mysticism. He penetrated the hearts and minds of the followers of different religions and sects in the region





through his dynamic thoughts and pure and humanitarian ideas.

This mystic and pious guru brought the message of monotheism, brotherhood, unity and fraternity to people with his clear thoughts and poems which are full of understanding, interaction, forgiveness and reconciliation. One of the reasons behind his high popularity among the people of Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, the Subcontinent and Central Asia has been his allegiance to a discourse of tolerance—something which remains valuable and important today even after more than seven hundred years since his birth.

Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani made contributed largely to the development of Sufism with his prose works such as "Makaram al-Akhlaq" (Decent Morals), "Zakhira al-Moluk" (The Treasure of the Kings), "Anwar al-Azwar" (Lights of Lights), "Wujdiyeh" (Existential), "Kashf al-Haqayeq" (Discovery of Facts), "Resaleh Fathiyeh" (The Book of Fathiyeh), among his other works. His legacy has been listed as more than a hundred works. Also, this scholar and mystic has left behind many sonnets, stanzas, quatrains and couplets in poetry.

This popular mystic was buried in the center of the city of Kolub, Tajikistan, in a traditional adobe architecture. The mausoleum is made up of rooms with domes connected by corridors. In the central room, Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani and his sisters, Mah-e Khorasan and Aftab-e Penhan, as well as his son and other relatives are buried. The mausoleum was built in the end of the 14th century AD with the traditional four-arched architectural style. The entrances of the mausoleum are wooden and in the shape of a tall rectangle.

Hamedani's tomb was renovated in 1979 and tiled by Iranian artists in 1993 concurrent with the 680th birth anniversary of this famous mystic. Most of the Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran have visited his tomb. President Raisi paid homage to his tomb during his trip to Tajikistan in September 2022.

Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani is so popular and highly regarded in Tajikistan that they call him "Hazrat-e Amirjan" meaning the "Exalted dear guru" and the people of Kulob city circumambulate it every morning



before starting work and believe that visiting his grave would bring more grace and blessings to their business.

Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani's manifesto which calls us to a peaceful life and coexistence full of virtue and tolerance, along with his photo and tomb image, are pictured on Somoni--the national currency of Tajikistan. The manifesto reads:

*Whoever remembered us, may  
God bless him*

*Whoever humiliated us, may he  
enjoy life*

*Whoever threw a thorn in our way  
due to hostility;*

*Let every flower bloom from his  
garden be thornless*

*In the two worlds, we are at  
daggers drawn with no one*

*Whoever has a grudge against us,  
may his ease be a lot.*

Mir Seyyed Mohammad Taleghani, Mir Seyyed Hossein Semnani, Sheikh Zain Al-Abedin Neishabouri, Seyyed Jamaluddin Atai, Seyyed Mohammad Kazem known as Seyyed Qazi, Sheikh Ruknuddin Shirazi and Burhanuddin Baghdadi are mentioned in some books as special students of Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani.

He made frequent trips to the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia, Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Sri Lanka, Tibet and other parts of the world to spread Islam. His purpose was not only to spread the religion of Islam, but to make friends and get acquainted with the peoples and places en route his destination. During such trips, his journey companions, who were all artists and scholars, would make friendship with the locals and even teach them art and science. This way of propagation was so soft, compassionate and friendly that many people gathered around them and used their knowledge and experience. Today, the arts of shawl-weaving, cloth-weaving, pottery and calligraphy which can be seen in the Indian Subcontinent and other countries are the products of Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani's visits.

Scholars have considered a significant role for him in introducing moral and instructive ideas. In fact, Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani's thoughts and ideas teach us that forgiving, tolerating each other, good manners, having positive thinking about others and covering each other's flaws and defects will bring about spiritual vitality and

prosperity for people.

The tomb of this knowledgeable thinker located in a beautiful garden in the city of Kolub once again reminds us that there has been a strong union and interaction between us in the past and now. In this garden, there is also a museum of the works of this thinker, where some manuscript books are kept. This place is a shrine for elites and ordinary people in Tajikistan. Also, it is a matter of pride that on the occasion of his 700th birthday anniversary, by the initiative of Tajikistan, the name of this great man was registered in the 2015 UNESCO list of eminent personalities.

In the manuscripts section of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Science of Tajikistan, there are more than 50 works of this Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani, most of them translated and published in Cyrillic script.

Allameh Muhammad Iqbal wrote about the role of Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani in promoting Persian culture, literature, language and religion in Kashmir—one of the main areas of influence of the Persian language named by Allameh as "the small Iran":

*Seyyed al-Sadat, the ruler of Ajam,  
he is the architect of the destiny of  
the nation*

*Until Ghazali learned the lesson of  
Allah Ho,*

*he learned his thoughts from his  
lineage*

*The mentor of that beautiful  
country*

*Was a counsellor to rulers, kings  
and scholars*

*The path was given by that king,  
By science, industry, civilization  
and religion*

*That man created the small Iran  
with strange and pleasant arts*

*One look from him opens a hundred  
knots*

*and sends his arrow to the heart*

In sum, Mir Seyyed Ali Hamedani's multi-dimensional character is a source of honor for the people of the region. Making a movie based on the life and career of this divine mystic with the participation and presence of the filmmakers of Iran and Tajikistan would effectively strengthen the artistic cooperation between the two countries and also introduce more of this great man of history. ◀

# LOVE AND MERCY FOR TAJIKS AND IRANIANS

Iran and Tajikistan  
are from the same  
root and trunk.  
They share the same  
language, history,  
traditions and even  
celebrities.



I remember it very well that in a meeting with Rahmanali Mir Alizadeh, the deputy Head of the National Library of Tajikistan, who traveled to Iran with a 25-member Tajik delegation in May 2022, we exchanged thoughtful and kind words between us.

When we talked about the status and greatness of Saadi Shirazi in the world literature and culture, he asked me very enthusiastically whether I did know that Saadi had a Tajik connection!

*I asked him "what do you mean?"*

*He said: "I mean Saadi's ever-lasting chorus":*

*For God's sake, don't let the owners of oppression  
Oppress nations*

*They may tell the king that*

*Your Turk shed the Tajik blood*

Mir Alizadeh told me that "He" in the second verse referred to Saadi himself.

Upon hearing his words, I fell into a deep thought and with an inner whisper; I praised the Tajik people for the extent of love and compassion they show to their fraternal land, culture and civilization.

In the introduction of the book entitled "Hadis-e Sarv and Niloofar" by Dr. Haddad-Adel, this verse of Rumi has been correctly explained:

*Zit in my eyes, you are the one who is better than me*

*To reject the moon, for you are brighter than the moon*

The people of the Indian subcontinent and Eurasia, and especially the heartedly and Persian-speaking people of Tajikistan, have acted better than us to preserve our shared heritage.

Despite ups and downs during the past centuries, the people of this land have never lost their ancient and sweet bond with the ancestral land of Iran and have connected their culture and identity with their language and civilization in various ways.

Therefore, there is no difference between Iran and Tajikistan. Whatever exists is unity and integration.

*He said now you are me; get out of me*

*There is no room for two individuals here*

*There are no double holes at the end of a needle*

*If you are one and united, lets enter the hole*



Abdolmehdi Mostakin  
Director of Culture Department of  
National UNESCO Commission of  
Iran



Therefore, when we write about bilateral relations and cultural commonality between our two nations, we need to stress the common cultural elements between Iran and Tajikistan. When there are two nations, two cultures and two identities as well as unity and bonds, talking about relations and cultural commonality is not enough.

How beautifully and deservedly "Layeq Sherali", the wise and famous Tajik poet said:

*We are from Fereydoon's generation,  
from the same roots, same blood,  
We are from the blood of Siyavash,  
We will be united forever  
Derafsh Kaviani is with us,  
The Aryan honor is with us,  
By the divine grace,  
In unity and when distressed,  
Tajik and Iranian hearts beat together, are intertwined together  
May love be bestowed on Tajiks and Iranians,  
May mercy, may honesty, may honor, may bravery be bestowed on them,  
Since we are from the same Cup of Jamshid,  
We are also drunk from the same cup,  
If Rostam stands,  
Once again, he will raise a flag,  
Our great Khorasan,  
our big Khorasan,  
By the divine grace,  
In unity and when distressed,  
Tajik and Iranian hearts beat together, are intertwined together  
May love be bestowed on Tajiks and Iranians,  
May mercy, may honesty, may honor, may bravery be bestowed on them,*

Iran and Tajikistan are from the same roots and trunk. Our language is the same; our history is the same; our Norooz is the same and our Ferdosi, Saadi, Hafez, Khayyam, Rumi, Attar of Neyshaboori, Jami, Abdol-Qadir Bedil, Kamal and Mir Seyed Ali are all the same.

And what a better luck than this verse from Hafez Shirazi:  
*In the way of love, there is no stage of nearness or distance*

*I see you and send you prayers. ◀*



**When one decides to talk about cultural commonalities and relations between the two nations, one will highlight the cultural elements shared between Iran and Tajikistan. However, when two nations, cultures and identities have no difference, they can boast their cultural commonalities.**











## **A single soul in two bodies**

Interests of Iran and Tajikistan are tied to expansion of relations and cooperation in the light of historical bonds.



Professor Omar Safar

The National University of Tajikistan

*Omar Safar is the professor of Iranian Studies at the School of Oriental Studies of the National University of Tajikistan. He has written the following opinion for the Diplomat on age-old relations between Iran and Tajikistan.*



*Relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran are different from similar relations they have established with other countries when we consider the commonalities between Tajikistan and Iran in terms of history, culture, language, traditions, rituals and literature.*

Due to its special geopolitical, geostrategic and geoeconomic status as well as its military and political power and racial commonality, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a natural ally of the Republic of Tajikistan in the region and the world.

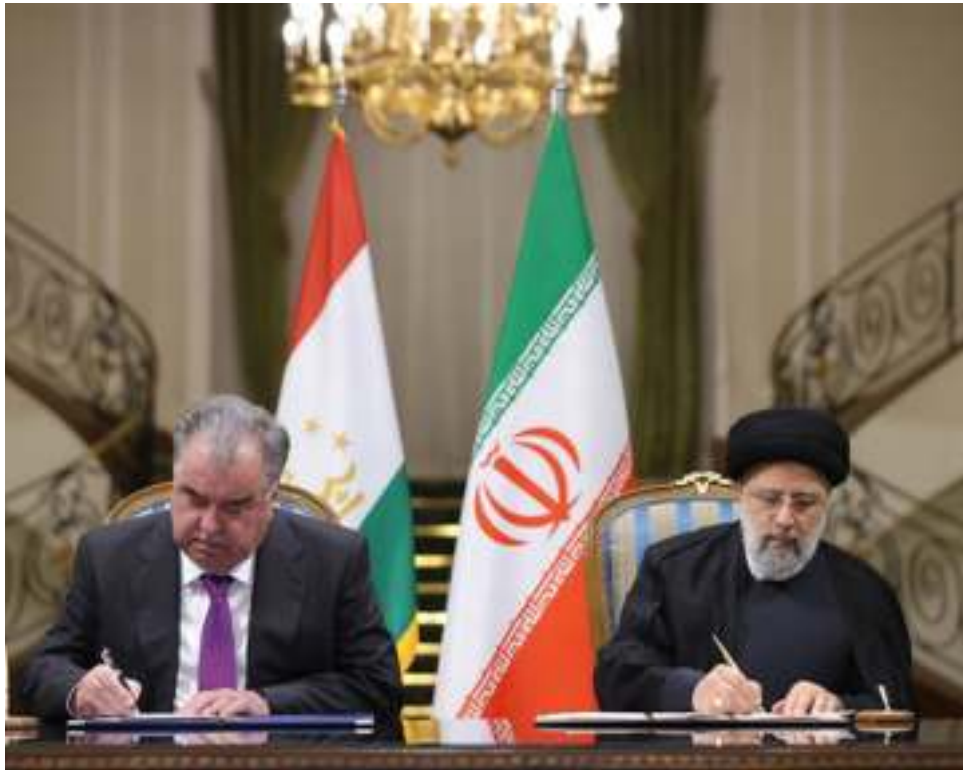
Official relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran were founded during the Soviet era.

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Soviet Union entered Dushanbe, the capital of the Socialist Soviet Republic of Tajikistan in September 1988. In that time, the Tajiks Socialist Soviet Republic was considered the first republic--among the other Soviet republics-- that had connected the Soviet Union to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In 1989, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Socialist Republic proposed to establish a diplomatic corps in the Embassy of the Soviet Union in Tehran and that Iran establish a consulate general in Dushanbe to foster direct bilateral relations. The two sides signed the first memorandum of cooperation on 21 November 1990. Within the framework of the "Memorandum of Understanding for the inclusive expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Socialist Republic of Tajikistan", various official, diplomatic, cultural and commercial delegations at different levels from the Islamic Republic of Iran visited Tajikistan.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened in Tajikistan on 8 January 1992. It was the first foreign diplomatic representation that was established in the Republic of Tajikistan. Also, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan opened a consulate office in the Republic of Tajikistan. That the Islamic Republic of Iran was the first country to open an Embassy in the Republic of Tajikistan was a strong proof that expansion of bilateral relations was an important foreign policy priority for Tehran and Dushanbe.

The official visit of the then-leader of the Republic of Tajikistan to Tehran during 28 and 30 June 1992 demonstrated that the Islamic Republic of Iran had obtained a special place in our country's foreign relations.

After Emomali Rahman was chosen as the leader of Tajikistan, relations between Tajikistan and Iran entered a new stage and level. The honorable President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rahman, paid special attention to the expansion of bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation with Iran as he was a leader of peace and national unity. He emphasized that Tajikistan always considers relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of its main foreign policy aspects and will continue its support for maintaining a proper and higher level of bilateral relations.



Leader Emomali Rahman defined five main areas for the foreign policy of the young Tajiki government in the Sixteenth Summit of the High Council of the Republic of Tajikistan on 28 December 1993. One of those areas was to expand relations with the Persian-speaking countries. Such a decision in the primary years of the independence of the Republic of Tajikistan demonstrated the foresight and wisdom of the leader of the country that was grappling with numerous political, economic and social difficulties and civil war. The leader of Tajikistan devoted special attention to the expansion of diversified and cordial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In fact, the supreme political leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan believes that inclusive cooperation between the two countries have been bound with the history of the two nations. As many international relations experts believe, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran are among the very close partners in Central Asia.

President Rahman paid his first official visit to Iran during 16 and 18 of June 1995 and founded new levels of bilateral ties with the

Islamic Republic of Iran. He signed eight memoranda of cooperation then and officially opened the activities of our embassy in Tehran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran plays a valuable role in the process of peace between Tajikistan government and the Tajik opponents. Four rounds of important and landmark peace negotiations among the Tajiks were held in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the second round of the Tajik peace talks that was held in April 1994 in Tehran, the Tajiks agreed to remove intermediaries and impediments on the way of friendship and peace; that was a sign of Iran's special interest in the immediate termination of conflicts in Tajikistan.

The national reconciliation commission, which played a leading role in making peace among the Tajiks, was established on 19 June 1995 in Tehran upon the agreement and cooperation of Mr. Rahman, the honorable President of Tajikistan and leader of the Tajik opposition alliance.

After the signing of the national reconciliation and peace agreement, the Islamic Republic of Iran provided invaluable help in that difficult period to the Tajiki nation who will never be forgotten.

A solid legal foundation have been based between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 30 years with the objective of developing and consolidating cooperation. Under such strong foundation, 180 agreements, MoUs and treaties have been signed in various intergovernmental, regional and international areas.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the main active investors in Tajikistan's economy. In 2020, bilateral trade between our two countries reached 57.7 million dollars, accounting for 1.3 percent of to total foreign





trade of Tajikistan.

Cotton and raw aluminum are the two main exports of Tajikistan to Iran. The main imports from Iran are building blocks, chemical products, machineries and foodstuff.

Bilateral relations between Iran and Tajikistan have worked in the interests of our two nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran contributes to the economic growth of the Republic of Tajikistan through investment; the result of such contribution is the stronger role of Iran as a strategic partner in Central Asia. Additionally, the Republic of Tajikistan is constructing its transit routes through attracting Iranian investors, paving the ground for the transport and transit of goods and products to the north of the country. Tajikistan has now turned into the biggest exporter of power to Central Asia including some to Iran in view of the new power plants constructed across the country.

Economic cooperation between Tajikistan and Iran is on the rise. Today, there are more than 220 Iranian companies active in Tajikistan's energy, transport, road-building, agriculture, technology and mining sectors. Bilateral trade between the countries has increased by six times in the past several years. Another aspect of stronger cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran is in regional and international arenas such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Islamic Cooperation Organization. The two countries have established excellent relations to secure the interests of their nations in regional and international organizations. The Republic of Tajikistan, using its seat in such important influential organizations, tries to support the positions and interests of our Iranian friends and brothers. For example, the Republic of Tajikistan did not follow the sanctions imposed by the United States of America, the European Union and the West on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Tajikistan's President Rahman was an influential figure in accepting Iran's full membership in the



Shanghai Cooperation Organization in accordance with its rules of procedure.

The principal positions of the supreme leadership in the Republic of Tajikistan in support of the rights and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning peaceful use of nuclear technology—regardless of the confrontation of global powers—remain invariable.

In 2010, President Rahman supported wholeheartedly the high level of relations between Tajikistan and Iran in his speech in the European Parliament and was critical of the Western double standards concerning Iran's nuclear program.

The Republic of Tajikistan was the only country that supported the nuclear positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran within the framework of the United Nations and opposed the United Nations Security Council's instrumental use of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter and efforts to portray Iran as a menace to peace. The open stance of the Republic of Tajikistan in international law is to oppose any arbitrary military action against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Republic of Tajikistan is the only country which has signed an agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran for defense cooperation.

Extensive cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan paved the foundation for the stronger role of Dushanbe in important regional affairs. In view of such cooperation, Tajikistan has rejected baseless ideas of Tehran's geopolitical rivals concerning the dangers of establishing close political ties with Iran that seems to be giving priority in its foreign policy to ideological and religious issues.

On the other hand, consolidation of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan has forced other regional countries to accept this reality and consider each other's natural interests in designing and implementing policies.

Thanks to the great success and achievements of President Rahman in strengthening ties with Iran

against the cautionary positions of a group of countries, the Republic of Tajikistan has been able to use its natural right to establish proper relations with one its important partners and at the same time maintain its useful cooperation with other regional and global centers.

Cooperation between Tajikistan and Iran in the past 30 years could be divided into the following:

- 1-From the independence of Tajikistan to the start of civil war
- 2-Civil war era
- 3-From the signing of peace agreement and national reconciliation.

The expansion of friendly cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan are tied to the fraternal and brotherly relations between the leadership of the two countries. Tajikistan's leader Emomali Rahman and Iran's supreme political leadership have shown their firm determination in the enhancement of bilateral relations. They call each other as brothers and welcome them to their countries as "your second home". The honorable president of Tajikistan has said that the people of Iran consider the progress, prosperity, security and honor of Tajikistan to be their own progress and security, and they are confident that the government and people of Tajikistan will have the same view towards Iran.

Bilateral and multilateral relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran could be further expanded in the future as there are many untapped opportunities between the two countries. Tajikistan and Iran can accomplish common interests if they consider the realities of the region and the world and expand relations in all areas of mutual interest. Having a reliable Persian-speaking partner in the Middle East is a priority of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For the Republic of Tajikistan, it is critical to expand cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of benefiting from advanced industries and high technologies particularly in materializing agricultural and strategic programs. ◀



**After signing the agreement to establish national reconciliation and peace, the Islamic Republic of Iran contributed to removing the hardship of their Tajik brothers and the people of Tajikistan will never forget the Iranian assistance.**





# Common heritage of Persian speakers

Persian language, the common  
heritage and bond among the  
Persian speakers worldwide

*The Persian language, also called the Dari or Dari Persian, has had a lot of power and ability to expand thanks to its characteristics that have made it the common language of all the people and tribes residing in the Iranian plateau as of 1010.*

مهرنگو ۱۳۹۲



Gholamali Haddad-Adel

Director of Iran's Academy of Persian  
Language and Literature



*The Persian language is not only a valuable national asset of Iranians and an important national pillar of the Iranian identity, but it is also a source of unity among people who live outside the borders of Iran and speak this language.*

The Persian language, whether in the form of ancient Persian or Middle Persian or in its modern form spoken by Iranians today, has always been the common language of the Iranian people. Although Iranians, due to differences in their birthplaces and places of residence, use local languages, they have chosen Persian language as a common language among themselves, and they have written their books on all kinds of subjects, including science and technology, in Persian language. They have written their emotions and feelings in poetry in the same language, and the difference in accent and local dialects and languages have not prevented unity over the Persian language.

The Persian language, which is also called the Dari language or Farsi Dari, due to its characteristics, has had a great capacity to be expanded. As of 1010, when this language became the common language among Iranians, it could spread throughout far lands, including India, the lands of the Ottoman Empire, Egypt, Iraq and the Caucasus and became the language of science and literature. Some valuable literary works of prominent Iranian poets such as Ferdosi, Sanaee, Attar, Molavi, Saadi and Hafez and many other books of prose and poetry in

Persian contributed significantly to the expansion and popularity of this language in other countries of the region.

Today, the Persian language is the official and common language of the people of Iran as well as Tajikistan where it is known as Tajik. The Persian language is known in three forms of "Persian, Dari and Tajik" respectively used in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan; all the three names represent the truth and nature of this language, as Hatef Esfahani said: *"There are three names for "silk" namely Parnian, Harir and Parand but they do not change the quality of the silk"*

The spread of Persian language in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan should be considered as one of the reasons for the strength and power of these three countries, because whatever intellectual, scientific and literary works are produced in this language in these three countries can be shared amongst them and even move beyond the borders and find more readers. This common language makes it possible for scientific and technological advances, intellectual and cultural innovations and literary and artistic achievements of these three nations to be easily accessible to everyone without the help of a translator. In addition, having a common language leads to a kind of commonality in culture, and this cultural commonality will be the basis of empathy and any cooperation between nations. To put it in a nutshell, whatever is written contemporarily or throughout history in Persian worldwide is considered an asset for the Persian-speaking nations.

The truth is that history of every nation represents its root. The common language and literature among the nations of Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan demonstrate the interconnectedness and linkage of the nature and history of these three countries. Our ancestors chose Persian language to communicate among themselves; we, who are their successors and children, should appreciate this common heritage and not sever this long-standing bond. Poetry is a means of expressing the most delicate and secret human feelings and thoughts. What cannot

**The Persian language is the valuable national asset of the people of Iran and constitutes the most important element of the Iranian identity which has created unity among many people residing outside the Iranian borders but share the same language with Iran.**









be expressed in prose should be articulated in poetry. Translation of a poem from one language to another harms the "wit" that is hidden in the poem which is understood but cannot be indeed described. The pleasure that comes from poetry for the native speakers is never achieved for others through translation. Today, when people of Iran read the poems of contemporary Tajik poets such as Mumin Qanoat, Asgar Hakim, Laeeq Shir Ali, and Madam Golrokhsar, or listen to the poems of contemporary Afghan poets such as Khalilullah Khalili, Birang Kohadami, Mohammad Kazem Kazemi, and hundreds of other Afghan poets, it is as if they listen to their heart without any problem in understanding and without any difference in perception. This empathy and solidarity that is achieved by the blessing of sharing the same language is not something that can be bought by force. We, the people of the three countries of Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, are residents of a single cultural climate and a single cultural "ecosystem" and we breathe the same air and are irrigated by the same water.

Anyone who is familiar with the city,

*knows where our goods are from*

In conclusion, I would like to mention a poem of my own in Persian, which expresses the love and affection of my heart and that of all Persian speakers for the Persian treasure and gem of Dari. Here it comes:

*O Persian language*

*O Persian language, O Dari, the sea of Dari,*

*O heritage of ancestors, O my mother tongue*

*In you, we find our honor, culture and religion*

*You raise the flag wisdom and knowledge*

*Kabul, Tehran, Tabriz, Bokhara, and Khojand*

*Are your property, up to Balkh, Neyshaboor, and Hari*

*Eternal be the language of knowledge and wisdom,*

*Till the sun of the east enlighten to the world*

We preserve Persian because it is said the value of gold is known by the jeweler, and the value of a gem is known gem seller. ◀







# Roodaki's influence on Iranian Identity

*Roodaki is known to be the master of poets and the forerunner of non-Arab poetry. His name was "Aboo Abdollah Jafar bin Mohammad bin Hakim bin Abdolrahman bin Adam". He was born in Banuj village (Panjakent in present-day Tajikistan) which was also known as Roodak among the locals.*



*In this note, Iran and the Iranian Plateau are used interchangeably. The Iranian Plateau is much wider than the current country of Iran, and the country of Iran itself is a part of the Iranian Plateau. The inhabitants of the Irania Plateau are the people with common cultural, linguistic and blood roots and have an inseparable identity, cultural pride and historical sufferings. The great figures of Persian culture and literature such as Ferdosi, Roodaki, Hafez, Saadi and Molana definitely do not only belong to the country of Iran but to all residents of the Iranian plateau.*

In addition to poets, the history of the Achaemenid, Parthian, or Sassanid empires is not only a part of the national history of Iran, but it can also represent the national history of Tajikistan or Afghanistan; the same applies for the intangible heritage such as Norooz, Yalda Night and Mehregan which belong to the era before the dismemberment of the Iranian Plateau.

Roodaki lived in the Samanid era. The Samanids were of Iranian origin that ruled large parts of Transoxiana from 819 to 1004 AD (for more than 180 years) under the seal and authority of the Abbasid caliphs.

The Samanids were part of the "Iranian Intermezzo". Orientalists believe that the term "intermezzo" refers to a period during which, for the first time, after the defeat of the Sassanid empire by the Arabs and with the decline of the Abbasid Caliphate, the Iranian tribes once again ruled the Iranian Plateau.



Undoubtedly, Roodaki gained great wealth from poetry; We know very well that the Samani era and the time of Roodaki's life is considered one of the most prosperous times in the history of Transoxiana and Khorasan, and the extensive trade that took place in this era was the reason that the Saman dynasty benefited from a very favorable financial situation, and their trade caravans traveled all over the rivers to Eastern Europe, China, the central plateau of Iran, the shores of the Persian Gulf, the Oman Sea and the Indian subcontinent. With the acquisition of this great wealth, the Samanids turned to the promotion of Aryan culture and the pursuit of the idea of literary independence to revive Iranian thought; and they considered as a main objective the slogan of spreading the Iranian spirit, reviving the Persian language and preserving Iran's independence.

The Samanid rulers considered themselves the heirs of the Sassanid empire and claimed that their lineage went back to Bahram Choobin. The Samanids revived the Iranian identity based on the Persian language and turned their capital (the city of Bukhara) into a rival for Baghdad--the capital of the Abbasid caliph-- through showing great affection for culture and art. In Khorasan, due to the establishment of privileged cultural conditions, the Samanids created the means for the emergence of Persian-speaking thinkers such as Ferdosi, Poorsina and Roodaki.

Roodaki is known to be the master of poets and the forerunner of non-Arab poetry. His name was "Aboo Abdollah Jafar bin Mohammad bin Hakim bin Abdolrahman bin Adam". He was born in Banuj village (Panjakent in present-day Tajikistan), which was known as Roodak among the locals. It is said that when he was 8 years old, he was so sharp that he memorized the whole Quran and learned to read and recite poetry. He could also interpret texts in so precise manner so that the people favored him. He had a charming voice and was handsome as well. Therefore, he became a singer, and he learned "Oud" from master Abulabik Bakhtiar.

Jami also spoke about Roodaki's skill in music in the book Baharestan. Roodaki was considered to be born blind. "He was blind, but his mind was jealous of the sun and the moon. He had no sight, but he had insight. His outward eyes were closed, but his inner eyes were wide open (Aufi, 1335: 248). However his poems suggest that he was not born blind! And in the words of Professor Zarinkoob: "From Roodaki's own words, we cannot say that his entire life was spent in the endless darkness of blindness. He indicates in some of his poems that he can see; he even uses sensual comparisons in his poetry, especially when it comes to the world of colors which is impossible for blinds to feel unless they are not blind (Zarinkoob, 2535: 2)".

Undoubtedly, Roodaki earned a huge wealth from poetry. We



know it very well that the Samanid era and Roodaki's lifetime were considered to be one of the most prosperous times in the history of Transoxiana and Khorasan. Due to the extensive trade that took place in this era, the Samanids enjoyed a very favorable financial status and their commercial caravans traveled all over Transoxiana to Eastern Europe, China, the central plateau of Iran, the shores of the Persian Gulf, the Oman Gulf and the Indian subcontinent. The Samanids, having acquired this great wealth, started promoting Aryan culture and pursuing the idea of literary independence to revive the Iranian thought. They adopted the slogan of *spreading the Iranian spirit, reviving the Persian language and preserving Iran's independence* at the top of their goals. If the Samanids did not reach this ideology, Iran and Iranians would have been so consumed in the Arab civilization and language that today, like Egypt, North of Africa, Syria, and Iraq, Iran would be considered as an Arab territory, language and civilization.

In the sources of the Samanid era, three classes of teachers, writers and scholars can be clearly distinguished (Fray, 1381: 129). Special attention paid to these people provided a suitable platform for their growth, and Roodaki took advantage of this opportunity in the best way. As he was a master in Persian poetry and music, he had some skills in religion as well. Before going to Bukhara, he went to Samarkand when he was young to acquire knowledge and there he learned the science of hadith from the great scholars of his time (Nafisi, 1382: 410). There are numerous reports indicating that he was fully familiar with Quranic verses and narrations. Another aspect of Roodaki's deep knowledge and mastery was in Arabic literature (Shafi'i Kodkani, 1350: 333). In addition, Roodaki was a skilled scholar in geography, genealogy and history of ancient Iran. Roodaki was familiar with astronomy and Greek philosophy, especially Neoplatonic philosophy (Emami, 1378: 97). Historical documents indicate that he was not

only a poet and musician, but he was also a great sage in the Samanid court. Roodaki did not only write poetry for the Samanid court, rather, he created an intellectual connection between the court and the society, as well as the nobles and the common people. Roodaki connected the public mind to the court and the thoughts of the court to the needs of the society, and this connection is clearly evident in the contents of his poetry.

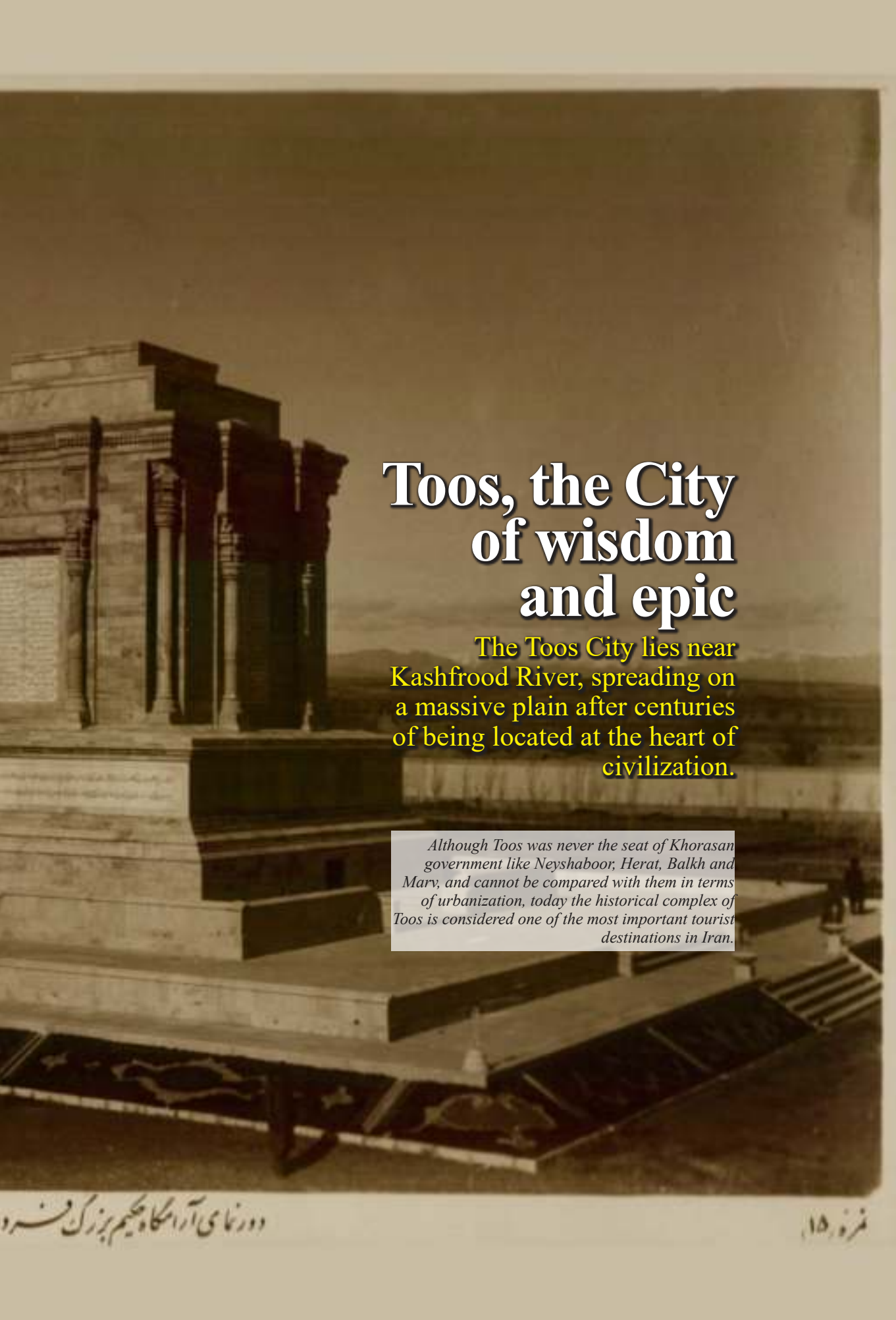
In relation to Roodaki's role in creating an intellectual connection between the Samanid court and the society, reference can be made to a famous story from the book "Chahar Maqaleh" by Nezami Arozi: Emir Nasr Samanid (or another Emir) left Bukhara to Herat and he favored Herat weather. He delayed his return to Bukhara so much that he and his companions stayed in Herat for four years. His soldiers, who missed Bukhara, went to Roodaki, who was revered before Emir and his words were accepted by Emir at that time; Soldiers told Roodaki that if he dared to persuade the king to return to Bukhara, they would reward him with fifty thousand dirhams! Roodaki knew that prose did not work in that delicate weather, and that he needs to create a poem that was more tender than Herat's weather. Therefore, he wrote an ode, and when Emir Samanid was drunk, he played the harp and sang that ballad. Emir was so impressed that he got on his horse without putting on his shoes and rode straight to Bukhara. It is said that his shoes were handed over to him after two miles and Roodaki took fifty thousand dirhams from the soldiers (Nezami Arozi, 1386: 5356-) The poem read:

*The fragrance of the River  
Mooliyan's always being felt,  
The recall of the nice friend's always being sensed,  
The pebbles of the Amuy and its coarse road,  
Is always being felt like Parniyan under my feet,  
For the joy of seeing the beloved's face, The white  
color of the River Oxun is always coming up to the middle,  
O Bukhara, be happy and live long,  
The emir's always coming happily for you,  
The emir's the moon and Bukhara's the sky,  
The moon's always coming towards the sky,  
The emir's a cedar and Bukhara's a garden,  
The cedar's always coming towards the garden.*

The Samanid era was undoubtedly the most important period for epic writing in Iranian literature. Roodaki was considered one of the effective elements in Ferdosi's epic work; in other words, the foundations of Iranian national pride and greatness, which is the *Shahnameh*, was laid in the Samanid period (Fayaz, Fakhravar, 1388: 53). But alas, Roodaki's destiny was not so heartwarming. Following the dismissal of Abolfazl Balami from the Samanid court, due to his great relations with Roodaki, Roodaki was also no more welcomed by the Samanid Emirs and was detached from the court; his reputation decreased and he fell into poverty and hardship. He was probably blinded in this days. Finally, in the year 329 [AH], Roodaki passed away and slept forever in his hometown. In conclusion, I would like to mention a verse from this sage:

*Whoever does not learn from the passage of days  
They will not learn from any teachers as well* ◀





# Toos, the City of wisdom and epic

The Toos City lies near  
Kashfrod River, spreading on  
a massive plain after centuries  
of being located at the heart of  
civilization.

*Although Toos was never the seat of Khorasan government like Neyshaboor, Herat, Balkh and Marv, and cannot be compared with them in terms of urbanization, today the historical complex of Toos is considered one of the most important tourist destinations in Iran.*





Hossein Salimi

Visiting lecturer, PhD in History of  
Iran after Islam



*Since ancient times, Toos has been the cradle of an important civilization.*

*Discovery of man-made tools from the Paleolithic era, which are kept in the National Museum of Iran, is a clear proof of the ancient history of this region. Parsveh or Parthia (later called Khorasan) has been mentioned as one of the northeastern provinces of this kingdom during the Achaemenid period. The word Toos, however, appeared for the first time in the writings belonging to the Sassanid era.*

Although Toos was never the seat of Khorasan government like Neyshaboor, Herat, Balkh and Marv, and cannot be compared with them in terms of urbanization, today the historical complex of Toos is considered one of the most important tourist destinations in Iran.

Driving shortly from Mashhad to the north, you can easily reach the historical city of Toos and visit a collection of historical and cultural monuments of Iran located in Khorasan province. If you move from the west to the east, you shall first encounter the remains of the ancient city of Tabran and its historical school, which is attributed to Abu Hamed Al-Ghazali.

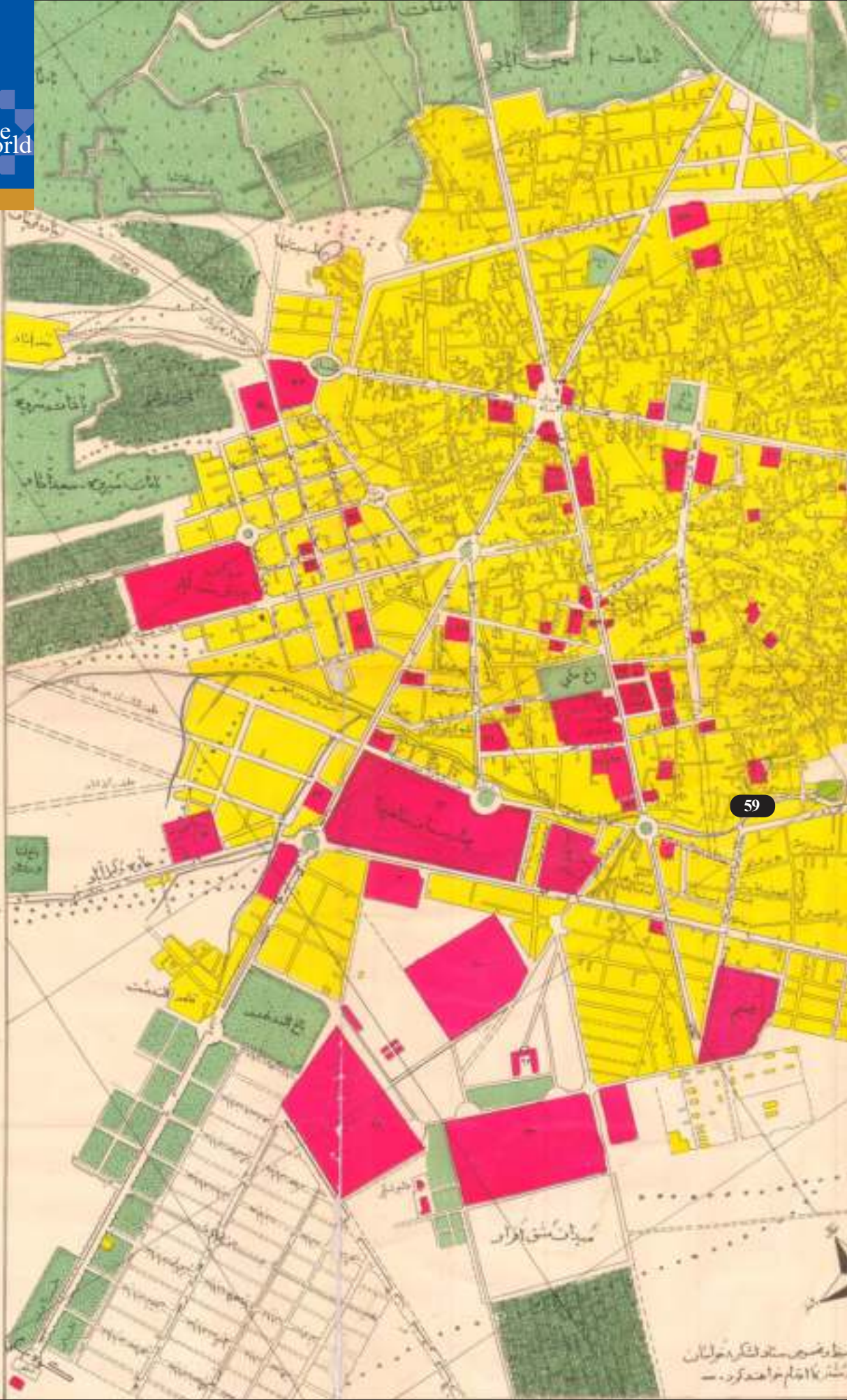
Harooniyeh Dome is another building which is located in the same direction and half a kilometer away from Ferdosi's tomb. It is not possible to speak with certainty about the use of this building. However, it was probably used as a Khanqah (monastery), school or even the tomb of Abu Hamed Al-Ghazali. The Razi- and Azari-style







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architecture of Harooniyeh suggests it was built around fourteenth century AD. There are potteries in the lower layers of this collection belonging to earlier periods.

The tomb of Ferdosi, which is the most important tourist attraction in Toos, was rebuilt and reopened by Iran's National Artifacts Association in 1934 on the occasion of Ferdosi millennial celebration, with the participation of a large number of orientalist and Iranologists. It became the shrine of lovers of Persian language and literature. This beautiful and magnificent building is a reminder of the glory of the Sassanid Empire and is decorated with verses from the Shahnameh (Book of the King). Inside, the beautiful figures that narrate the stories of Shahnameh are carved on the walls and embrace the eternal tomb of the sage of Toos. The Ferdosi Museum is located in the northwest of the tomb, where old copies of the Shahnameh and donated paintings and works of art are kept. Also, the epic poet of the contemporary era of Iran, Mahdi Akhanan-Salles, aka Omid, and the great Iranian maestro and vocalist, Mohammad Reza Shajarian, are buried at the yard of the Ferdosi mausoleum. Also, on its eastern side, the historical walls of the ancient city of Tabran are visible.

Akhangan Rod is the easternmost historical monument in Toos. This building, which is located near Akhangan village, is a unique structure with the architectural style of the Timurid Era and beautiful tiles in its dome. It seems to have been used as a tomb for one of the high-ranking ladies in the Timurid period.

Leaving aside the historical monuments and tourist attractions, it is noteworthy that the honors of Toos are in fact the common honors of the entire Norooz-celebrating region, from the borders of Tajikistan and China to the Mediterranean. During the brilliant era of civilization from the eighth to the twelfth centuries AD in the world of Islam and the greater cultural Iran, the city of Toos presented great personalities to the human civilization. Prominent figures whose fields of thought

and knowledge have sometimes been so diverse and different from each other that makes it difficult to believe that all these figures belonged to the same soil and land.

The chemistry of Jaber ibn Hayyan, the rhetoric of Ferdosi, Daqiqi and Asadi, the thoughts of Sheikh Toosi, Khajeh Nezam al-Molk, Abu Hamed Al-Ghazali and Nasir al-Din al-Toosi and the mathematics of Sharaf al-Din al-Toosi all represent the high position of Toos. But what, perhaps more than any other field of knowledge, links Persian speakers and Iranian descendants in the countries of the region, especially in Iran and Tajikistan, are the field of humanities and literature.

“Aboo Mansoori Shahnameh”, which was written based on the Khoday Namak of the Sassanid period, was written upon the order of Aboo Mansoor Mohammad, the ruler of Toos. A book that was the beginning of awakening and identity-based self-awareness among people of Iranian descent during the first centuries after Islam. The people of Toos played a role in composing Aboo Mansoori’s prose Shahnameh. Daqiqi made some efforts but was unable to finish it because of his sudden death. The work was later finished by another scholar from Toos. The great Ferdosi, this ever-illuminating sun of Persian literature, continued Daqiqi’s work and created a seminal work of literature and culture that has been saved throughout the history. Shahnameh is like a structure whose various parts are connected to Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the entire region of Norooz and “cultural Iran”.

Sheikh Toosi was another great thinker of this city. He was one of the great scholars of the tenth and eleventh centuries AD. Sheikh Toosi was the founder of Ijtihad in Shiasm and the Shia seminary in Najaf Ashraf, and two of the four books of Shiasm, namely Tahzeeb al-Kalam and al-Istibsar, are among his works. His many and great achievements in the field of Islamic and Shia sciences are so immense that a great man like Allameh Helli called him the head of the Shiasm or Sheikh al-Taifah.

But this is not all about Toos which connect us with the past. Khosravani's wisdom, which was an important method of wisdom and governance in Iran before Islam, was compiled in Persian in the eleventh century AD by Nezam ul-Molk under the title of "Siyasatnameh" (Policy Paper) or "Seyr al-Molook" (Governance). Everything a ruler needs to know is covered in fifty chapters of this book. The spirit of his speech is based on the ancient principle of "Farah Izadi"--a fundamental and unique principle in the history of Iran before Islam, which was reproduced and promoted in this way to the extent that it influenced the Turkish kings of Seljuk descents as well. In addition to investigating the current affairs of the vast territories of the Seljuqs, he based his efforts on opening military schools or Nizamiyyas. Al-Nizamiyyas of Baghdad, Neyshaboor, Mosul, Shiraz, Herat, Basra and Isfahan were each a great place for the presence of big teachers such as Imam al-Haramain Abul Maali Abdullah Jovini and high-ranking students such as Saadi Shirazi and Abu Hamed Al-Ghazali.

When speaking on Islamic political thoughts, one cannot ignore Abu Hamed Al-Ghazali Tosi--a great scholar who despite various criticisms against his works, is one of the most important scholars in this field.

Until the end of the glorious age of Muslim civilization i.e. until the invasion of the Mongols, the city of Toos had never missed the most influential figures in the history of human civilization. Nezam ul-Molk Toosi can be considered one of the greatest scientists, jurists, philosophers and theologians of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries AD. He based the Shia discourse on the foundations of rational arguments and in this regard, he responded to the criticisms of the Ashari eminent figures such as his compatriot Abu Hamed Al-Ghazali on the beliefs of the Shias. He can also be called the last great thinker of Toos before the Mongol attack.

Toos was not saved from the Mongols’ destructions. Like many cities in Transoxiana and Khorasan, Toos was trampled under the hoofs of Tatar horses. After that, although it was rebuilt by the Mongols and became prominent for a while, Toos never regained its former glory after being destroyed again during the Timurid Era.

With the rise of the Safavid dynasty in Iran and appointing Shiasm as the official religion in Iran, the City of Mashhad, in proximity of Toos, gradually gained importance and was expanded. At the same time, some travelogues and sources in Nader Shah's period noted the growing migration of people from Toos to Mashhad, marking the beginning of the Afsharid Era.

Although with the increasing development of Mashhad in the last five centuries, the Toos became the outskirts of Mashhad, and falls currently under the auspices of the municipality of Mashhad and no longer has a separate urban identity, the civilizational relics of Toos will glow like a shining setup in the sky of culture and civilization of Iran ◀

# LEGACY OF EMPATHY

## Yalda, a celebration as big as Norooz on the eve of cold winter

*The Yalda Night illustrates Iranians' age-old awareness of geographical changes and solar chronology during which the people and especially farmers of this land kept vigil for the victory of the sun (light) over the night (darkness).*



*“Chelleh” or Yalda has been one of the most cherished and ancient festivals of Iranians for thousands of years. Yalda is celebrated in the winter month of January, which, in ancient Iran era, was considered to have the second largest number of celebrations after April. Yalda is a symbol of honoring Mitra, commonly known as Mehr-- the Iranian deity of covenant, light and sun.*

In Avesta, "Mehrisht" is in praise of Chelleh, demonstrating the history and antiquity and of course the longevity of this celebration. This Iranian ritual has been a sign of Iranians' age-old awareness of the geographical changes and solar chronology during which the people and especially farmers of this land kept vigil for the victory of the sun (light) over the night (darkness). The most important custom of Iranians on Yalda, the longest night of the year, is staying awake late at night serving autumn fruits such as pomegranates and persimmons as decorations of the Yalda table. Of course, watermelon is also of special attention in this joyous period. Serving families and those who spend the night in Chelleh with these fruits is called "myazd" or "lork" as Zoroastrians call it, which is indeed an offering to Ahoora Mazda-- the deity of creation. Along with the edibles served on this night, it is also important to pay attention to the spiritual culture and ritual of Yalda Night which is an opportunity to get together with your loved ones in the heart of the cold winter nights and tell stories and fortune.

But in the culture of the people of this land, the ritual of Chelleh, this seven-thousand-year-old celebration, has been much diversified than what is celebrated today. What is more common



today among the Iranians is to stay awake late at night, gather family members and relatives together, read Hafez's horoscope and tell stories of Ferdosi's Shahnameh, and of course listen to the words of the elders. There are also other aspects of Chelleh which remain understudied. These customs, which have been or may be forgotten in the ups and downs of the times in future, are still more familiar in some cities of Iran. We will have a look at some of the abandoned Chelleh rituals that are still alive among Iranians worldwide.

For instance, in the Kerman Province, where most of the people stay awake until dawn, people believe that Qaroon, in the form of a woodcutter carrying a stack of firewood, goes to the home of the benefactors and gives them firewood, and that firewood turns into gold bullion and lifts them out of poverty. In the past, some people used to stay vigil on this night in the hope that Qaroon would come to see them and give them gold bullion in return for their vigil. Another Yalda Night tradition is popular in West Azarbaijan where on the first Chelleh after marriage, the groom's family bring cotton candy for the bride as a symbol of prosperity and winter snow. In North Khorasan Province, where Chelleh night was called "Chelleh Zari", people choose one of the young virgin girls and dress her in a wedding costume and sing poetry and rejoice. They also send an offering of fabrics and local sweets to the newlywed grooms.

It is also mentioned in historical and literary sources that Iranians used to stand in front of a cedar tree on Khorram Rooz (the first day of the Iranian month of Dey) in recognition of the birth of Mehr and longevity of the days after Chelleh. They also made the allegiance that until the following year, they would plant another cedar sapling and, in this way, they would be encouraged for a brighter future. Another



relatively forgotten tradition of Chelleh among Iranians is the renewal of friendship. Since in the beliefs of the ancient Iranians, friendship agreements were made with the mediation of the deity of covenant, and according to the same beliefs, Mehr was born on this night, so in the eastern parts of the Iranian plateau, especially the Khorasan area, on this night, elders made efforts to end hostilities and disputes and remove differences between people, and spread friendship and love among the tribes.

The night of Chelleh (Yalda) ritual has been recently registered as the 19th intangible cultural heritage of Iran and Afghanistan jointly in UNESCO. These



historical and civilizational links have their roots in the common cultural heritage of thousands of years which need to be continued and preserved for the generations to come. Since the borders of cultural Iran as an entity are much wider than political and geographical Iran, and this field of identity spreads from Amu Darya to Bandar Iskenderun, and from Central Asia to Sian Kiang, and from Lahore to Konya.

We should not, however, miss the point. In Mazandaran Province, north of Iran, another ritual has been practiced for a long time: the girls at the age of marriage would cover their faces and go to the doors of seven houses and ask for sweets; if no one recognize them during

these seven stages, which are a reminder of the sanctity of number seven among the ancient Iranians, then they have been successful in covering their identity. In some parts of central Alborz and Alamut region and especially in villages, an old ceremony is still performed: before night falls, people go to the graveyards and ask for God's mercy and forgiveness for the deceased people by lighting lamps and candles; then they all spend the night at the home of the village chief, telling stories, having fun and eating snacks. In Spadana (ancient Esfahan) in the past, they celebrated two nights in the name of Yalda. One night was called Chellehzari (female) and the other called Amoochelleh (male). In Sistan-Baloochestan, women welcomed Yalda by reading the Shahnameh stories and baking local breads and a special sweet called Chengali. The people of Lorestan Province fattened a lamb in advance for this night and decorated the table of Yalda with the famous Lorestan rice dish. The Kords used to knock spoons and light firewood and listen to the words of the clan's story teller to retell them epic and mythological stories. The people of Azarbaijan put the fruits of the season on the Yalda table along with the red watermelon, which was the main role of family gatherings, and at the end, they put the skins of fruits in running water to bring them good luck. Solving riddles and playing simple local games are also parts of Yalda night culture, which are still prevalent in the greater cultural Iran.

In this way, Iranians, with these beautiful ancient rituals, whose essence represent unity and harmony with nature, and the praise of happiness and honoring the family, cherish the last autumn night and the longest night of the year as a symbol of Iran's ancient civilization and culture. These celebrations and rituals have moved in line with the long-lasting Iranian identity and play an important role in preserving the cultural heritage of this land ◀

# Diplomatic Events

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



2022|06|02

## National Day of Italy

The National Day of the Italian Republic was honored at the residence of the Italian Ambassador in Tehran.

The Italian National Day was held on the evening of Thursday, 12th June 2022, in the presence of Mr. Hassan Sheikhol Eslami, the President of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the residence of the Italian Ambassador in Tehran.

In his remarks, referring to the bilateral relations between Iran and Italy, Sheikhol Eslami said that both countries have always been determined to protect Tehran-Rome bilateral relations. Therefore, I am sure that in future, we will witness further development of ties.

While emphasizing age-old cooperation between the two countries, the IPIS President stated that Italy has always been the gateway for Iranian scholars, cultural figures and businesses to Europe for many years and decades, and Iran has been a reliable partner in the field of regional and global relations for our Italian friends. Iran stands ready to cooperate with Italy to strengthen this path based on protecting mutual interests and respect.

Later, Giuseppe Perrone, the honorable Ambassador of Italy to Iran, voiced his hope for the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and expressed his gratitude for the cooperation of the Iranian authorities with Italy.





### National Day of the Russian Federation

The National Day of the Russian Federation was honored at the Embassy of Russia in Tehran.

The Russian National Day was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, by H.E. Mr. Luvan Jagarian, the honorable Ambassador of Russia to Tehran, with the participation of ambassadors of some other countries at the Russian Embassy.

H.E. Mr. Javad Oji, the Minister of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also participated in the event.



2022|06|15

**Diplomat Ladies for Charity**

Opening of the charity market of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Diplomatic Ladies Association  
The charity festival of the Diplomatic Ladies Association affiliated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran was opened by Madam Amir-Abdollahian, the Spouse of Iran’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the presence of spouses of the resident Ambassadors to Tehran.

The charity festival was opened on Wednesday, 15th June 2022, in the presence of Madam Amir-Abdollahian, the Spouse of Iran’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as the spouses of the Iranian high-ranking officials and spouses of the honorable ambassadors in Tehran.

The charity festival was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Diplomatic Ladies Association. In this event, some of the participating spouses of the honorable ambassadors made donations to the charity.

It should be noted that the donations will be used for charity purposes.



2022|06|28

**National Day of Mongolia**

The 101st anniversary of the People’s Revolution and National Day of Mongolia was held in Tehran.

The 101st anniversary of the people’s revolution and National Day of Mongolia was held at Parsian Esteghlal Hotel on 28th June 2022.

H.E Mr. Reza Zabib, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director General for Asia and the Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr. Masood Taheri Mehr, Director of Thailand and Mongolia Department of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization participated in the event.



## National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt

The National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt was celebrated in the residence of the Head of the Interest Section of Egypt in Tehran.

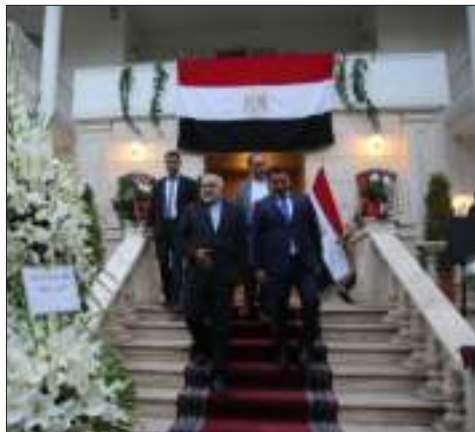
Assistant Foreign Minister Abdoallah Sohrabi attended the ceremony on Tuesday 21th July 2022 in the residence of the Head of the Interest Section of Egypt in Tehran.

Haitham Jalal, the Head of the Interest Section of Egypt in Iran described the Egyptian revolution of 1952 as a turning point in the modern history of Egypt.

He added that Egypt, despite many ups and downs, is taking steps to establish peace in the Middle East and will continue its endless efforts to materialize peace and stability in the region while giving priority to the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Referring to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Egypt, he expressed hope that the international community would be able to interact furthermore and find effective solutions to confront the climate change challenges.

Highlighting the significant contribution by Iran and Egypt to human civilization throughout history, Jalal expressed hope of the Egyptian diplomatic delegation in Iran to pave the way for further dialogue and understanding between the two countries.





2022|07|14

**National Day of the Republic of France**

The National Day of the Republic of France was held in the Embassy of France in Tehran.

In the ceremony to mark the National Day of France on Thursday, 14th July 2022, Philippe Thiebaud, the honorable Ambassador of the Republic of France to the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the rise of Covid-19 and invited all to follow the health protocols more than before. He appreciated the efforts made by all the doctors all over the world for controlling the spread of the virus.

Ambassador Thiebaud, while emphasizing the rich culture of Iran and France, expressed his regret that he had been unable to visit all parts of Iran during his assignment as the result of the Covid-19 pandemic.



2022|07|24

**Embassy of Japan hosts Iranian students**

A luncheon was hosted in the Embassy of Japan in Tehran for the students of the School of International Relations—the diplomatic academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The reception was held on 24th July 2022 with the presence of the dean and graduates of the school as well as a delegation from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

The honorable Ambassador of Japan hosted this luncheon at his residence in Tehran in honor of the President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Iranian students who had participated in the embassy’s student exchange program in the past 10 years.

The Dean of the School of International Relations and Mr. Morteza Rahmani Movahed, former ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Japan, Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour, member of the faculty and Seyed Majied Qafelehbashi, Vice-President of Research and Studies of the Institute for Political and International Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, were also present in this ceremony.

At the beginning of this ceremony, Aikawa Kazoutoshi, the honorable Ambassador of Japan to Iran, delivered a speech concerning the cooperation between the School of International Relations and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

The President of Sasakawa Peace Foundation pointed out that cooperation between the two academic institutions in Iran and Japan, has been going on for almost 10 years during which around 100 students have been exchanged.



### Pakistan Rice Festival in Tehran

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran, in cooperation with the Pakistani Rice Exporters Association organized the “Pakistani Rice Festival” on 27 July 2022 in Spinas Palace Hotel.

Some Iranian officials, rice exporters, businessmen, journalists, diplomats, and members of the Pakistani community living in Iran attended the ceremony.

Also in this ceremony, Homan Fathi, Director General of the Department of International Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, welcomed the delegation of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan.

Rahim Hayat Qureshi, the honorable Ambassador of to in Iran, emphasized the importance of the growing exchanges between the private sectors of Iran and Pakistan in strengthening bilateral economic relations in order to reach the five billion dollar target in bilateral trade.

He pointed out that the Rice Festival is a part of series of activities commemorating the golden anniversary of Pakistan’s Independence and establishment of 75 years of diplomatic relations with Iran.



2022|08|01

**Nelson Mandela remembered in Tehran**

Nelson Mandela Cultural Program was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa in Tehran.

The program was held on 1st August 2022 in the Embassy of Japan in Tehran.

This cultural event was held on the Nelson Mandela International Day. The event included the screening of a movie on 1st August 2022 and a photo exhibition on 3rd and 4th August 2022. The diplomatic community in Tehran and cultural figures attended the event.

In the opening ceremony of this event, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as former ambassadors of Iran to South Africa participated.

On the last day of the event, Ingoussi Mandela, the grandson of Nelson Mandela, visited the photo exhibition and presented his personal memories of the many historical events which were illustrated in the exhibition.



2022|09|05

**National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

The 77th National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held in the Embassy of Vietnam in Tehran.

This ceremony was hosted by Luong Konok Hoi, the honorable Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with the presence of other ambassadors and diplomats on Monday 5th September 2022 in Tehran.

H.E. Mr. Reza Zabib, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director General of Asia and the Pacific was present in this ceremony on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.





## Cultural Month of Japan in Tehran

The Cultural Month of Japan was inaugurated on Monday 19th September 2022 in the Embassy of Japan in Tehran.

In this Ceremony, in addition to Mr. Ikawa, the honorable Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Motefakerzad, MP and Chairman of Iran-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group, was also present.

During this ceremony, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan awarded a certificate of appreciation to individuals who have made a major contribution to the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan.

Speakers from Japanese Island of Kome Jima, in Okinawa province, spoke about the traditional Japanese clothing called Kome Jima Kimono (a traditional Japanese kimono made in this island).



## 30th anniversary of ECO expansion commemorated

The 30th anniversary of the expansion of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Tehran at the Center for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The commemoration ceremony of the 30th anniversary of the expansion of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on 11th December 2022 at the Center for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran, with the presence of representatives from different countries and all the honorable ambassadors of the member countries of the ECO. The guest of honor of this ceremony was Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his statement, Amir-Abdollahian said that "deepening and expanding economic cooperation with our neighbors, the countries in the region and Asian countries, is one of the priorities of the economic diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Multilateral and regional organizations which act as facilitators for further promotion of bilateral cooperation and economic development of the region, are very important to the Islamic Republic of Iran and ECO has occupied an important place in this strategy".

The minister added that "the Islamic Republic of Iran uses every opportunity to strengthen integration processes in ECO. We believe that ECO can present successful patterns in the fields of South-South cooperation; cooperation between landlocked countries and transit countries; cooperation between energy producing and consuming countries; peoples-to-peoples contact especially in the field of tourism; scientific and academic cooperation and cooperation in the field of technological and innovative services".

H.E. Dr. Mehdi Safari, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy, was also present in the ceremony. H.E. Mr. Khosro Nazeri, the Secretary General of the ECO, was host of this ceremony.

Deepening cooperation with ECO and regional countries is one of the priorities of Iran's economic diplomacy.



### Diplomatic ladies celebrate Yalda Night

The most ancient Iranian ceremony celebrated by diplomatic ladies.

The ancient ceremony of Yalda Night was celebrated by the Diplomatic Ladies Association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the presence of spouses of diplomats and representatives of international organizations in Tehran.

Considering the global registration of Yalda Night as the 19th intangible heritage of Iran in UNESCO (jointly with Afghanistan), and in line with the introduction of this ritual and the development of Yalda culture, the ceremony was held on Wednesday 14th December 2022, with the presence of the spouses of diplomats residing in Iran, at the Center for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In this ceremony which was attended by the spouse of the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran and a number of female ambassadors and spouses of diplomats from more than 30 countries, the historical roots of Yalda among Iranian families and in Iranian culture, as well as friendship and hospitality, were described.

As part of the program to mark the event, the Dastan Goya Ensemble, comprising of persons with hearing disabilities, performed songs; local clothing and various dialects of Iran were also presented; pieces of Ferdosi's Shahnameh were recited and participants welcomed Hafez fortune telling based on the Divan of Hafez.

Distinguished guests from the UN in Tehran, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Asian Mayors Forum, the Union of Assemblies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations Population Fund participated in this ceremony.

A calligraphy workshop, the Yalda Night table setting, and other symbols of Yalda Night were displayed on the sidelines of this ceremony.



## Iran's minister appreciates Qatar for successful hosting of FIFA World Cup

During the ceremony to mark the National Day of the State of Qatar, Iran's Minister of Energy praised Qatar for the successful hosting of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The Qatar's National Day ceremony was held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 in the residence of Mr. Mohammad bin Hamd al-Hajri, the honorable Ambassador of Qatar to Tehran, with the presence of ambassadors of other countries.

Ali Akbar Mehrabian, Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Ali Reza Khani, Chairman of Iran-Qatar Parliamentary Friendship Group, were among the special guests of this ceremony.

In this ceremony, the Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran while congratulating the government and the people of Qatar on the occasion of Qatar's National Day, commended Qatar for successfully portraying Islamic and Qatari culture during the FIFA World Cup competitions.

Referring to the joint efforts to expand relations between Iran and Qatar, Mehrabian pointed out that "all-round development of relations between Iran and Qatar has taken place, and I do hope that the MoUs signed between the two countries will be implemented and soon we will witness further expansion of economic relations between the two countries."

Alireza Enayati, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director General of the of Persian Gulf Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Khosro Nazeri, Secretary General of the ECO, were also present at this ceremony.





# ACCREDITATIONS IN SUMMER AND AUTUMN

## New ambassadors accredited to the Islamic Republic of Iran In 2022-2023

*Below is the arrival and departure of foreign ambassadors to the Islamic Republic of Iran in summer and fall.*

2022|07|04

H.E. President Raisi receives the credentials of the new ambassadors of Vietnam, Switzerland and the Republic of Lithuania



**2022|10|26**

H.E. President Raisi receives the credentials of the new ambassador of Kuwait



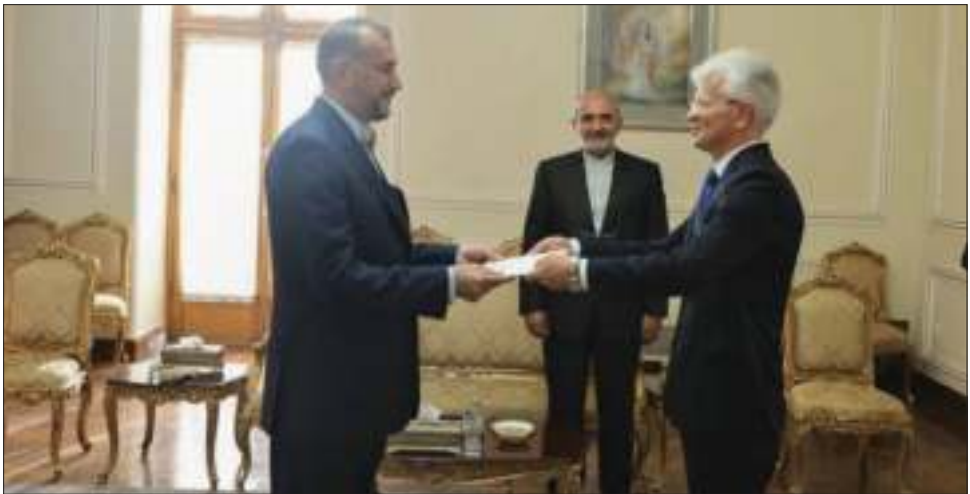
**2023|01|08**

H.E. President Raisi receives the credentials of the new ambassadors of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Malaysia and the Republic of Mali



2022|07|03

H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian receives a copy of the credentials of the new Ambassador of Switzerland H.E. Madam Nadine Olivier, and the new Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania H.E. Mr. Richard S. Digotis"



2022|08|09

At the end of his assignment in Iran, the Honorable Ambassador of the Republic of Mali to the Islamic Republic of Iran said goodbye to the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.





**2022|08|13**

At the end of his assignment in Iran, the Honorable Ambassador of Venezuela to the Islamic Republic of Iran said goodbye to the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.



**2022|08|13**

H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian receives a copy of the credentials of the new Ambassador of Kuwait "H.E. Mr. Bader Abdullah al-Munayekh"



**2022|08|30**

His Excellency Dr. Raisi, the honorable, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accepted letters. At the end of his assignment in Iran, the Honorable Ambassador of France to the Islamic Republic of Iran said goodbye to the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.



**2022|09|13**

At the end of his assignment in Iran, the Honorable Ambassador of Tunisia to the Islamic Republic of Iran said goodbye to the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.



**2022|09|14**

At the end of his assignment in Iran, the Honorable Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Islamic Republic of Iran said goodbye to the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.



**2022|10|31**

H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian receives a copy of the credentials of the new Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela "H.E. Mr. José Rafael Silva Aponte" and the new Ambassador of the Russian Federation "H.E. Mr. Alexey Dedov"



**2022|11|09**

H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian receives a copy of the credentials of the new Ambassador of the French Republic "H.E. Mr. Nicolas Roche" and the new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Malaysia "H.E. Mr. Khairi bin Omar"



**2022|12|19**

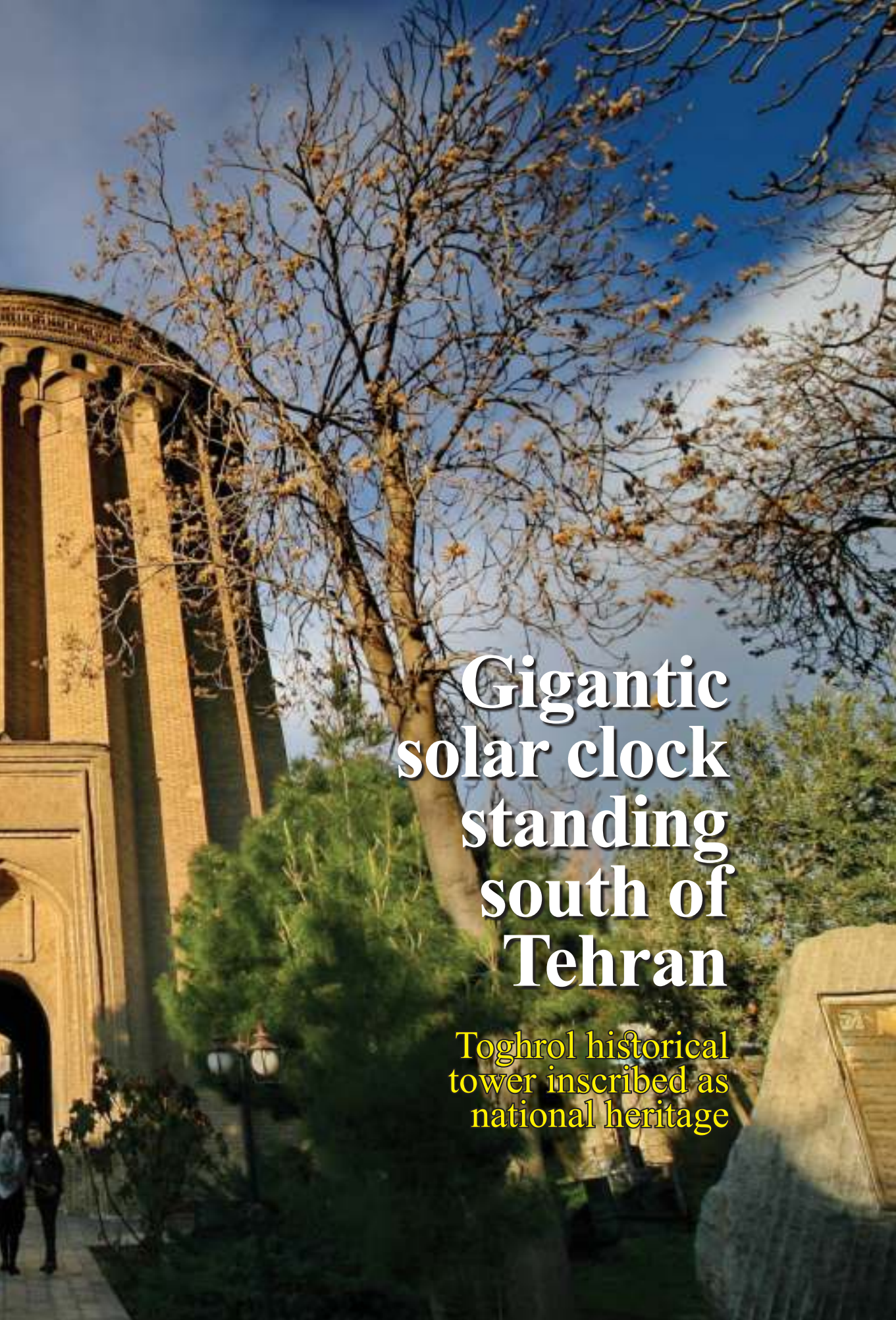
H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian receives a copy of the credentials of the new Ambassador of the Republic of Mali "H.E. Mr. Muhammad Maïga"











# Gigantic solar clock standing south of Tehran

Toghrol historical  
tower inscribed as  
national heritage



*Tehran is Iran's beating heart; a modern city with numerous tourist attractions, representing parts of the multi-thousand-year art, culture and civilization of Iran. The Toghrol Tower, located south of Tehran, is a valuable urban heritage introduced in this issue of the Diplomat.*

The Toghrol Tower is one of the oldest tourist attractions of Tehran. It was inscribed as a national heritage in 1310 and is considered one of the most important tourist attractions and oldest historical structures of Tehran.

The structure of this tower was built during the Seljuk era (1037–1194) when Toghrol Beik, the founder of Seljuk Dynasty, ordered the relocation of capital from Neyshaboor to Rey.

The Toghrol Tower is named after Toghrol, the then ruler of Iran. The main astonishing feature of the tower is its function as a clock indicating the 24 hours of a day.

There are 24 facets around the tower representing the 24 hours of a day. Above each facet, there are four semi-circles each representing a quarter of an hour.

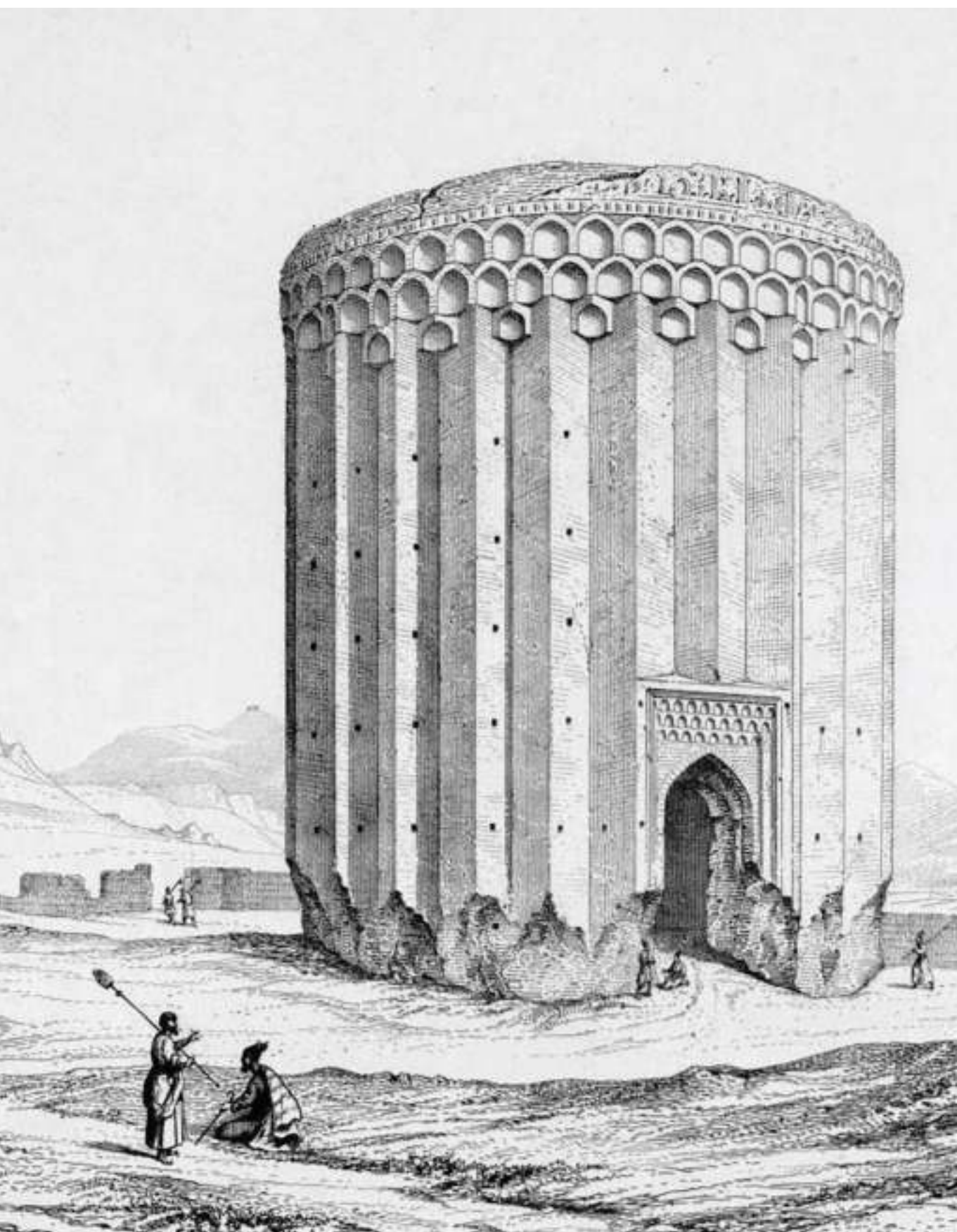
The sun rises from the eastern side of the tower. As the sun rises, the semi-circles become gradually illuminated; With the movement of the sun, light covers the tower continuously. When the sun is placed exactly above the southern facade of the tower, it displays the midday as the tower is divided into two equal northern and southern parts.

When the sun moves to set, the circles and cracks are illuminated towards the west in turn. The clock continues showing the time even at night under the light of the moon, displaying the hours of the night and early morning using astrology. However, if it is cloudy or raining, the clock does not operate.

The Toghrol Tower is now located at the heart of Municipal District 20 of Tehran which is Rey. It is the only neighborhood in Tehran which is home to many historical monuments and tourist destinations. Rey is also considered the center for the expansion of religious tourism of the Tehran Province ◀







# ASIAN MAYORS GATHER IN DUSHANBE

Mayor of Dushanbe,  
Chairman of the Asian  
Mayors Forum, hosts  
General Assembly in  
Tajikistan



*The General Assembly of the Asian Mayors Forum was held in Tajikistan during 8 and 10*

*March 2022. During the assembly, member countries chose Iran as the forum's new Secretary General and Tajikistan as the new Chair of the forum.*

Alongside the main programs of this meeting, several events such as visits to important urban projects and bilateral and multilateral meetings between the officials of member cities were also organized. Among the important measures adopted in this meeting, which was proposed by the Tehran Municipality and approved by the Executive Board, was the election of Dr. Hamid Reza Gholamzadeh, from the Tehran Municipality, as the Secretary General of the Asian Mayors Forum for a period of three years from 2022 to 2025.

The rotating Chair of the Forum was entrusted to the mayor of the host city, namely the Mayor of Dushanbe.

The opening ceremony of the General Assembly of the Asian Mayors Forum was held with the presence of mayors and officials from 35 member cities including the Tehran Mayor, as well as representatives of six international organizations cooperating with the forum ◀



