

Saturday, 5th September, 2015

Arrival at the Parsian Azadi Hotel, Tehran

Some of the Conference speakers arrived early to rest from the journey before things got really started. After surviving Tehran's busy traffic, we finally reached the four-star Parsian Azadi Hotel, our first chance to relax. The hotel was located in an attractive part of the city. *Photo BD*

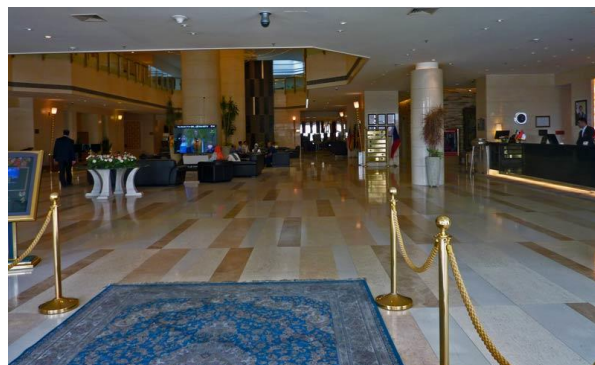


We were met by Mohamad and Mustapha, who would look after us so well during our whole stay.

Photo JS

The hotel's cool reception and air conditioning were very welcome, as we became accustomed to wearing headscarves in the heat.

Photo BD



A charming team of ladies made sure that we felt at home. Their flowers brightened the Reception area. *Photo RS*

CHS Chairman, Ruth Staines and our Patron, Ateshe Firouz-Larsson, swap travel stories with Ateshe's niece, Touran Reddaway and ICS Chairman, Brenda Dalton. *Photo JS*



The views from the upper floor bedrooms were sensational, showing central Tehran to be an attractive city, backed by the beautiful Alborz mountains. *Photos BD*



Although some of the later arrivals preferred to sleep, a few others went shopping and sightseeing with Mohamad and Stefon.

The colourful bazaar held a wide variety of fruit, vegetables, intricate silver items, fabrics, dried flowers, herbs and much more.

Photos RS, BD



Tea is a cornerstone of Iranian culture. There are many Tea shops and some also serve meals.

Photo BD

Colourful murals tell traditional stories in Iranian culture.

Photo RS



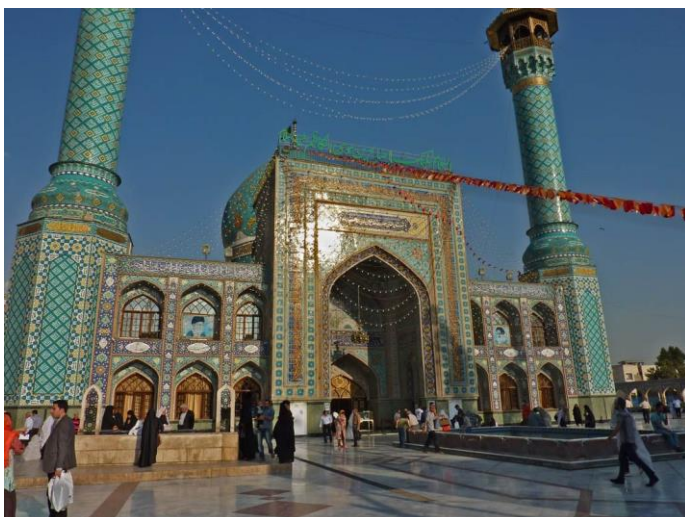
Tea is served with due ceremony.

We particularly liked the 'sugar sticks', which nibblers find irresistible.

Photo BD



Many bridges in Tehran feature flowers and decorative motifs and sometimes images of brave martyrs from the war. *Photo BD*



The Imamzadeh Saleh Shrine, with its beautiful 'Persian Blue' tiles, is located at Tajrish Square in Tehran's northern district. It contains the tomb of Saleh and important political figures. *Photo RS*



We ended our first day in Iran relaxing by the fountains and enjoying an impressive open-air buffet. *Photos BD and EW*