



Iran's National Flag Carrier, IranAir, will resume its flights to Germany's Cologne. The Public Relations Department of IranAir on Thu. revealed the resumption of flights to Germany's Cologne city as of Oct. 30. This flight, bearing No. 729, leaves Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) at 17:40 on Fridays every week and arrives at Cologne Airport at 21:00 local time. The flight will be operated on the same day with flight number 728 at 22:30 local time from Cologne airport and will land at Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) at 6:15 am on Saturday. IranAir operates flights to three airports in Frankfurt, Cologne and Hamburg weekly, the Public Relations Dept. added.

IranAir Resumes Flights to Germany's Cologne

Russia Says Visa Waiver for Iranian Tourists to Take Effect Soon

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday that visa waiver for Iranian tourist groups will take effect in the near future. Speaking at a weekly press conference on Thursday, Maria Zakharova in response to IRNA reporter said that Iran and Russia have signed agreement on visa waiver for tourist groups on March 27, 2017. "Visa waiver for tourist groups will take effect after Russian tourist agency determine an Iranian partner to regulate carrying out the agreement," she said, noting that the agreement was signed by the Iranian and Russian foreign ministers during the visit of Mohammad Javad Zarif to Moscow on March 27, 2017. She said that as per the agreement, tourist groups including five to 50 people are allowed to visit Russia for 15 days. We believe that the time to implement the agreement is not appropriate for the time being due to the epidemic in Russia and Iran and the restrictions of the coronavirus. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a visa-free agreement for tourist groups. Last February, Iran's tourism ministry announced that it would follow up the agreement at the [27th edition] Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibition (MITT), which was held from March 17 to 19. Based on the 2017 agreement tour groups of 5 to 50 people heading to [easternmost parts of] Russia from Iran or vice versa are granted a visa-free stay of up to 15 days. Maya Lomidze, executive director of

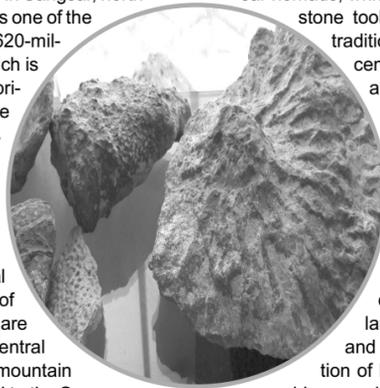


«Visa waiver for tourist groups will take effect after Russian tourist agency determine an Iranian partner to regulate carrying out the agreement.» Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, noting that the agreement was signed by the Iranian and Russian foreign ministers during the visit of Mohammad Javad Zarif to Moscow on March 27, 2017

the Association of Tour Operators of Russia, had told Sputnik that the visa agreement may significantly surge the tourist flows between the two countries, just like it happened when a similar deal was signed between Russia and China. The flow of Iranian tourists to Russia increased by 50-70 percent following the operation of direct flights that connect Iran to St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Sochi, she said. Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ibrahim Pourfaraj said last year that a majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran. "The fact is that Iran's political and economic relations with Russia are considered as good, but this has nothing to do with attracting tourists because the Russian tourists need to make up their minds to come to Iran for tourism," he said.

Visit 620-Million-year-old Fossil in Semnan

The Museum of Rocks and Fossils in Sangsar, north-central province of Semnan, hosts one of the oldest fossils in the world. The 620-million-year-old fossil is a kind of algae, which is one of the most visited objects of the private museum. Inaugurated in 2016, the museum displays collections of fossils and rocks gathered from different provinces as well as some foreign countries including Germany, Sri Lanka, and Brazil. Most of the thousands of fossils in the museum are marine organisms, and a small part of them belong to terrestrial organisms. There are also collections of ornamental and mineral stones, which are mostly collected from the edge of the central desert of Iran and Alborz and Zagros mountain ranges. There is also a section dedicated to the Sang-



sar nomads, which showcases weapons, spearheads, and stone tools as well as the history of clothes and traditions in nomadic life. The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanerais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat) and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

Building Rural Women's Resilience in Wake of Covid-19: UN chief

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message on the International Day of Rural Women, 15 October 2020, called for building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19. According to the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran the full text of his message reads: Rural women play a critical role in agriculture, food security and nutrition, building climate resilience, and managing land and natural resources. But many rural women suffer from discrimination, systemic racism and structural poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic has now affected more than half the world's women farmers with restrictions on movement, the closure of shops and markets, and disruption to their supply chains. Combined with challenges including increased unpaid care and domestic

work and rising rates of gender-based violence, rural women are bearing some of the heaviest burdens of the pandemic. Digital channels can offer



a lifeline in rural areas, providing information on access to healthcare as well as agricultural updates. However, the gender digital divide is particularly wide for rural women, who make up just a quarter of users of digital agri-

cultural solutions. Helping rural women through the pandemic and building their resilience for the future will require solidarity and support from all.

Together, we must invest in rural women so that they have access to the healthcare, social protection and agricultural information services they need. We must close the digital divide and provide essential services to respond to the shadow pandemic of violence against women. And we must tackle the discriminatory land and inheritance laws and practices that make rural women vulnerable to losing their sources of income. On the International Day of Rural Women, let us renew our commitment to rural women in all their diversity; increase our efforts to support them through the COVID-19 pandemic; and work with them to build their resilience to future crises.

Historical Mansion in Hamedan being Restored

The historical mansion of Janani in the northwestern province of Hamedan has undergone some rehabilitation works. The mansion is planned to be turned into a traditional hotel after being fully restored. The preservation of the building, which dates back to the late Qajar era (1789-1925) and early Pahlavi period (1925-1979), has been a matter of concern for many years, but since it was privately owned, the tourism ministry could not do anything alone, ISNA quoted Ali Javaheri, the owner of the mansion, as saying on Wednesday. Last year, however, parts of the building and its walls collapsed due to the heavy rains in the spring and its restoration project has become one of the priorities of the province's cultural heritage department. The cost of restoration will be estimated after the work is completed, and it is provided by the province's cultural heritage department and a percentage is the responsibility of the owner. Repairing the walls are in process, however, the project is time-consuming as the building is intended to be preserved

in its original shape, he added. Over the past couple of years, hundreds of monuments and buildings, which bear historical values, have been restored by private investors under the close supervision of the state-run Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places. The restored, renovated structures go up for auction to be temporarily ceded to the private sector to receive higher productivity and better maintenance being repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants, or lodging places. According to the cultural heritage ministry, the lack of sufficient government budget for the restoration of all centuries-old sites is the main reason behind the trend. Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. It was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC. Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.



cooking



Pickled Vegetables

Torshi Liteh is a pickled vegetable. Torshi in general is very popular in most of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries. Torshi is almost always consumed and served as side dish. Torshi liteh's is one of the vast varieties of torshi types

Ingredients:

2 Large Eggplants, 8 oz (227 g) Celery (3), 2 Carrots, 1/4 Cabbage, 1/4 Red Bell Pepper, 1/4 Green Bell Pepper, 3 Chili Peppers, 1/4 Cauliflower, 1/8 Bunch Mint, 1/4 Bunch Parsley, 1/4 Bunch Cilantro, 1/4 Bunch Savory, 1/4 Bunch Tarragon, 3 Garlic Cloves, Salt, Ground Chili Pepper, Turmeric, Black Caraway, White Vinegar.

Preparations:

Grill the eggplants. Peel the skin and mince the grilled eggplants. Mince mint (leaves), parsley, cilantro, savory (leaves) and tarragon (leaves). grate the carrots. mince celery, cabbage, bell peppers, chili peppers and the cauliflower.



Directions:

Place all of the minced and grated ingredients in a large bowl. Mash 3 or 4 garlic cloves into the bowl. Add salt, ground chili pepper, turmeric and black caraway as preferred. Mix the ingredients thoroughly until well blended. For the sake of the video tutorial we used a small jar but the ingredients are for about 2 liters or 68 fluid oz. Transfer the mixture into a jar. Add white vinegar until tops the mixture (Shake/stir or tap the jar to make sure vinegar soaks deep into the mixture). Seal the jar or container tight with a lid so no air can enter (preferably use just the right size of a jar that barely fits the mixture so that the seal contacts the mixture with no air in between). Keep the jar at room temperature for at least 2 weeks. Do Not Open the Jar for 2 weeks. keep in refrigerator after (2 weeks) opening the container.



Ashk Island a Haven for Persian Fallow Deer

The Ashk Island of Lake Urmia, which is considered one of the most important habitats of rare Persian fallow deer, has become a safe place to protect the species from extinction due to the difficult access of illegal poachers. Shared between West Azarbaijan and East Azarbaijan provinces in northwestern Iran, Lake Urmia, was once the largest salt-water lake in West Asia. However, decades of long-standing drought spells and elevated hot summer temperatures that speed up evaporation as well as increased water demands in the agriculture sector shrank the lake drastically. In 1999 the volume of water which was at 30 billion cubic meters drastically decreased to half a billion cubic meters in 2013. Moreover, the lake surface area of 5,000 square kilometers in 1997 shrank to one-tenth of that to 500 square kilometers in 2013. Lake Urmia had approximately 102 islands; Shahi island was historically the lake's largest. Some of the islands have a rich ecosystem due to being out of reach, including Kaboudan, Arzoo, Spir, and Ashk islands.