



>> Persepolis a Source of Pride

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the monument of Persepolis is a source of pride for Iranians. See Page 2



>> Sister Cities

Chairman of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines said on Tuesday that the province and Kuwait City have been declared sister cities. See Page 4

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President Visits Book Fair



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President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attended Tehran's 21st International Book Fair on Wednesday morning.

Call for Int'l Anti-Drug Cooperation



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Police Chief Esmaeel Ahmadi-Moqaddam called for a serious and pragmatic cooperation of the international community, especially Europe, for confronting drug production and trafficking.

Indonesia May Quit OPEC



07

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on May 6 that Indonesia was considering quitting the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries because it was no longer a net oil exporter.

Musical Piece on Prophet Planned



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A noted Iranian composer has said that he will compose a piece in praise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) when the conditions are appropriate.

Positive Climate For Turkish Cooperation

Photo by Ali Hassanpour



A view of the Seminar on Turkish-Iranian Economic & Commercial Cooperation which was held in Tehran, May 7

> By Sadeq Dehqan

Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines Mohammad Nahavandian said the drive for privatization gained further momentum with the implementation of the constitution's Article 44.

"Currently, the private sector can invest in oil, gas and petrochemical ventures. Turkey can also take this opportunity," he told the visiting Turkish trade delegation on Wednesday.

Underlining the importance of expanding ties with neighboring countries, the official said, "In view of the global economic developments, which are quite critical, regional bonds must be fortified so that the national economy is not affected adversely. Excessive reliance on certain international relations may be problematic. When a major country faces a crisis, other countries that rely on relations with this country also suffer."

Nahavandian emphasized the need for establishing direct banking services between Iran and Turkey to speed up mutual trade transactions.

"The more we focus on establishing joint economic institutions and the more chambers of commerce and banks of the two countries work to remove trade barriers, the more bilateral ties will be bolstered," he said.

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Opinion

Brain Drain

By Davood Baqeri

Iranians are known worldwide as talented and smart people, especially in the fields of science and technology. They reside in most parts of the world and are employed by top American and European universities and companies.

These universities and companies use the expertise of these Iranian scientists in gaining economic and scientific benefits. In other words, these expatriates are helping other countries overcome their technological, economic and educational problems.

Every year, developed countries allocate millions of dollars to accelerate the immigration of internationally educated professionals to their countries and use their skills and specializations in different fields for the welfare of their own communities.

Last week Alia Sabur, a 19-year-old Iranian-American, was declared the world's youngest professor in history by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Alia broke the 1717 record set by a student of physicist Isaac Newton, Colin Maclaurin.

There are many examples of such talented Iranians bringing honor to their country of origin.

In 2007, three Iranians were among the list of top 100 living geniuses compiled by a panel of six experts in creativity and innovation from Creators Synectics, a global consultant firm.

Engineer Ali Javan, physicist Nima Arkani-Hamed and biological anthropologist Pardis Sabeti were respectively ranked 12th, 32nd and 49th of this list.

In 1975, Professor Javan (born 1926) received from the Optical Society of America its most prestigious honor, the Fredric Ives Medal, with a citation that praised him for "producing an optical device (the gas laser) of unparalleled applicability to scientific research". In 1993, he received the Albert Einstein World Award of Science.



Iraq Notified About Iranian Islands

Iran has protested to Iraq over reports that Baghdad has backed the United Arab Emirates' unfounded claim to three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The Iraqi ambassador (Mohammed Majid Al-Sheikh) was invited (to the Foreign Ministry) and was notified of Iran's protest," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told the state broadcaster.

"The Iraqi government was also asked to correct its position," he said.

The official UAE agency WAM reported on April 28 that in a memorandum sent to the UAE Foreign Ministry, the Iraqi government asserted its unconditional support for the so-called sovereignty of UAE over the three islands.

Iran has already sent a letter to the United Nations about its indisputable ownership of the three Iranian islands, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Mousa.

"Relaying on historical documents, Iran has always given a documented, firm and logical response to those claims," he said.

Hosseini stressed that any claim over the three

Iranian islands "lacks logical, historical and geographical bases".

Despite differences over the Iranian islands, the two states of Iraq and UAE have close ties, with Iran being the UAE's top trading partner.



Mohammed Ali Hosseini

Iranians also form a sizable expatriate community in Dubai.

Since the fall of Iraqi dictator Saddam in 2003, Shiite-majority Iran has enjoyed warm ties with Iraq, which fought a bloody war with Iran from 1980 to 1988.

Protests Paralyze Beirut

Supporters of Lebanon's opposition blocked main roads in Beirut with burning barricades on Wednesday, paralyzing the capital in a long-running political standoff with the US-backed government.

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