

A number of Pakistani investors have expressed their readiness to start administrative cooperation with Kish Island in the south of Iran during their trip to the touristic island. Two specialized gatherings were held with economic and tourism officials of Kish Island at the International Conference Center to promote economic, trade, and tourism collaborations and study the grounds for joint cooperation, Khabar Online reported. During the meetings which were welcomed by both sides, the current projects were introduced and future programs were discussed in the form of investment opportunities. In addition, Kish officials declared readiness to attract foreign partnerships and prepare the grounds for the contribution of Pakistani investors to these projects. In addition, business-to-business (B2B) meetings were held between economic activists of both nations, in which merchants and investors directly exchanged views, identified opportunities, and explored areas of cooperation.

Pakistani Investors Express Readiness to invest in Kish Island

Chinese Ambassador to Iran:

Trip to Shiraz; Creating New Bright Spots in China-Iran Co-op

His Excellency Mr. Cong Peiwu, the Chinese Ambassador to Iran wrote in a note: "Recently, I visited one of the important southern provinces of Iran, Fars. The ancient culture and history of Fars province, its beautiful natural landscapes, and the hospitable people of this region made a deep impression on me, and on this occasion, I decided to introduce and describe my beautiful memories and enthusiastic expectations for provincial cooperation between China and Iran. Natural landscapes and ancient historical monuments are always two complementary factors, and Fars province has a lot to offer in both of these areas, namely natural resources and historical monuments, and there are nearly 300 attractive places around this province. Shiraz as the capital of Fars Province is one of the famous cultural and tourist cities in Iran, which has also earned the beautiful nickname of "the city of flowers and nightingales."

Shiraz is also the birthplace

of Hafez, Saadi, and some other famous Iranian poets. Saadi is the same poet who, after traveling to Kashgar in Xinjiang, China in the 13th century, wrote down his unforgettable experiences from this trip, which in itself is a living record of the friendly exchanges and mutual learning between the two ancient civilizations of China and Iran. The chapters of the book History and Modern Development are colorful and full of adventure, and Fars Province is an important birthplace of ancient Iranian civilization, and places like Persepolis tell stories of thousands of years of history. In recent years, high-quality agricultural products from Fars Province, such as figs, have been imported into the Chinese market and have been widely welcomed and loved by Chinese consumers. The reality is that Fars Province has unique advantages in terms of cooperation with China, and relying on this space; both sides should take advantage of opportunities to explore and extract more and more innovative points in various

areas of cooperation. Pragmatic cooperation and human and cultural exchanges in such an environment constitute a win-win equation. In recent years, Shiraz has established sister city relations with the cities of Nanjing and Chongqing in China, and from this perspective, it has opened a new chapter in cooperation between China and Iran. Currently, the modernization process in China is taking firm and new steps, and within this framework, China has comprehensively deepened the reform and open-door policy, as well as expanded international cooperation. The point here is that China does not pursue modernization solely for itself, but hopes to realize this together with other countries in the world, including Iran. Today, Iranian people from all walks of life have a positive and significant assessment of Chinese modernization, and it seems that, at the same time as Iran announces policies in the field of livelihood development and economic revival, the two countries can

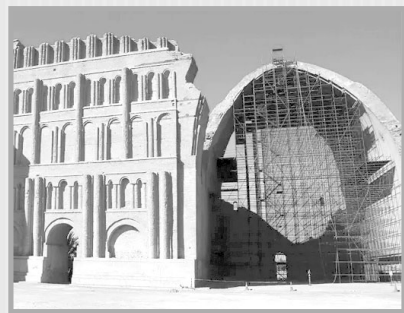
deepen their extensive cooperation and engage in interactions that will ultimately bring prosperity and benefits to the nations of the two countries. During my time in Fars Province, wherever I went, I encountered a warm and significant desire and interest from Iranian friends from all walks of life to cooperate with China. In October last year, Mr. Xi Jinping, the esteemed President of China, held a successful meeting with Mr. Pezzekian, the esteemed President of Iran, in Kazan, and reached important agreements that set a clear direction for the development of China-Iran relations. Meanwhile, the Chinese Embassy in Iran is willing to play the role of a bridge of communication with Iranian friends living in Fars Province from all walks of life, while creating new and bright spots in provincial cooperation between China and Iran, marks a new chapter in the relations between the two countries."

Translated by Homa Haseli

Perspective

Iran offers to help Restore Taq Kasra in Iraq

Iran has expressed readiness to assist in the restoration of Taq Kasra, a masterpiece of Sassanid-era Persian architecture located near Baghdad. The proposal was made by Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Communication Organization, during his meeting with Ahmed Fakak Al-Badrani in Tehran on Thursday, ISNA reported. "Taq Kasra is a monument deeply cherished by the Iranian people," Imanipour said. "Unfortunately, restoration efforts have yet to begin. If the Iraqi government is willing, we are very much interested in contributing to its preservation and repair."



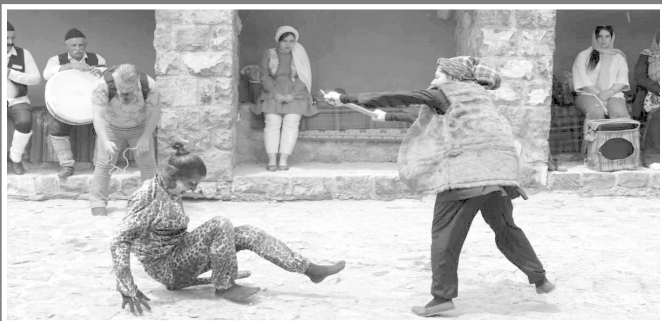
Moreover, Imani emphasized the warm and growing cooperation between the cultural sectors of the two neighboring countries. He noted that Iran's cultural attaché in Iraq is prepared to facilitate the implementation of bilateral cultural exchange programs. Imanipour also praised recent progress in tourism relations between the two nations. Moreover, he referred to his visit to Iraqi museums, where he observed the country's valuable collection of antiquities. "There is great potential for joint efforts to preserve and restore archaeological heritage. We are ready to engage in such collaborations," Imanipour added.

In recent years, parts of the monument have collapsed, sparking concern among historians, archaeologists, and cultural heritage advocates, especially in Iran. Despite past discussions, no substantial restoration project has been initiated, leading many Iranian experts to call for urgent action.

In 2019, Tehran Municipality held talks with Baghdad's urban planners and authorities to restore several aging monuments in Iraq, including Taq Kasra.

Taq Kasra, also known as the Arch of Ctesiphon, is one of the most significant surviving architectural achievements from the Persian Sassanid era.

The arch was part of the imperial palace complex, however, the exact time of its construction is not known with certainty. Some historians believe the founder is Shapur I who ruled Persia from 242 to 272 CE and some others believe that construction possibly began during the reign of Anushirwan the Just (Khosrow I) after a campaign against the Byzantines in 540 CE.



Iran's Kandelous Turns Folk Tale into a Tourism Asset

The bizarre tale of "Mina and the Leopard" is a cherished oral legend from the village of Kandelous, nestled in Iran's northern Mazandaran province. Deeply rooted in the region's rich folkloric traditions, the story is closely tied to the village's pristine forests and mysterious natural landscape. Believed to have taken place around a century ago – between 1896 and 1906 (1275 to 1285 in the Persian calendar) – the legend carries both cultural depth and timeless intrigue. In recent years, it has also emerged as

a unique attraction for tourists exploring the area. Based on the tale, Mina is a beautiful young woman from Kandelous who, one misty day in the forest, comes face-to-face with a leopard. Defying expectations, the animal does not attack her. Instead, a strange and poetic bond forms between them—an emotional connection layered with symbolism and mystery. In some retellings, the leopard is portrayed not as a mere creature, but as a guardian spirit of the wilderness. The story's ending varies across

versions—some romantic, others tragic—adding to its enigmatic charm. Today, the legend has inspired storytelling tours and local performances that unfold within Kandelous's natural and rural setting. The village has embraced the tale as a cultural emblem, now reflected in its handicrafts, paintings, and folk music. These creative expressions have helped draw visitors and folklore enthusiasts to Kandelous, where myth and memory continue to shape a living tradition. According to local tourism

insiders, Kandelous is more than a scenic mountain village. "It is a living, breathing testament to the harmony of culture, nature, and sustainability." The ancient village provides comfortable accommodations, including suites, villas, and guest houses, ensuring that visitors can fully experience its serene environment. The village also boasts open parks and pavilions, offering a tranquil space for relaxation and seasonal festivities. Beyond its historical significance, Kandelous is renowned for its Medicinal Plant Farms, which cultivate

over 250 species of rare and valuable herbs. The village has become a hub for traditional herbal medicine, preserving the knowledge of Iranian healers while promoting sustainable farming practices. Visitors can indulge in traditional Iranian cuisine at its traditional restaurants. Local handicraft markets are another highlight of the village, featuring Jajim textiles, felt clothing, socks, gloves, and floral wool blouses, each crafted by skilled artisans.



Varf Chal: Larijan People Celebrate 'Snow Storing' Ceremony

People in a village near Larijan, the northern city of Amol, Mazandaran province, marked a 600-year-old ceremony called "Varf Chal", which literally means "snow storing", with the aim of overcoming the drought. During the event, no man is allowed to stay in the village. They leave the place to go to Varf Chal to carry pieces of frozen snow left from winter, and put them in a 10-meter-deep pit as they believe the snow could provide fresh water for animals and thirsty passersby after being melted in summer. Women run the village affairs on that day. Then, they sit around a long tablecloth that extends along the edge of the pit, celebrate and eat the traditional foods they brought with them. "Varf Chal" ceremony was registered on intangible heritage list 10 years ago. Mazandaran people have numerous traditional customs, many of which have been forgotten over the time. Various tribes and ethnic groups who live in different parts of Iran are just like colors, which make a great painting. Iran is home to about 20 ethnic groups who live in different regions of the country.

Kashan Rosewater Distillation Ritual Added to National Tourism Callender

The Head of Kashan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department said the rosewater distillation ritual was registered in the national tourism calendar of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Alireza Abdollahzadeh added that the event was registered under the number 50404131 on May 3, in line with organizing tourism events, Mehr news agency reported.

Rosewater extraction is a process for producing rosewater. It is also a cultural and economic event which has turned into one of the main axes of spring tourism in central Iran, he said. The rosewater earned from massive copper pots, is the most important souvenir of the region, he added. It has long been used in religious rituals such as the annual washing of the holy shrines and the Hajj pilgrimage rituals, he mentioned. He continued that the traditional rosewater extracting method has been preserved in the surrounding villages. It is considered an intangible heritage of the country, he added. The team ritual starts before sunrise with lighting traditional ovens and putting copper pots containing Mohammadi roses on them, he said. Until sunrise, a delightful aroma spreads to the surrounding villages and cities, he added. Almost every 30 kilograms of rose petals plus 80 liters of water are



poured into each pot that is connected to metal pipes for the steam moving through to obtain the hydrosol. The waste of distillation is used for feeding livestock or composting. During 891st meeting of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution which was held in January

2023, Day of Mohammadi Flower and Rosewater was added to the country's national callender, he said. Therefore, May 10 was considered as Day of Mohammadi Flower and Rosewater, he added. Qamsar, Niasar, and Barzak are amongst other destinations. Every corner of the region is teemed with the dance of colors and delicate fragrance of roses from early May to mid-June. Distillation of flowers and herbs has a deep history in Iran. Many believe traditionally-distilled rosewater is of

higher quality than that produced in factories probably due to shorter time interval between the harvest and distillation practices. Golab or rosewater is in fact fragrant distillate of Mohammadi roses, which is used in dishes to flavor them or being consumed as a religious perfume as well. Rosewater is produced from a very sweet-smelling kind of flowers, best known as Mohammadi roses in the country. Flower harvesting is somewhat an intensive work. It is mostly done from dawn through morning.