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© File photo

Murphy's law

Murphy shows he has no clue about the region

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Stone intifada turned into missile intifada: Iranian defense chief

TEHRAN— Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami on Wednesday condemned the brutal acts of the Zionist regime against the defenseless people of Gaza, saying Palestinians' resistance against occupiers has turned from launching stones to missiles.

General Hatami made the remarks in a meeting with Syrian Deputy Domestic

Trade Minister Jamal Ebrahim Shoayb and Syrian Deputy Minister of Industry Jamal al-Omar.

Defense Minister Hatami said the Palestinians were inspired by the resistance and perseverance of the Syrian people during the war against the Takfiri-terrorist groups backed by the imperialists and the Zionist regime.

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Iran starts pumping oil into strategic Goreh-Jask pipeline

TEHRAN – Managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has announced the beginning of oil transfer operation through Goreh-Jask pipeline which is laid from Goreh oil terminal in the southwestern Bushehr Province to Jask oil terminal along the Gulf of Oman.

Masoud Karbasian made the announcement on the sidelines of the signing ceremony of Farzad B gas field development deal on Monday, the NIOC portal reported on Wednesday.

Stating that the Goreh-Jask oil transfer project is currently the largest project in Iran's oil industry, Karbasian said: "Production of transmission valves, electric pumps, laying a thousand kilometers of pipeline along with the construction of storage tanks, terminals and the single point mooring (SPM) in Jask port using domestic capacities shows the national determination for completing this great and strategic project."

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Iranian actors sympathize with Palestinians in Gaza war

TEHRAN – A number of Iranian actors have expressed their sympathy with Palestinians in the recent war on Gaza, denouncing Israeli oppression against the women and children in the region.

Among the actors is Navid Moham-madzadeh, winner of the Orizzonti Award for Best Actor for his role in Jalilvand

brothers' acclaimed drama "No Date, No Signature" at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Italy.

On his Instagram, he published a video showing a Palestinian girl stands among the rubble of a building destroyed by Israeli bombers and is talking about the cruelties of war.

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If our hearts beat for Iran, we must cherish water

BY M.A. SAKI
Water scarcity and low precipitation are not important still for a considerable segment of the Iranian population, particularly the farmers and those who live in urban areas.

Geographically, Iran is located in an arid and semi-arid place on the planet Earth. Over the centuries farmers had been telling and warning about droughts.

Add to this global warming which Iran is one of its major victims.

Two years ago, when there were incessant rains in early spring, a misconception was formulated in the mind of a great number of people that the era of drought in Iran is over. They were in fact ignorant of this scientific fact that the heavy rainfall was itself a result of global warming.

The heavy rainfalls in the early spring of 1399 (March-April 2020) did a great blow to infrastructure projects in west and southwestern Iran. The floods washed away roads, bridges, destroyed farmlands, and flooded homes, causing hundreds if not billions of dollars in damages.

The same farmers whose farmlands or houses fled unscathed in the heavy rainfalls and the ensuing floods are now in a state of depression as precipitation has decreased greatly in the current year.

In 2020, farmers rushed to develop paddy fields that need a huge amount of water. Agricultural experts say that producing each kilogram of rice needs about 5000-6000 liters of water, depending on the climatic situation of the region.

Growing rice has been peculiar to northern Iran, in the provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, and parts of Golestan. However, the cultivation of rice started spreading in many provinces across Iran, even in arid provinces, some 25 years ago. The chief reason for growing rice was its economic benefits in comparison to other crops.

Overuse of water has also led many rivers to dry up. Most rivers have turned into seasonal ones.

Kaveh Madani, a senior lecturer of environmental management in the Centre for Environmental Policy at the Imperial College London, says drying lakes and rivers, declining groundwater resources, land subsidence, water contamination, water supply rationing and disruptions, forced migration, agricultural losses, salt, and sand storms, and ecosystem damages are the modern water-related issues of Iran which were once recognized as the pioneer of sustainable water management.

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Iranian minister, Russian envoy discuss ways to expand tourism

TEHRAN – Iranian tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan and Russian Ambassador Levan Dzhagaryan on Tuesday discussed ways to expand tourism ties as the two countries are about to execute a visa-free agreement for tourist groups.

Talking about the significance of tourism, the minister said that it can pave the way for the people of the two countries to deepen their [cultural] bonds and relations, IRNA reported.

"If we are looking for a higher level of ties between Iran and Russia, these relations between the two nations should be developed."

An important step towards this goal is the practical implementation of the [previously-signed] visa-free agreement for tourist groups, Mounesan explained.

Dzhagaryan, for his part, said necessary measures are currently underway for a joint working group to implement the visa waiver scheme between Tehran and Moscow.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the ambassador said that Russian tourists are eager to travel to Iran which is rich in history and tourism attractions.

"Russian tourists are eager to travel to unknown destinations and adventure tourism, and Iran, with its historical background, natural attractions, and potential in ecotourism, is a good destination for them."

Mostafa Sarvari who presides over the tourism marketing and advertising office of the Iranian Tour Operators Association on Monday said if visas for travel groups are waived between the two countries, Iran would be the winner; because more Russians will travel to the Islamic Republic.

According to Ebrahim Pourfaraj, who presides over the association, the majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran.

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UN: 72,000 Palestinians have been displaced by Israeli air strikes

There is no "safe place" in Gaza, a top UN official said Tuesday as the organization reported that 72,000 Palestinians have been displaced as the result of IDF strikes over the last nine days.

"There is no safe place in Gaza, where two million people have been forcibly isolated from the rest of the world for over 13 years," says humanitarian affairs and emergency relief official.

"In Gaza, I am deeply troubled by reports of high-frequency Israeli bombardments," Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock said.

Lowcock spoke in the aftermath of nine days of Israeli aggression on Gaza, during which time Israel conducts dozens of airstrikes on the Gaza Strip every day.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that as a result of the IDF strikes, 72,000 Palestinians were displaced, "including 47,000 seeking protection in 58 United

Nations Relief and Works Agency schools across Gaza. Another 25,000 displaced people are staying with host families."

OCHA said that since May 10, some 213 Palestinians, including 62 children, 35 women, have been killed in Gaza during the IDF strikes. It did note Israel's claim that some of the dead were killed by Hamas rockets that fell short.

Lowcock called for an end to the violence and for all parties to respect international law.

He called on donor countries to the UN to contribute to the Humanitarian Fund for the Palestinians, noting that \$14 million from that fund was set to be released to help those in Gaza. The UN, he said, is preparing to launch a humanitarian appeal.

The UN official also called on Israel to open the main commercial crossing of Kerem Shalom for humanitarian relief. Israel closed that crossing last week in response to the Hamas rockets. The Egyptian crossing at Rafah, however, has been open.

Israel is orphaned and isolated today: Lebanese academic

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN - A Lebanese political researcher says today Israel is isolated as the Iran nuclear deal is in the process of being restored.

"Israel today is isolated and orphaned because it was informed that Washington is moving towards a settlement in West Asia, so it must adapt to this new reality and that the privileges that were granted to it have ended," Tariq Aboud tells the Tehran Times.

However, Aboud says, "This does not mean that Israel will stop working to sabotage Iran's peaceful nuclear activities."

Israel spares no effort to hinder the negotiations from reviving Iran's nuclear deal. It has assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists and been engaged in sabotage operations on Iran's nuclear facilities in an attempt to stop Iran's nuclear progress.

However, Iran succeeded in developing its peaceful nuclear activities despite the "maximum

pressure" policy under Trump's presidency. Now Biden is aware that there is no way, but negotiations with Iran and tries to make Israel and Saudi Arabia understand that the era of threat and pressure against Iran is over.

"The Zionist regime will try to harm Tehran through unilateral acts of sabotage that are not endorsed by Washington, but its actions will not be effective."

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For the first time Israel is facing resistance at all of its borders: Canadian analyst

BY REZA MOSHFEGH

Edward Corrigan, a political analyst from Canada, believes that as a new reality for "the Jewish State", it is the first time in West Asian history that Israel can be attacked by the Axis of Resistance from all sides.

"For the first time Israel is facing resistance at all of its borders. This is a new reality for "the Jewish State." The rockets from Gaza have terrified many Israelis who thought they were immune to the consequences of the Occupation. So this is in fact a step forward for the "Axis of Resistance." Israel can be attacked from all sides. However, these homemade rockets do not represent a serious threat to the Israeli dominance of the region. One of the most hopeful developments is the vocal opposition from Jews in Israel and around the World to the Israeli attacks on the Palestinians and in particular the savage attacks on Gaza," notes Edward C. Corrigan, who is an international lawyer and political analyst.

The following is the full text of Corrigan interview: **How do you characterize the current situation in Palestine?**

The situation is chaotic. Netanyahu and other right-wing politicians are competing to see who can be the toughest on the Palestinians. This is the reason for the expulsion of 28 Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. As many as 1,500 Palestinians will be evicted from homes they have lived in for decades. There are now more than 600,000 Israelis living in illegal "Jewish only" settlements in the Occupied West Bank.

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© Mehr/Mohammad Reza Abbasi

Tehranis rally in support of Palestinians

TEHRAN— A large group of people gathered in Imam Hussein Square in Tehran on Wednesday to express their support for the defenseless Palestinians over the recent brutal attacks carried out by the usurper Israeli regime.

The people, holding the flags of the Islamic Republic and banners with slogans that "Palestine Will Return to Islam", condemned the Zionist regime's attacks on Gaza.

The Tehranis chanted "We Will Not Leave the Palestinians Alone," along with the slogans, "Death to Israel" and "Death to the United States," supporting the Palestinian people in the face of the Zionist regime's indiscriminate cruel attacks.

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ELECTION WIRE

Guardian Council: News circulating on candidates are “fake”

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— In a tweet on Wednesday morning, Abbasali Kadkhodaei, spokesman for the Guardian Council, dismissed rumors that a few of the presidential candidates have been disqualified, calling them “fake news.” “There is a lot of fake news these days about qualifications. Some by speculation, some by confidential news, and some by citing informed and credible sources! They fuel these rumors. Meanwhile, some people are trying to be happy by threatening the Guardian Council,” he tweeted.

In an interview with the TV, he said that the 10-day period for screening the candidates might be extended. He said it depends on the meeting of the council on Wednesday afternoon.

The names of the presidential candidates found qualified and unqualified will be announced on May 27.

Judiciary says to confront election violation without discrimination

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— The Judiciary will monitor any election violations with sensitivity during the campaigns and will deal without discrimination with those who try to undermine public calm or security, the first deputy Judiciary chief warned on Wednesday.

Pointing to the election atmosphere in the country, Gholam-hossein Mohseni Ejei said the society is facing a different condition due to the elections.

Presidential and council elections will be held simultaneously on June 18. The candidates may begin their campaigns on May 28, a day after the Guardian Council releases the names of the qualified candidates.

He also said the enemy’s plan is to disappoint people and discourage them from attending ballot boxes.

Ejei said showing up for the election is a “religious duty,” adding that republicanism and Islamism are two pillars of the election.

He pointed out that Iran’s election is different from the United States or other Western countries.

Pointing to the difference between elections in Iran and Western countries, the Judiciary official said, “In the elections of Islamic Iran, the presence of people is based on morality and beliefs, while in the Western electoral system, such an issue is not observed at all, and the elections take place in an immoral and inhuman atmosphere.”

Ejei went on to say that the first priority is to take preventive measures against election violations.

If candidates or their supporters act against the law, “we will deal with them without any distinction between candidates and election headquarters,” he warned.

“Our main focus these days is to pay attention to ensuring the security and tranquility of the people, and it is necessary to deal with the violators without negligence and not to allow some people to disturb the peace and security of the country,” the cleric judge remarked.

He noted that the Judiciary will deal legally, quickly and explicitly with false atmosphere, promotion of vulgarity, election violations and immoral moves contrary to publically accepted norms.

“We will try to ensure the security of the society in these election days,” he promised.

Examples of election violation revealed

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Speaking on TV, Seyyed Ehsan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a member of the Commission for Supervising the Presidential Election Campaigns in the Islamic Republic of Iran’s Broadcasting (IRIB), exemplified election violations and giving details of the debates between unqualified candidates.

“Insulting, accusing, spreading lies, lying, as well as insulting others are examples of election violations,” he remarked.

Hashemi advised the candidates not to say baseless things in a live broadcast.

“The commission has special legal powers, and powers that can exercise the rights of candidates and individuals through various arrangements,” he explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hashemi made it clear that there will be debates, but it highly depends on the number of qualified candidates.

“As of now, there hasn’t been any news about qualified and disqualified candidates,” he noted.

Each candidate will be given time to explain about his plans on the TV, he added.

Hashemi noted that the schedule has not been drafted yet, saying it will depend on the number of qualified candidates.

The presidential elections will be held on June 18.

The candidates may officially begin their election campaign on May 28, a day after the Guardian Council releases the names of qualified candidates.

According to the Tehran Election Headquarters, holding rallies in Tehran province is prohibited, as the number of COVID-19 cases has surged in the capital in the past days.

The campaigns are expected to be held virtually and through social media in tandem with health protocols.

Simultaneously, council elections will be held on June 18.

Zarif to address UN emergency meeting on Palestine

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — After United Nations’ inactiveness towards the Palestine crisis, the UN General Assembly will hold an emergency meeting at the request of Islamic countries at the level of foreign ministers.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, and Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Iranian foreign minister, will speak at the meeting as well.

The session will be held virtually, and Zarif, who is currently touring Europe, will speak from Dublin, Ireland.

The U.S. opposition to a Security Council resolution or statement once again showed that the U.S. claims of support for human rights is just a political show and that Washington will never be willing to condemn the crimes of the Zionist regime.

By sending 730 million dollars of weapons to the Israeli army, the Biden administration gave the green light to the usurper regime’s atrocities against Palestinians. This shows the Biden administration is no different than Donald Trump’s.

Iranian ambassador says Zionist regime will surely collapse

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Ambassador to Pakistan, Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, has predicted that the Zionist regime of Israel will definitely disintegrate.

“Undoubtedly, the definite fate of the terrorist and apartheid regime of Israel is disintegration and collapse,” Hosseini wrote on his Twitter account.

Ambassador Hosseini also predicted that the “territorial integrity of the sacred land of Palestine will be freed from sea to river.”

The Zionist regime of Israel is known as a child-killer regime.

A video of a 10-year-old Palestinian girl in besieged Gaza has captured worldwide attention after she urged people to remember that “children are dying” in Israeli airstrikes.

Nadeen Abed al Lateef told journalists on Sunday, on one of the deadliest days in the attacks: “We’re just dying. We don’t even deserve this.”

Wearing a purple shirt, and standing with her six-year-old brother in rubble, the schoolgirl told NBC News: “The American people, stop giving, stop giving weapons to the occupiers. That’s the way that you can help us.”

More than 200 people are estimated to have died in the impoverished city of Gaza following repeated Israeli airstrikes, including 61 children.

The area is a 140-square mile strip of land



housing 2 million people that has been under Israeli blockade since 2007.

Nadeen said that the situation makes her “want to cry” when she sees so many frightened people.

The 10-year-old wants to be a doctor but said that her school shut down and that on-line teaching stopped because of the attacks.

“We are literally trying to live in rubbish but we can’t,” she said.

“When I grow up I want to be a doctor

to help my people but I can’t. There’s no learning. I don’t have a right to learn because of the occupiers. My right to learn is gone.”

On Tuesday clashes broke out in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank following a day of protests against the bombardment of Gaza, as reported by The Guardian.

According to Press TV, elite footballers Paul Pogba and Amado Diallo from the professional British club Manchester United have shown their support for Palestinians amid

the Israeli regime’s relentless bombardment campaign against the besieged Gaza Strip.

Following their team’s 1-1 draw against Fulham at Old Trafford on Tuesday, Manchester United midfielder Pogba collected and raised a Palestine flag and was joined by teammate Amad to express their support for the people living in the besieged coastal enclave.

The move was welcomed by Palestinians.

The Palestinian ambassador to the United Kingdom, Husam Zomlot, thanked the pair in a post published on his official Twitter page, expressing hope that one day the footballer could be invited to the liberated Palestinian capital Jerusalem al-Quds.

The gesture of support came just days after Leicester City stars Hamza Choudhury and Wesley Fofana held up the Palestinian flag as they celebrated their team’s victory over Chelsea at London’s Wembley Stadium in the UK’s FA Cup final on Saturday.

Images of the moment were shared widely on social media, with many quick to praise the two players.

Zomlot welcomed the show of support and said it was “timely and appreciated.”

The public opinion in the world is on the side of the Palestinians. Though most governments are silent and even certain Western countries defend Israel’s cruel behavior, people across the world sympathize with the Palestinians.

Tehranis rally in support of Palestinians

→ 1 Khaled al- Qaddumi, the representative of the Hamas movement in Tehran, condemned the hostile actions of the Zionist regime at the rally, saying, “Peace be upon the people of Iran, who are the cradle of resistance and endurance, and peace be upon the soul of Imam Khomeini, who made Quds the axis of resistance.”

He stated that today there is more hope for victory than ever before.

He added that today people are witnessing missiles that have illuminated the skies of the Zionist populated regions.

Al-Qaddumi said, “We will not allow the Zionist regime to rest in peace.”

He went on to say that today the Zionist regime is targeting Palestinian settlements with the most advanced military equipment, “but I am glad that the Palestinian people have destroyed the hegemony of Israel.”

“The oppression of the enemy has reached its peak and the resistance has is determined to destroy Israel and the Zionist regime. Rest assured that you will travel to Palestine soon and we will pray the victory prayer together,” he noted.

The representative of the Hamas movement in Tehran said that the Palestinians’ message to Israel is that “we are the nation of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and we are the nation of martyrdom and know that Quds is victorious and the Zionist regime and Israel will be destroyed.”

Salami: We all are Palestinians

Major General Hossein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, also addressed the rally. He said, “From Imam Hussein Square, from the heart of Iran, I declare to you the Palestinian people that our hearts are with you and we are all Palestinians today and our hands are high for your victory.”

He stated that Iran is with the Palestinians when they fire the Ghasem missiles “in the heart of the Zionist regime, and this is an eternal and permanent promise.”

The IRGC chief said, “This epic changes Quds Day to Quds Month.”

He also said after the sabotage attack on the Natanz nuclear sites Israel’s “missile factory was destroyed and the Haifa refinery was blown up, and the largest defense complex called Rafael caught fire, and the security of the Zionist regime has suffered an endless failure.”

Salami went on to say that this is the first time that all Zionists are in shelter and this is the first time they see themselves in “a sea of fire.”

“The spirit of resistance came to life again,” he said.

The top military official said that the defeat of Israel marks the defeat of the United States.

Zarif holds talks in Ireland

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN**— In continuation of his European tour, Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Iranian Foreign Minister, arrived at Dublin on Wednesday.

He met with his Irish counterpart Simon Coveney to discuss the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as part of Ireland’s role on the United Nations Security Council, according to the Irish Foreign Ministry.

The Joint Commission of the JCPOA, which is holding talks in Vienna to possibly revive the 2015 nuclear deal, was to convene on Wednesday.

Zarif also emphasized Iran’s interest in the continuation of political and economic consultations, especially in the fields of agriculture, information technology and science and technology between the two countries.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister Coveney also expressed his country’s interest in enhancing cooperation between the two countries, as well as taking advantage of the



capacity of the non-permanent membership of the Security Council and facilitating implementation of Resolution 2231.

The 2015 nuclear deal – JCPOA – is confirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Ireland became a member of the Security Council in January.

The two sides also discussed bilateral and regional issues such as the Palestine crisis and the issue of referendum in Palestine, developments in Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria and Karabakh.

Zarif began his European tour by visiting Madrid on May 13. He then left for Italy on May 16. He arrived in Dublin on May 19.

JCPOA Joint Commission convenes as parties face unresolved key issues

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Joint Commission meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) continued on Wednesday

Iran’s chief negotiator, Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, said on Tuesday that significant progress has been made, yet the sides still disagree over key unresolved issues.

The agenda was to discuss the list of the sanctions that the U.S. needs to lift.

According to Araghchi, the draft of the agreement has been edited and almost ready, yet some key decisions need to be made in the capitals.

The parties expressed their satisfaction over the meeting, with the European Union political director Enrique Mora saying that the fourth round was “the most positive round yet.”

Mora continued by saying that Iran’s agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will be extended. He did not specify for how long.

He called the nuclear deal “the key to stability in the region.”

The EU official noted that a common understanding has shaped on three issues.

The first one is what still needed for U.S. return to the JCPOA, the second being lifting of related sanctions and the third being resumption of nuclear commitments by Iran.

On whether the sides would agree on the next round of talks, Mora said he can’t venture a guess, but he is “quite sure that there will be a final agreement not far from now.”

Yet, the head of the Russian delegate Mikhail Ulyanov expressed hope that the fifth round of talks would be the final one.

He tweeted on Wednesday afternoon that an agreement is “within reach.”

The delegations will return to their capitals and will reconvene next week.

It is said that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 25.

Ghalibaf maintains parliamentary diplomacy in support of Palestine

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, has increased his efforts to coordinate plans with his counterparts in other Muslim countries to support the Palestinian people and take collective action against the Israeli regime’s crimes.

In response to a new wave of Israeli strikes that has killed more than 200 Palestinians since last week, the senior Iranian politician has had many meetings with the speakers of parliaments in Muslim nations throughout the region and beyond.

On Tuesday, Qalibaf spoke via phone with the Speaker of Kuwait’s National Assembly, Marzouq Al Ghanim, the Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, Salim Zanoun, the President of the Consultative Assembly of Oman, Sheikh Khalid bin Hilal al-Maawali, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Asad Qaiser, the Speaker of Algeria’s Council of the



Nation, Salah Goudjil, the Speaker of Algeria’s Council of the Nation, Mohammed Rikan Hadeed al-Halbousi, Speaker of Iraq’s Council of Representatives, and Mustafa

Sentop, Speaker of Turkey’s Grand National Assembly

During the conversations, the Iranian Parliament speaker requested meetings with the leaders of Islamic parliaments to denounce and prevent the Zionist regime’s atrocities against citizens, medical centers, and even journalists.

Ghalibaf praised the resistance of the Palestinian groups and said, “We hope that in the end the right will prevail over the wrong and we will see the liberation of all the occupied territories from the filth of the Zionists.”

The parliament speaker stated that in these circumstances, “unconditional practical and political support is the duty of every Islamic and freedom-loving country.”

Palestinian resistance movements in Gaza have maintained their armed reaction to Israeli attacks that have murdered 213 Palestinians since May 10, including 61 children, 36 women, and 16 old persons. During the assaults, a total of 1,442 people were injured.

Stone intifada turned into missile intifada: Iranian defense chief

→ 1 “The Palestinian Mujahedeen not only have thwarted this usurper and illegitimate regime to achieve its sinister goals, rather this heroic nation, by passing from the stone intifada to the missile intifada, has turned the Nile to Euphrates dream into a nightmare for the preservation of the Zionist

regime’s terrorist garrison,” he remarked. **‘Iran stands by Syria in reconstruction’**

Elsewhere in his remarks, the defense minister stressed that the Islamic Republic will do its utmost to help maintain the Syrian territorial integrity and participate in the

reconstruction of the country.

“The economic complexes of the Ministry of Defense, along with Iranian private sector, are ready for any cooperation and assistance in rebuilding and meeting the needs of our dear friend and brother Syria, and will spare no effort in this regard,” Hatami stated.

For their parts, the Syrian officials thanked Iran for its irreplaceable support for resistance and victory in Syria.

They also expressed their gratitude towards the Iranian traders who helped reconstruct Syria and expressed hope to defeat the enemy once again by rebuilding Syria.

SPORTS

Iran’s women’s football team to play Uzbekistan: friendly

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Iran’s women’s football team will play a friendly match with Uzbekistan in June.

The Iranian team, who prepare for the 2022 AFC Women’s Asian Cup qualification in September, will hold a training camp in Belarus in early June.

Iran will face Belarus on June 8 and meet Uzbekistan three days later in the camp.

Iran coach Maryam Irandoost invited 30 players for the one-week training camp in Tehran.

Iran are 70th in FIFA ranking while Belarus and Uzbekistan sit on 54th and 43rd place, respectively.

Persepolis want to make Moghanlou’s loan deal permanent

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football club want to turn Shahriar Moghanlou’s loan deal into permanent.

The player joined Persepolis on loan from Portuguese top-flight football club Santa Clara in March on a six-month deal.

The 27-year-old forward helped the Reds book a place in the 2021 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

He has also stolen the show in Iran Professional League, where Persepolis look forward to win the title for a fifth consecutive year.

Moghanlou had joined Santa Clara on a three-year contract in last year’s September.

Kamalvand changes mind about resignation from Saipa

SPORTS **TEHRAN** —Faraz Kamalvand will remain as Saipa coach despite he had announced his resignation on Sunday.

Kamalvand stepped down as his role in Saipa at the end of Paykan match, where they lost 2-1.

He had said the referee’s decisions had gone against his team.

On Wednesday, Kamalvand announced that he will continue his job in the Tehran-based football team sine the club have not accepted his resignation.

Kamalvand took charge struggling Saipa in early May to avoid relegation.

Italian Alessio to join Esteghlal

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football club General Manager Ahmad Madadi has said that the club will hire Italian coach Angelo Alessio as their advisor.

The 56-year-old coach will be added to Esteghlal technical staff soon, Madadi said.

“He will be added to technical staff just as an advisor and will not sit on the bench,” he said.

Alessio has previously worked at Juventus, Chelsea and Italy football team as assistant.

Iran’s Football Federation banned the clubs from hiring foreign coaches and players last year after they failed to pay the wage of them.

Esteghlal parted company with Italian coach Andrea Stramaccioni in December 2019 after they failed to transfer his salary due to the USA sanctions.

Jahanbakhsh can’t wait for supporters

SPORTS **TEHRAN** —Iranian winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh says that he can’t wait for the supporters to be back to the stadiums.

The forward, who has started last three Premier League games for Albion, says there isn’t a feeling quite like scoring in front of an Amex full house, brightonandhovealbion.com reported.

The Iran international has two goals so far this campaign – both coming behind closed doors in the Carabao Cup.

“Scoring in front of fans in a packed stadium compared to an empty one is a completely different feeling. The reaction and the atmosphere is so different. We all want to win in front of them,” Jahanbakhsh said.

While feeling Albion’s support from a distance throughout the lockdowns, having fans at the Amex is something the entire squad is looking forward to, according to the 27-year-old.

“We can’t wait for the supporters to be back – we had them back for two games in December. When they weren’t there, we felt the support from them, but being physically there makes a huge difference to the players.

“It will be good to see them after such a long time, it will be good for them as well I am sure as we know they have missed coming to the Amex. It’s great news for everyone,” he added.

Jahanbakhsh says a return to some sort of normality is a positive for players and supporters.

“I didn’t see my family for a long time – I haven’t seen a lot of them and my best friends for nearly a year and I can’t wait for us to be reunited. We have football, but we need our families, the people who can help us mentally to recover. I would say to everyone that good days and bad days don’t last forever and we need to stay strong until normal life returns,” Jahanbakhsh concluded.

Persepolis into Iran’s Hazfi Cup quarterfinals

SPORTS **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team eased past Second Division Shahin Bandar Ameri 4-1 in Iran’s Hazfi Cup quarterfinals.

In the match held in the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr, Persepolis booked a place in the quarterfinals.

Mehdi Abdi scored a brace and Ahmad Nouroollahi and Mehdi Torabi scored a goal each.

Miald Daryanavardi was on target for Shahin Bandar Ameri. Sepahan, Malavan, Kheybar, Sepahan and Gol Gohar have already advanced to the quarterfinals.



Murphy’s law

Murphy shows he has no clue about the region

ification on the meeting.

He said Takht Ravanchi and Murphy discussed a range of issues and the Iranian diplomat reiterated the Iranian position on these issues. According to Nazemi, Takht Ravanchi underlined the need for practical removal of all U.S. sanctions on Iran which were imposed under various labels, calling the removal of sanctions “a key issue.” The Iranian ambassador also explained Tehran’s position for a peaceful end to the war in Yemen.

“In the talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran’s will for a peaceful settlement of the war in Yemen was noted, and it was stressed that any solution to the Yemeni crisis must ensure the complete lifting of the siege and the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to the country and

a ceasefire,” Nazemi said, according to Fars News.

As regards Palestine, Takht Ravanchi shed light on Israel’s crimes against the defenseless people of Palestine, reminding him of how the episode began. The Iranian ambassador said that the current violence began with Israel’s provocation and continued with the killing of the Palestinian people. Takht Ravanchi also pointed to the U.S. support for Israel by blocking the adoption of a statement by the Security Council on a ceasefire.

Murphy’s statement exposed his misunderstanding of the region and this most probably was caused during his latest trip to the West Asia region. In his statement, Murphy said he “traveled to Qatar, Oman and Jordan to meet with foreign leaders

Good progress made in Vienna talks: top negotiator

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A senior Iranian diplomat leading the Iranian negotiating team in the Vienna nuclear talks has said that progress was made during the talks but delegations need to return to capitals to make some decisions regarding the talks.

Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said during the fourth round of nuclear talks, which lasted for two weeks, “good progress” was made in terms of moving ahead in the nuclear talks but a few key issues remain unresolved which means that the negotiating teams should return to capitals to make some decisions.

“After two weeks of negotiations, we will have a meeting to conclude, and then the delegations will return to the capitals for consultations,” Araghchi told Iran’s state media late on Tuesday.

He added, “There are a few key issues that need further review and decision-making in the capitals, and we hope that they will take place in the next few days and that we will be able to conclude on these issues in the next round of talks.”

According to Araghchi, intensive talks and meetings were held at all levels. He said that Iran and its negotiating partners had bilateral and multilateral talks at expert and political levels. “During these discussions, we tried to reach a conclusion on the issues at stake, either to resolve the differences or to decrease them, and the result is that we are in a position where we can have a general conclusion,” he pointed out.

He continued, “There are some key issues that need to be resolved and there is agreement on the rest; the texts have been well written and so now is the time to go back to the capitals and have the final consultations and then continue the negotiations.”

Araghchi, along with a delegation of Iranian experts and diplomats, left Tehran for Vienna nearly two weeks ago to start the fourth round of talks over the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

So far Araghchi has held several bilateral and multilateral meetings with the P4+1 group of countries. The JCPOA Joint Commission also convened several times.

The European Union said on Tuesday that the Joint Commission will resume in a physical format on Wednesday, May 19, in Vienna.

“The Joint Commission will be chaired, on behalf of EU High Representative Josep Borrell, by the Deputy Secretary General/Political Director of the European External Action Service, Enrique Mora. It will be attended by representatives of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and Iran. Participants will continue their discussions in view of a possible return of the United States to the JCPOA and on how to ensure the full and effective implementation of the JCPOA,” the EU said in



a statement.

Meanwhile, Russian envoy to the Vienna talks Mikhail Ulyanov said “significant progress” was made in the latest round of Vienna talks. “I said that significant progress has been achieved, in my view. That is true. But unresolved issues still remain and the negotiators need more time and efforts to finalize an agreement on restoration of JCPOA,” Ulyanov said on Twitter.

Earlier, he noted that the negotiations are moving ahead but with difficulty.

“So far so good but not easy. The work on restoration of the JCPOA continues, including during this weekend,” the Russian diplomat said on Twitter.

He added, “The Vienna talks on JCPOA are conducted in various informal settings, as well as in the working groups on sanctions lifting, nuclear issues and practical measures to restore the deal. The drafting process is underway. If the need arises a Joint Commission can be convened.”

Diplomats from Iran and the P4+1 group of countries as well as the U.S. are in Vienna to discuss the measures needed to be taken to bring Tehran and Washington back into full compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal. Almost all parties to the negotiations said progress was made during the talks, though this progress did not amount to a complete revival of the JCPOA.

The fourth round of Vienna nuclear talks began in early May when negotiators from Iran and the P4+1 groups of countries as well as the U.S. returned to the Austrian capital after a short stay in capitals which included briefing and consultation meetings with senior officials.

Iran is in close contact with China and Russia as well as the three European signatories to the JCPOA. On Friday, Araghchi met with the Chinese envoy to the Vienna talks, Wang Qun. During the meeting, the two diplomats discussed the latest developments concerning the talks.

Also on Friday, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Russian Federation, Kazem Jalali, met with

for a peaceful end to the war in Yemen.

“In the talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran’s will for a peaceful settlement of the war in Yemen was noted, and it was stressed that any solution to the Yemeni crisis must ensure the complete lifting of the siege and the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to the country and a ceasefire,” Nazemi said, according to Fars News.

He added, “As to the Zionists’ crimes against the Palestinian people it was underlined that the recent clash began with the Zionist regime’s provocation and continued with the killing of the Palestinian people, but in recent days the U.S. government, by supporting Israel, has blocked adoption of a statement by the Security Council on a ceasefire.”

Nazemi pointed out that the position of the Islamic Republic on the comprehensive exchange of prisoners between Iran and the United States was also emphasized.

The remarks came after Murphy, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia and Counterterrorism, issued a statement on Tuesday saying that he met with Takht Ravanchi.

Murphy “on Tuesday met with Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran’s Ambassador to the United Nations. The two discussed the Iran nuclear deal, the war in Yemen, and the release of American prisoners in Iran,” the statement said.

“I made the case directly to Iran’s Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht

and senior officials including Jordan’s King Abdullah II, Omani Foreign Minister Al-Busaidi, Qatari Foreign Minister Al-Thani, United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths and several European ambassadors to Yemen to discuss the humanitarian crisis and urgent need to find a political solution to end the war in Yemen.”

So, it’s quite probable that Murphy was given inaccurate, misleading information on Iran’s influence in the region. Iran has always been open to dialogue with neighboring countries on regional issues and it has even entered talks with Saudi Arabia since April. But the Saudis continue to believe that they can achieve their goals in Yemen through the use of power.

On Palestine, Murphy’s stance has been unbelievable to many observers. He publicly lauded the Biden administration’s stance toward the Israeli aggression against Gaza. The Biden administration has privately supported Israel and did nothing to forces it to end its killing spree in Gaza. However, the Biden administration sought to create the perception that it is privately working on a ceasefire in Gaza, something that was belied by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s public expression of appreciation to the U.S. for its support for Israel.

However, Murphy wittingly turned blind on Biden’s act of conniving with Israel. To whitewash this collusion, the senator claimed that the Biden administration is making behind-the-scene efforts to bring about a ceasefire in Gaza.

“Biden’s team has wisely chosen not to conduct Israel/Gaza diplomacy in public. But Biden made clear he supports a ceasefire and so it shouldn’t be surprising that his team are working hard to deescalate the crisis,” Murphy said on Twitter.

But the senator did not say why the Biden administration blocked the adoption of a statement by the UN Security Council calling for a ceasefire three times.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov. The meeting focused on the current situation surrounding the nuclear deal. The two sides also stressed the importance of coordination and efforts of all members of the JCPOA for a sustainable implementation of the nuclear deal in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

During the meeting, Jalali praised Russia’s “principled and rational stance in support of the JCPOA and UNSC Resolution 2231 and its opposition to the illegal U.S. actions and sanctions” against Iran.

Meanwhile, an overwhelming majority of Iranian lawmakers called for a “100%, real” removal of the U.S. sanctions on Iran.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, 200 out of the Parliament’s 290 lawmakers renewed emphasis on Tehran’s demand for a “real removal of all the sanctions and a rigorous verification of this [process].”

It referred to the imperative as “the essential condition for Iran’s commitment to its nuclear obligations,” according to Press TV.

The lawmakers further pointed out that any talks between Iran and the other countries about the matter could only be judged as productive if they enabled the Islamic Republic to “draw true economic benefits” from the JCPOA.

They, therefore, strictly ruled out any partial removal of the sanctions that could result some of the economic pressure on the Iranian nation.

“The U.S. should be completely, verifiably, and irreversibly disarmed of the sanctions weapon,” they said. “If the sanctions are not removed 100 percent, it is as if none of them has been lifted.”

The MPs regretted that the quality of the talks so far have shown that neither the United States nor its European allies in the deal – the UK, France, and Germany – have displayed serious determination for removing the bans.

The allies were even trying to impose further restrictions on Iran and pave the way for putting the Islamic Republic’s defensive and regional influence up for discussion, the statement said.

However, succumbing to the enemies’ excessive demands stands to afflict serious damage on the country’s nuclear program and its achievements, the lawmakers underscored.

They said nuclear activities had contributed to the country’s economy in areas such as clean energy and environmental protection, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture.

Last week, a group of Democrats in the U.S sent a letter to U.S. President Joe Biden urging him to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Fifty-three Democratic Party leaders said they have “strong support” for an initiative in the Biden administration to return to the JCPOA, which former President Donald Trump quit.

Ravanchi today for the Iranians to engage with seriousness and urgency in nuclear negotiations,” the senator said, adding that he also sought Iran’s help in cooling down the situation in Yemen and Palestine.

The senator’s statement also pointed to the recent visit by Murphy to the region.

“Earlier this month, Murphy’s traveled to Qatar, Oman and Jordan to meet with foreign leaders and senior officials including Jordan’s King Abdullah II, Omani Foreign Minister Al-Busaidi, Qatari Foreign Minister Al-Thani, United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths and several European ambassadors to Yemen to discuss the humanitarian crisis and urgent need to find a political solution to end the war in Yemen,” the statement said.

POLITICAL **TEHRAN**— Iran confirmed on Wednesday that a senior Iranian diplomat held a meeting with U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, saying the two sides discussed the need to lift the U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Shahrokh Nazemi, head of the media office of Iran’s permanent mission to the UN, said Iran’s Ambassador to the UN Majid Takht Ravanchi held a virtual meeting with Senator Murphy on Tuesday afternoon in which they discussed the ongoing nuclear talks in Vienna.

Takht Ravanchi underlined the need for practical removal of all U.S. sanctions on Iran which were imposed under various labels, calling the removal of sanctions “a key issue.”

During the meeting, Iran’s ambassador to the UN also clarified on Tehran’s position

Electricity consumption up 7,000-8,000 MW in 2 months on year

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran’s deputy energy minister for electricity affairs announced that power consumption in the country has risen 7,000-8,000 megawatts (MW) since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

“We have started a warm year, Homayoun Haeri said, adding, “In the first two months of this year, the average positive temperature was four or five degrees, so the use of cooling equipment was started earlier and due to the drought, agricultural water wells were used earlier. Due to the decrease in rainfall, we will experience a reduction of about 3,000 to 3,200 MW of electricity generation from hydropower plants.”

“We hope that with the help of the people and the executive bodies, especially the governorates, we will spend the summer with the least difficulty and cover the shortage of electricity generation. We predict peak load consumption this summer to reach more than 60,000 MW”, the official stated.



The rising trend of electricity consumption in Iran has created serious concerns about power outage in the summer peak period.

On Monday, Mohammad-Hassan Motevalizadeh, the managing director of Iran’s Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir), warned, “This year, we will have a difficult peak period”, and called for the people’s cooperation so that this period can be passed without outages.

Mentioning three major factors creating some severe condition in terms of power supply in this year, the official last week explained, “This year, we are facing three issues. First, there was a very severe drought during which we saw a reduction in the water supply of the country’s hydropower plants to less than half. In this way, we lose the generation of about 4,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity from hydropower sources.”

On the other hand, due to the intense premature heat, the cooling equipment entered the consumption circuit earlier than usual, he mentioned.

“And a new problem we are facing this year is the power consumption of illegal cryptocurrency mining units”, Motevalizadeh added.

Although every year nearly 3,000 MW is added to the country’s power generation capacity, the reduction in the rainfalls and the decline in the water storage behind the dams has reduced the electricity generation offsetting the added capacity.

In the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new strategies in recent years to manage the consumption and lessen the electricity losses in the national grid.

In late July 2020, Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that his ministry was considering new incentive packages for low-consuming households and industrial electricity subscribers.

He also said that two programs were prepared for high-consuming subscribers so that by implementing these plans, these subscribers would also join the low-consumer group.

The official described the first program as a training course to teach consumption management methods with the help of knowledge-based companies and start-ups, and said: “Start-up companies will be formed in this field and will help us optimize the consumption of high-consuming subscribers by providing simple solutions.”

The second plan was to install solar panels on the roofs of high-consuming subscribers’ houses so that such subscribers would meet their electricity needs by installing these PV stations.

Meanwhile, the managing director of Tavanir has recently announced that his company has defined 40 programs for maintaining electricity supply and preventing power outages during the hot season peak consumption period.

Motevalizadeh underlined early increase in the temperature and water shortage for hydropower plants as the most important challenges this year, saying: “These issues have forced the early implementation of preventive programs and in this regard, 40 programs have been prepared by Tavanir, and will be implemented across the country.”

TEDPIX slides 18,700 points on Wednesday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 18,746 points to 1.154 million on Wednesday.

Over 4.718 billion securities worth 37.483 trillion rials (about \$892.4 million) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market’s index fell 15,644 points, and the second market’s index dropped 31,288 points.



TEDPIX had gained 11,000 points, or one percent, in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, the chairman of the Iranian parliament’s economic committee has said that the stock market is going to follow a positive trend in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Iran starts pumping oil into strategic Goreh-Jask pipeline

→ 1 According to the official, the Goreh-Jask project, due to its high sensitivity, has gone through several additional tests in various stages to make sure that the project will be completed without any defects and with the best quality.

He further noted that it will take less than a month for the pumped oil to reach Jask oil terminal and then the project will be officially inaugurated by President Hassan Rouhani.

As the country’s second major oil terminal, Jask terminal is under construction on 60 hectares of land and with nearly €260 million of investment.

The Goreh-Jask oil transfer project is going to provide Iran with an alternative route for the country’s crude oil exports that are currently carried out through the Strait of Hormuz.



Back in December 2020, the official had announced that the implementation of Goreh-Jask project by domestic contractors had saved the country over €500 million.

Goreh-Jask project, which is aimed at expanding the oil transport capacity in the south of the country to one million barrels a day, was started in late June 2020.

Iran, China ink customs co-op document

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — During an online meeting held on Wednesday, Iran and China inked a document on customs cooperation.

The virtual event was participated by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) and Chinese deputy commerce minister.

During the meeting, the two sides explored ways to improve customs services between the two countries to expand trade relations.

Addressing the meeting, IRICA head said that the determination of the officials of the two countries to develop relations in all fields, including trade, can reduce the amount of damage and losses of Covid-19 disease on trade, and the new document on customs cooperation between the two countries will be a good start for this purpose.

Iran, and China have signed a comprehensive long-term cooperation agreement with the aim of cementing their economic and political alliance as both countries are subjected to U.S. sanctions.

The agreement which will significantly expand the two



countries’ economic cooperation is seen to be a great blow to Washington’s efforts for isolating the Islamic Republic of Iran’s economy and therefore has raised concerns in the United States.

China is Iran’s leading trade partner and was one of the top customers of Iranian oil before the U.S. reimposed unilateral sanctions in 2018 when President Donald Trump

Tehran, Moscow stress expansion of trade ties

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali and Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation Anton Kobayakov, in a meeting on Tuesday, stressed the need for expansion of economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

As IRNA reported, Kobayakov who is the deputy chairman of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF 2021)’s organizing committee, met with Jalali to discuss the presence of Iranian economic representatives in the mentioned event which is scheduled to be held during June 2-5.

In this meeting, Jalali announced that an Iranian delegation will be attending the SPIEF 2021.

He further stressed the need for holding



Iran’s Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali (L) and Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation Anton Kobayakov

the 16th meeting of the Iran-Russia Economic Committee and called for removing the restriction imposed on the trade between the two sides due to the coronavirus pandemic as a prerequisite for further expansion of trade ties.

Kobayakov for his part welcomed the presence of the Iranian delegation at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and stressed the need to implement the two countries’ joint economic programs during the year.

He also called for the establishment of an Office of Joint Economic Projects as a mechanism for expanding economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Kubiakov expressed hope that the removal of obstacles caused by the Covid-19 pan-

demic would soon pave the way for Iranian businessmen to travel to Russia.

Also on Tuesday, Jalali met Andrei Rudenko, the deputy foreign minister of Russia on CIS Affairs, to discuss current developments in the South Caucasus and Iran-Russia cooperation in this area.

On another occasion, Jalali had a meeting with Mikhail Petrakov, head of the Russian delegation to the multilateral negotiations over the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

They exchanged views on the Second Caspian Sea Economic Forum and bilateral cooperation in the Caspian Sea. The two sides gave a positive assessment of bilateral cooperation on Caspian Sea affairs and emphasized on the continuation of meetings and talks on the issue.

NISOC to sell flare gases of 2 oilfields to private sector

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is going to conduct a project for collecting the flare gases of Mansouri and Marun oil fields in southwestern Iran to offer them to the private sector buyers.

According to the Head of NISOC’s HSE Department Mohammadreza Naderi, the mentioned project is aimed at protecting the environment and also to prevent the waste of the mentioned gases, Shana reported.

The implementation of this project will save 12 million cubic feet per day of gas in Marun 3 unit, while collecting 10 million cubic feet per day of gas in Mansouri field, Naderi said.

“After launching Maroon 6 unit in the future, about 14 million cubic feet per day of flare gas will also be collected from this unit,” he added.

The official noted that under the framework of the mentioned project, private sector companies will install the necessary equipment for collecting the mentioned gases and



then collect and transfer them to downstream refineries for processing.

This project is going to prevent the burning of 36 million

cubic feet of gas per day, which in addition to its significant environmental effects, including reducing emissions of about 22,000 tons per year of sulfur oxides, 1,500 tons per year of nitrogen oxides, and also reducing emission of greenhouse gases by more than 1.5 million tons per year, will bring significant benefits for the companies through the production of gas condensate and other light gases.

According to Naderi, the contracts for the sale of flare gases to the private sector last for five years and can be extended if necessary.

Back in 2019, NISOC Head Ahmad Mohammadi had said that the country’s southern oil fields will stop wasting flare gas, which is burned during drilling operations, within three years.

According to Mohammadi, the controversial practice of burning off gases through stacks at oil fields, will stop by 2022 in at least four locations south of Iran following a new program defined by the company.

80 idle mines of North Khorasan to be awarded to private sector

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — A provincial official announced that 80 mining licenses for the inactive mining areas of North Khorasan province, in the northeast of Iran, will be awarded to the private sector through tenders.

Hossein Haji-Beglou, the head of the province’s Industry, Mining, and Trade Department, said that the tenders will be held in the next Iranian calendar month (starts on May 22).

Those who win the tenders but do not explore and activate the mines will be disqualified, he stressed.

The official pointed out that 45 inactive mines in the province were disqualified from miners last year, adding: “If the miner does not pay government’s dues, keeps the mine inactive or does not fulfill its commitments, it will be disqualified.”

Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data show that 680 mining operation licenses have been issued in the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020-March 20, 2021) to register an 18.1-percent increase compared to the preceding year.

Based on the mentioned data, 576 licenses had been issued in the Iranian calendar year 1398.

During the previous year, 1,020 mineral exploration licenses were also issued in the country, which in comparison with 960 licenses issued in the year 1398, a 6.3-percent increase is registered in this sector.

As reported, the inaugurated mines have created job opportunities for 5,516 people in the previous year, 15.4 percent more than the figure for the preceding year.

Expenses for exploration operations also increased by 39.5 percent in 1399 compared to its preceding year; accordingly, the cost of exploration operations last year was 1.549 trillion rials (about \$36.8 million) while the figure was 1.111 trillion rials (about \$26.4 million) in 1398.

In early April, Head of the explorations department of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Ali Asgharzadeh had announced the identification of 1,700 new promising mineral zones across the country.

Meanwhile, IMIDRO head has announced that 253 idle small-scale mines were revived throughout the country in the previous Iranian calendar year.

According to Vajihollah Jafari, the plan for reviving idle mines in the previous year was realized by 126 percent.

Saying that the mentioned mines have been reactivated as part of a comprehensive program for reviving idle small mines across the country, Jafari also announced that under the framework of the mentioned program 200 mines are planned to be put back into operation in the current year.

The official noted that the successful implementation of the said program in the previous year was achieved despite the problems created by the outbreak of coronavirus.

Emphasizing that the above goals have been achieved as a result of productive cooperation among the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, provincial industry organizations, Iran Mines houses, and private sector companies, Jafari noted that since the beginning of the program in March 2019 up to the end of the previous year, 303 mines have been revived.

As reported, under the framework of the mentioned program, 672 idle mines were identified and prioritized in the previous year, and diagnostic procedures were performed on 194 mines to determine the reasons for the halt in their production.

The program, which has been at the forefront of IMIDRO’s missions over the past two years, is being pursued in several provinces. Khodadad Gharibpour, IMIDRO’s for-



mer head had mentioned this plan as one of the most significant plans of “Resistance Economy”, saying that IMIDRO is strongly determined to carry out it.

Reviving the small mines not only is a major step for supporting and boosting domestic production, it also plays a significant role in job creation throughout the country, Gharibpour said back in June 2020.

Following this program, so far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, and dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

For the first time Israel is facing resistance at all of its borders: Canadian analyst

➔ They get to vote in Israeli elections and are a critical constituency that decides who forms the government in Israel. Right now the Israeli Knesset is deadlocked. Netanyahu has failed to form a government. The task has been given to another right-wing politician. Ironically it is the Arab bloc that may decide who forms the government in Israel.

Why are international organizations, specifically the UN, silent? What about Arab monarchies?

Most Western states were silent about these attacks or issued platitudes and doing nothing. The issue was brought forward at the United Nations Security Council but the United States used its veto to block any action. The Muslim World has slowly condemned Israel's actions as well as the Arab League. But as the Israelis know they can ignore these statements as they are not backed up by any action. The United Arab Emirates even threaten Hamas and Islamic Jihad that they would cut off the money they were receiving unless they stopped firing rockets into Israel.

I am not aware of any similar threat that UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, who all have recently recognized "the Jewish State," made to get Israel to stop its onslaught against the Palestinians and Muslims in the Al Aqsa Mosque. Israeli troops even violated the Mosques inner sanctums and fired tear gas and stun-grenades at worshippers at prayer. These attacks are serious violations of the Muslim worshipper's rights and religious freedom. The silence of the West on these gross violations of human rights is appalling.

Can it be argued that West Asian equations have changes in favor of the Axis of Resistance?

For the first time Israel is facing resistance at all of its borders. This is a new reality for "the Jewish State." The rockets from Gaza have terrified many Israelis who thought they were immune to the consequences of the Occupation. So this is in fact a step forward for the "Axis of Resistance." Israel can



be attacked from all sides. However, these homemade rockets do not represent a serious threat to Israeli dominance of the region. One of the most hopeful developments is the vocal opposition from Jews in Israel and around the World to the Israeli attacks on the Palestinians and in particular the savage attacks on Gaza.

Do you agree with the argument that Western powers have historically been the main cause of Palestine question?

This conflict between Zionist settlers and Palestinians has been going on since 1922 or even earlier. Britain made contradictory promises. In 1915 they promised the Arabs that if they revolted against the Ottoman Turks they would get an Arab State. The British then made a deal with France in 1916 called the Sykes-Picot Agreement where Britain and France divided up West Asia amongst themselves. Finally the British in 1917 promised Zionist Jews to establish a "Jewish national home" in Palestine provided that nothing was done to harm the rights of the indigenous

population nor harm Jewish populations in other countries. These promises were all contradictory and impossible to reconcile.

These conflicting promises have created a perpetual state of warfare in West Asia. I believe that was the intention of the Europeans as they pursued a divide and conquer agenda. There have been spasms of violence where the Palestinians and neighboring Arab states suffered severely. The major events were the 1948 War, the 1956 Suez War, the Six Day War in 1967, the War in 1970-71 over the Suez Canal, the Ramadan War in 1973 where Egypt and Syria tried to regain lost territories, the 1978 and 1982 invasions of Lebanon and the 2006 invasion of Lebanon; plus the various up risings of the Palestinians against oppressive Israeli military rule. Most of these conflicts were started by Israel. Violations of Arab airspace and Israeli attacks against Lebanon and Syria are nearly a weekly event.

Peace will not be achieved until Israel loses a war which is unlikely because of the

Western supplied and funded Israeli war machine has almost complete domination over the regional West Asian states. Or that the Palestinians give up and accept living in an Apartheid state or are ethnically cleansed from their homeland. The last alternative is that a courageous leader emerges in the "Jewish State" that is prepared to co-exist with the Palestinians in a democratic state that treats everyone as an equal. Rabin was taking tiny steps towards this goal but he was assassinated by a Jewish Settler for talking to the Palestinians.

In your thought, why did Israel -especially Netanyahu- start this escalation by inciting Palestinians?

The Israel electorate is badly divided. Netanyahu is facing serious corruption charges and many of the Israeli politicians are trying to show the right-wing electorate that they can be tough on the Palestinians and suppress any sign of resistance to the "Jewish State's" rule. Incitement towards the Palestinians is a common tactic to win the support of right-wing Israelis and the 600,000 Jewish settlers that live in the West Bank.

What will be the regional consequences of the Israeli aggression?

There are few hopeful signs. Israel's electorate is becoming more right-wing and racist in its orientation. The progressive Left-wing Zionists have left Israel or are in disarray. In the current conflict "the Jewish State" is surrounded on all sides. In response to the Israeli soldiers and Jewish settler attacks on Muslim worshippers at the Al Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem has provoked an angry response from Muslims and their allies. Peaceful protestors assembled on the Lebanese-Israel border and crossed into the Jewish State. Israel labelled theses protesters as "terrorists" and attacked them. Similarly protests erupted on the Jordanian border and Israeli troops fired on Jordanian soldiers and protesters.

Israel is orphaned and isolated today: Lebanese academic

➔ Nobody can stop Tehran from pursuing the current nuclear path," the professor at the Lebanese International University notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you read Bin Salman's recent statements regarding Iran? Why did bin Salman suddenly remember that Iran is a neighbor to Saudi Arabia?

The Saudi crown prince knows that the world has changed after Joe Biden was inaugurated as president in the White House.

Biden had hinted that the honeymoon between Saudi Arabia and the U.S. is over, so bin Salman read this message well and began to deal on the basis of it.

He realized that Biden had made a decision to return to the nuclear agreement and that he had to arrange his relationship with Tehran and approach it in a realistic and different way.

So Bin Salman's recent interview carried positive messages, indicating the desire to reach an understanding with Tehran. **To what extent did the American pressure help push Saudi Arabia to change its foreign policy, especially towards Qatar and Iran?**

The American pressure on Saudi Arabia is clear, signaling that sanctions and military threats failed to work when it comes to Iran.

The U.S. administration tries to make Saudis and Israelis understand that they should forget about military options, so Riyadh must go to talk to Iran directly.

Today Washington is reluctant for any act of aggression on Tehran, and this approach cannot be changed easily.

What will be the impact of the possible revival

of the 2015 nuclear deal on Tehran's relations with the Persian Gulf states?

The Persian Gulf Arab states are always influenced by Western powers especially American policy, and they learned today that matters are going to change and the region needs settlement over the Iran nuclear file.

Iran's relationship with Arab states should be understood in this framework, where reviving of the nuclear deal comes as a complement to this settlement process. So, the region is doomed to accept the settlement and not work on obstructing it.

What role does Israel may play after a revival of the nuclear deal? Do you expect new alliances with the Arab regimes against Iran?

Israel today is isolated and orphaned because it was informed that Washington is going towards a settlement in West Asia, so it must adapt to this new reality and that the privileges were granted to it have ended.

This does not mean that Israel will stop working to sabotage Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

The Zionist regime will try to harm Tehran through unilateral acts of sabotage that are not endorsed by Washington, but its actions will not be effective. Nobody can stop Tehran from pursuing the current nuclear path.

What do you think of the fate of the war on Yemen? Can America force Saudi Arabia to stop the war on Yemen?

The aggression on Yemen is militarily over, and it is clear that Ansarullah is the final victor of this war.

This is what is acknowledged by Washington as it is working to end this war.



But it is trying to extract some political concessions before the settlement and compensating the apparent defeat of its allies in Yemen.

However, the Yemenis are well aware of Americans' tactics. They are too smart to be drawn into the trap of negotiations designed to end the war without a full cessation of the aggression and the complete lifting of the siege on the Yemeni people.

Ansarullah will complete the last phase regarding the Ma'rib to score an indisputable victory, after which the power equations on the ground will impose the next political solution on the negotiating table, and Yemen and the region will be facing a new phase determined by the achievements on the ground in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab.

U.S. blocks the Security Council from issuing a statement on Israel

The U.S. blocked the Security Council from issuing a statement calling for ceasefire insisting that it would not help diplomatic efforts to end the conflict

China's UN ambassador says France is seeking a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire between Israel and Palestine.

Zhang Jun, the current council president, confirmed that France's UN Ambassador Nicolas De Riviere informed the council during the third round of closed consultations Tuesday on the conflict that a resolution was being prepared.

The United States has blocked the UN's most powerful

body, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security, from issuing a press statement calling for a halt to the violence, insisting that it would not help diplomatic efforts to end the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Diplomats said the 14 other council members supported the statement proposed by China, Tunisia and Norway. But Security Council press and presidential statements require approval of all 15 members. Resolutions, which are legally binding, do not. They require at least nine "yes" votes and no veto by a permanent member. This would put the United States in the position of voting in favor, abstaining, or

vetoing a cease-fire call.

Zhang told reporters that China, Tunisia and Norway "haven't given up our effort and that draft statement stays there on the table, and we will continue to make our effort, making sure that the Security Council is fulfilling its mandate and responsibilities."

The proposed French resolution, drafted in coordination with Egypt and Jordan, could be circulated to council members as early as Wednesday and put to a quick vote, diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because discussions were private.

A U.S. Department of State spokesperson on Tuesday said: "The Biden administration has been clear that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is a Russian geopolitical project that threatens European energy security and that of Ukraine and eastern flank NATO allies and partners."

Biden's decision to waive sanctions on Nord Stream 2 and its CEO removes one irritant in U.S.-German ties, and U.S. officials hope it provides some leverage to deepen cooperation on broader issues, including China and Russia.

German officials had pressed hard for such an outcome, arguing that the overall relationship was too important to sacrifice over what Berlin has described as a commercial project.

Saudi foreign minister 'hopeful' over exploratory Iran talks

Saudi Arabia is "hopeful" after exploratory talks with Iran, its foreign minister told AFP, in a rare comment on delicate discussions whose details have been closely guarded.

The official-level meetings aim to restore relations severed five years ago between the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"We have initiated some exploratory talks. They are at a very early stage, but we are hopeful," Prince Faisal bin Farhan said in Paris on Tuesday, where he is participating in two international summits.

The talks with Iran, facilitated by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi, had remained secret until the Financial Times reported that a first meeting had been held in Baghdad on April 9.

The Iranian government confirmed on May 10 that the talks had been held, adding that it was "too soon" to discuss the results.

Asked what the impact of the June presidential elections in Iran might be, Prince Faisal said he thought it would be minimal.

"We don't think there will be a substantial change," he explained. "There may be a change in the representatives that portray that policy, but in the end, it's what happens on the ground that matters."

The countries cut ties in 2016, but in April, Saudi Arabia's crown prince struck a conciliatory tone, saying he sought "good" relations.

The tentative initiative comes at a time of shifting power dynamics. U.S. President Joe Biden is seeking to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that was abandoned by Donald Trump.

Meanwhile, Washington-Riyadh relations have cooled from the very close ties of the Trump era, as Biden seeks to press the oil-rich kingdom over human rights concerns.

Shia Afghans want killings of members designated as genocide

Some cultural bodies and rights activists in Afghanistan want the UN to officially recognize the killing of Shia people in relentless attacks in recent years as genocide.

Although all Afghans are suffering from war and insecurity, a rise in terrorist attacks on Shia people in the country has prompted them to raise their voices. Many believe that deadly offensives on Shia people, mainly in western Kabul, is a proof of systematic genocide of Shias in Afghanistan.

Based on official figures, several terrorist attacks and bombings have targeted sports clubs, mosques, educational centers, shrines, schools, and even a maternity hospital in the Shia-dominated areas of the capital, Kabul.

The incidents claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians, mostly young university and school students, worshippers, pilgrims, pregnant women, and newborn babies. However, many here also criticize government policies for failing to protect civilians.

In the meantime, they want the government to officially authorize people to provide security for themselves on their own, in case the government is facing any problems or challenges in this regard.

While many here insist that international rights bodies, especially the UN, should recognize the genocide of Shias in Afghanistan, many others want prominent Shia figures to put pressure on the government to provide security for them at any cost.

Resistance News

52 Israeli jets bomb Gaza overnight; Palestinian resistance fires 50 rockets

The Israeli military says its warplanes carried out 122 strikes on Gaza overnight, as the regime continues its bombardment of the besieged enclave, targeting residential buildings in total disregard for civilian lives.

Hidai Zilberman, the Israeli military spokesperson, said that around 10 p.m. on Tuesday night, 52 fighter jets carried out 122 airstrikes on the Gaza Strip in 25 minutes, targeting what he claimed to be Hamas' network of tunnels, including weapons storage sites and a command center.

At least four Palestinians were killed during the raids, Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

One of the attacks killed a journalist named Yusef Abu Hussein and injured several others on Wednesday morning. Hussein, a presenter in a Palestinian Radio channel, lost his life during an air raid that targeted the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza City.

Israeli airstrikes also hit homes and farmlands in the towns of Khan Younis and Jabalia on Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning, while a house in Beit Lahia and a truck in the Maghazi camp were bombed by the regime's jets.

According to the Israeli military, the resistance fighters also fired 50 rockets toward the Israeli occupied territories on Tuesday evening.

Israel tried in vain twice to kill Hamas military chief

The Israeli military confirmed on Wednesday that it has tried to kill Hamas military chief Muhammad Deif twice since the confrontations began on May 10.

It said Deif escaped the attacks both times, claiming that it has targeted at least seven other top Hamas's members, but all of whom survived, some with injuries.

Palestinian resistance groups also continued firing rockets toward Israeli-occupied territories, with Hamas saying it targeted six Israeli air force bases in central and southern occupied territories in the course of its latest barrage.

"The bases that the al-Qassam Brigades targeted are Hatzor, Hatzetim, Nevatim, Tel Nof, Palmachim, and Ramon," Hamas said.

Rocket sirens sounded last night in central and southern occupied territories, including in Ashdod and Rehovot. Sirens also sounded in the western town of Sderot and Gaza border communities. After hours of silence, rocket sirens were set off in the Gaza border town of Ein HaShlosha in the morning, the Times of Israel reported.

Citing unnamed sources, Arabi 21 reported that Israeli settlers are leaving Tel Aviv en masse toward Israeli illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank over fears of the Palestinian resistance groups' rockets.

Palestinians hold nationwide strike

On Tuesday, Palestinians held protests in various parts of Israeli-occupied territories to condemn Israel's atrocities.

Protesters rallied in Haifa, Jaffa, Nazareth, Hebron, Acre, Tulkarm, Sakhnin, Salfit, Jenin, Qalqilya, Umm al-Fahm and Lod, as well as other areas, where they waved Palestinian flags and chanted anti-Israeli slogans. Israeli violence was reported in several areas.

Israeli troops targeted Palestinian protesters in the East Jerusalem al-Quds neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, where the regime has been trying to force Palestinian families out of their homes to build new illegal settlements.

Israeli occupation forces were deployed to the area to suppress the protesters, who came out to condemn the ongoing bombardment of Gaza, the Israeli regime's attacks on al-Aqsa Mosque compound and the land appropriation in Sheikh Jarrah.

According to the Palestinian Red Crescent, 16 people were injured in Israeli forces' violence near the Damascus Gate, with three requiring hospitalization.

The Biden administration will waive sanctions on the company behind Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline to Europe and its chief executive, with the United States Department of State set to deliver a report as early as Wednesday, a source familiar with the plans told Reuters news agency on Wednesday.

The department's review, required by Congress, concludes that Nord Stream 2 AG and CEO Matthias Warnig, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, engaged in sanctionable activity but that it was in the U.S.'s national interest to waive the sanctions, the source told Reuters.

The source said the administration under Democratic President Joe Biden still opposed the Nord Stream 2 pipeline but felt it was important to send a signal about its strategic



commitment to rebuilding relations with Germany, which were badly damaged under former Republican President Donald Trump.

Russian officials on Wednesday signaled that the move could help mend Washington's fraught ties with Moscow.

Republicans in Washington, however, criticized the reported waiver, which was first reported by Axios on Tuesday.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas late on Tuesday, underscoring Washington's continued opposition to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline but also highlighting the need for the NATO allies to work together to counter Russia, the department said.

White House officials had no immediate comment.

A spokeswoman for the German foreign ministry said the German government had not seen the report but was in close touch with the Biden administration. Maas on Wednesday said a waiver would be a good sign.

Some \$52.3m allocated to support tourism in Qom

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – Some 2.2 trillion rials (\$52.3 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to support tourism-related projects across Qom province.

Of the figure, approximately 105 billion rials (\$2.5 million) have been loaned to six tourism-related projects so far, provincial tourism chief Alireza Arjmandi said on Wednesday.



It would be impossible to complete such major projects without bank financing, he explained.

The country's second-holiest city after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools).

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage at the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

The city's antiquity goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

The Karim-Khan Castle: A citadel in Iran's Shiraz

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Karim-Khan Castle is a citadel located in the downtown Shiraz, southern Iran. It was built as part of a complex during the Zand dynasty and is named after Karim-Khan, resembling a medieval fortress.

At times, the citadel was used as a prison. Today, it is a museum operated by Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization. Karim-Khan Castle is also known as Arg-e Karim-Khan, Arg-e Karim-Khani, Karim-Khans' castle or citadel of Karim-Khan.

Arg-e Karim-Khan was built in (1766-7). Karim-Khan invited the best architects and artists of the time and bought the best materials from other cities and abroad for the construction of the citadel of Karim-Khan, which was quickly constructed. During the Zand dynasty it was used by the king as living quarters. During the Qajar period it was used as the governor's seat.

Prince Abdol-Hossein Mirza Farman-farma, governor of Fars Province, ordered the miniatures in the citadel to be renovated. After the fall of the Qajar Dynasty it was converted into a prison and the paintings were plastered over. In 1971 it was given to Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization. The renovation of the citadel was started in 1977.

The brick walls of the building are 12 meters high, and in all four corners of the citadel, there is a tower of about 15 meters high. On the entrance of the citadel, the scene of "Rostam killing the White Demon" has been illustrated with seven colored tiled works.



This tiled work had been added to the citadel in Qajarieh era. Inside the beautifully decorated rooms of this section, attractive wax statues revive the setting inside the court of Karim-Khan where he met with officials and ruled over the territories under his domination. Adjacent to this mail room, sometimes a couple of other rooms are opened to the public to see the local costumes of Iranian women of various ethnic groups. The colorful gowns seen here are still worn by local people when you travel to different parts of Iran. The iwans lead to other rooms and the upper floor.

These rooms were the living area of the king's family in different times of the year. The western side was used during summer, and the northern side was the living area in winter.

The iwans and rooms are beautifully decorated and have Persian architectural elements like Muqarnas, stucco works, etc. to amaze visitors. On the very south eastern corner of the courtyard, there's a door that leads to the Arg-e Karimkhani's bathhouse (Hamam). This eye-catching bathhouse has got all the architectural sections of any similar structures, which make it worth to visit. The simple yet likable plasterwork decorations on the walls of this Hamam, imply the love in flowers and nature, what Shirazi artists have always been inspired by.

Marble floors and seats, insulated pools for hot and cold water, clay-made pipes for heating beneath the floors and transferring water, and so forth are all observable and the echo returning your voice inside the big hall of this Hamam reminds you of the lively setting of old bathhouses where royal family met and had themselves washed and massaged by the servants.

Haft-Tappeh and Tchogha Zanbil named best museum of the year

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Hafttappeh and Choghazanbil Museum, which largely showcases Elamite relics and monuments, has been selected as the best museum of the year.

The museum received the honor for the third year in a row based on the four indicators of maintenance and protection, introduction, education, and research, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

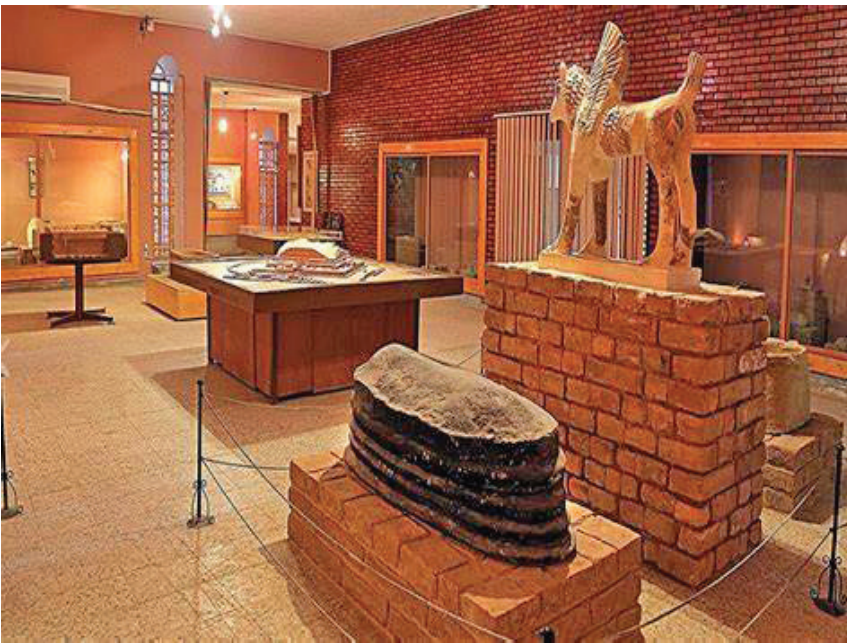
The announcement was made during a special Tehran ceremony on Tuesday concurrent with International Museum Day.

Haft-Tappeh (literary meaning "Seven Mounds") is located 15 kilometers to the south

of the ancient city of Susa, itself a highly significant archeological site in southwest Iran.

Early excavations in Haft-Tappeh conducted by the late Iranian archaeologist Dr. Ezzatollah Negahban yielded a large number of petroglyphs bearing cuneiform inscriptions in Akkadian, belonging to Elamite kings. The petroglyphs contain information on the religious beliefs, trading methods, and the political, cultural, and social relations of the time.

A topmost tourist destination in Khuzestan province, the magnificent ruins of Tchogha Zanbil (Choghazanbil) is considered by many the finest surviving example of Elamite ar-



chitecture in the globe. It was made a UNESCO site in 1979. Its construction started in c. 1250 BC upon the order of the Elamite king Untash-Napirisha (1275-1240 BC) as the religious center of Elam dedicated to the Elamite divinities Inshushinak and Napirisha. UNESCO says that Tchogha Zanbil is the

largest ziggurat outside of Mesopotamia and the best preserved of this type of stepped pyramidal monument. Tchogha Zanbil was excavated in six seasons between 1951 and 1961 by Roman Ghirshman, a Russian-born French archeologist who specialized in ancient Iran.

Iranian minister, Russian envoy discuss ways to expand tourism



"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 it is directly connected with the Russian people. It is the Russian people who must choose Iran as their destination."

In 2017, President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a visa-free agreement for tourist groups. The agreement, however, seems to be implemented in the near future as a joint technical committee

on Wednesday reached an initial agreement in this regard.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Archaeological survey begins on Khalehkuh site

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A team of archaeologists and cultural heritage experts have commenced a comprehensive survey on the prehistoric site of Khalehkuh, which is situated in north-western Qazvin province.

The project aims at preparing the site to be turned into an outdoor museum due to the significance of its antiquities, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Located in the Takestan region, the ancient site is one of the most valued in the region and is of great significance to archeological studies, the report added.

Aside from excavations, the survey is also

intended to organize the site so it can attract more foreign tourists and domestic visitors.

With an area of five hectares, Khalehkuh archeological site dates back to the 5th millennium BC. Relics related to the agricultural life dating back to the Neolithic and Chalcolithic eras have been found in the region as well.

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the



Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle is nestled on

top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070–1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins".

Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais of the country, Sa'd-al Saltaneh caravanserai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it's a place for discovering tens of Hojreh or shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. It's a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, culinary, and hospitality of Iran.

Eight eco-lodges to come on stream in South Khorasan

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – A total of eight eco-lodge units will come on stream within the next three months across the eastern South Khorasan province, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Some 64 eco-lodges have been established across the province over the past five years, the provincial tourism chief Hassan Ramezani said.

A budget of 60 billion rials (\$1.4 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the projects so far, the official added.

Eco-lodge units are aimed to help boost tourism in the region, while it generates job opportunities in the rural areas and leads to economic prosperity, he explained.

As a four-season country with pristine and beautiful nature in different parts of the country, Iran has a lot to offer nature lovers and eco-tourists.

Eco-lodges in rural areas and the heart of nature, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, smoke, and pollution, could free people from the chaos and turmoil of modern life.

In recent years, several historical mansions and rural houses across the country have been repurposed into eco-lodge units to attract more domestic and foreign tourists.



The houses represent the indigenous culture, local customs, traditions, and stories, while the guests are served delicious food with local ingredients.

The growing tendency of tourists to experience indigenous and local cultures has made them want to get closer to natural and indigenous living conditions, experiencing the old-fashioned way of life, considering that staying in

Hundreds of meteorites on show at specialized museum in Tehran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Over 1200 meteorites, mostly collected from scorching Iranian deserts, have been put on show at a specialized museum in Tehran.

The museum is dedicated to meteorites that have hit the sprawling Lut Desert and other parts of the country over time, accord-

ing to Hojjat Kamali who presides over the museum, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The scorching Lut Desert is now being considered to be one of the top areas in the world for finding meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant finds have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams

of researchers.

Meteorites, whether more iron-rich or "stony," are generally silvery or black, and therefore stand out in two major environments – sandy deserts, or icy realms. According to experts, the dry conditions of a desert help to preserve the space rocks in as original a condition as possible.



Archaeologists discover rocky cave in northern Iran

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – A team of Iranian archaeologists has recently discovered a rocky cave that based on available evidence is expected to have a historical background.

The cave was found some 30 meters away from Hotu Cave which is situated in Behshahr county of the northern Mazandaran province, the provincial tourism chief announced on Wednesday.

The jackals' skulls found in the cave's upper layers led to it being named Shal, meaning jackal in the region's local language, Seifollah Farzaneh added.

The cave seems to be at least 10 meters long, but with further excavations, its depth and dimensions can be determined more accurately, the official added.

Archaeologists hope the cave discovery will shed light on the cave-dwelling period and the beginning of rural life in Mazandaran, he explained.

Located on a cliff on the slopes of the Alborz Mountains in the village of Tarujen, five kilometers southwest of Behshahr, Hotu cave is estimated to date back to 13,000 years ago.



The first excavations on the cave took place from 1949 to 1957 by American anthropologist Carleton S. Coon, in which several ancient objects and tools were discovered.

Exploring a cave may not be on the "to-do list" of travelers in Iran. However, Karafu, Ali-Sadr and Quri Qaleh, and Katala-Khor are amongst the most visited caves.

Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-Himalayan organic belt. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, the enigmatic

evidence of human presence on the Iranian plateau is as early as Lower Paleolithic times.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

Soaked in a vibrant history, Mazandaran (also known as Tabarestan) was a cradle of civilization since the beginning of the first millennium BC. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, it was almost overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab raiders.

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty. The northern section of the region consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

Middle-aged Iran: zero population growth in 20 years

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Iran, which is now called “middle-aged” with about 70 percent of the active population, is sounding the alarm about the declining trend of population growth and the upward trend of aging.

In 1977, the country's population grew by 3.4 percent annually, however, suddenly, it dropped to about 1.6 percent in 2006, and a decade later, the population growth rate stood at 1.24, showing a considerable decline.

However, some experts claimed that the rate has declined to 0.6 percent in 2020.

Generally, three factors of birth, mortality, and immigration are effective in population growth.

In 1977, the average number of children per woman was 7, which reached 1.8 children in 2006, and finally, in 2016, the ratio estimated at 1.24.

This trend has not occurred only in Iran, and many developed countries have followed this path over the past 50-60 years, Shahla Kazemipour, a demographer, told ISNA on Wednesday.

Referring to the causes of declining fertility as increasing literacy, education, and urbanization, she said that “whenever development indicators increase in each country, the fertility rate decreases and in Iran the fertility rate has decreased.”

The downward trend of population growth gradually decreases and reaches zero, then becomes negative. Negative population growth causes the population to disappear in the long run, she lamented.

She went on to say that it is estimated that population growth will reach zero in 2040 and then becomes negative, so the biggest concern is that Iran's population will age in the coming years, fertility will decline, and the population of youth will decrease.

Demographic window of opportunity
In demography, the population under the age of 15 is called “young”. In 1977, 46 percent of the people were young, while now 23 percent of the population are below 15 years of age.

In 2006, the elderly constituted 3 percent of the population, which now increased to 8-9 percent. At that time, the population was very young and now is middle-aged.

Iran has achieved a demographic window of opportunity which in all other countries led to economic prosperity so that Iran must seize the opportunity now before its working-age population starts to shrink and get older in the 2050s.

Pointing to the shortage of workforce in the next few years, she said: “When we have a large number of unemployed young people (amounting to four million in Iran), the number of unemployed will decrease.”

Even if the population of Iran grows old over the next 30 years, 25 percent of whom



are the elderly, 22 percent are children and we still have a 55 percent working-age population, so that it is unlikely to be economically worrying.”

Death rate increased by 20%
Population growth is higher in societies with high fertility and immigration, and it gets lower in societies with high mortality and migration.

But since 1977, at a time when mortality has been declining, fertility faced a declining trend, which has slowed population growth, she said.

In 2016, the death rate was about 4.6 per thousand population, but reached 4.8 per thousand population in 2019. Thus, one of the reasons that population growth is going to be negative is the increase in mortality, despite the fact that life expectancy also increased, she explained.

“Over the past four decades, life expectancy has increased from 50 years to more than 70 years, 72 years for men, and 74 years for women.” But forecasts show that in the coming years, life expectancy will reach 74 years for men and 76 years for women.

Over the last one or two years, there has been a 20 percent increase in mortality due to the coronavirus epidemic, and this increase makes us closer to zero population growth, she stated.

Last year, 360,000 deaths have been registered, while 70,000 of which were related to COVID-19, according to official figures.

Socioeconomic factors decreased fertility rate

“Several socioeconomic factors, including urbanization, education, financial issues, first marriage age, as well as increased access to family planning services along with increased time gap between the firstborn and marriage,

lead to decreased fertility rate.

But the problem in Iran is the pace of decline, which is very high. So, we have to look for the reason that increased the pace,” she explained.

To increase the birth rate, we must increase the social security of the people.

Plan on population growth, family support

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) approved on March 16 to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

As the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has emphasized that the seventh Five-Year National Development Plan (2021-2026) should focus on population growth, and on the other hand, the Expediency Council seeks a one-year extension of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan, it was decided to implement the plan for 7 years.

According to the law, all higher education institutions in the country are obliged to raise awareness about the positive aspects of childbearing, take the necessary measures such as producing content and learning packages, as well as holding festivals, workshops, temporary and permanent exhibitions.

The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Culture, and other relevant institutions are obliged to allocate 30

percent of their budgets to those NGOs that work to reduce the age of marriage, facilitate youth marriage, encourage childbearing and strengthen families.

Employees with three to five children will be promoted. Maternity leave will be extended to 9 months by paying all salaries and related extras.

The government is obliged to establish a life insurance and investment fund for unemployed housewives with 3 or more children living in rural and nomadic areas by paying 70 percent of the life and investment insurance premiums.

The Ministry of Health is obliged to provide quality natural childbirth in state-run hospitals in a way that is completely free for people covered by insurance and people without insurance coverage.

Municipal public transportation services and cultural, sports, and recreational tariffs will be halved.

Tuition for children in private schools and educational centers will include a 20 percent discount.

All production, distribution, and service units are obliged to include phrases with the content of childbearing support on products and goods.

Evaluating the plan, Kazemipour concludes that it is a good plan and has a welfare aspect but requires strict enforcement to be implemented well. If it is not implemented well or only some clauses are implemented, the plan will not seem to be successful.

Population growth should meet needs of the youth

However, population growth requires a capability to address the needs of a young nation which can be fulfilled with various indicators, such as social and economic development, development of recreational and educational facilities, increasing the share of young people in managerial positions and among decision-makers, providing the conditions for the growth and prosperity of the youth.

Two years ago, members of the Majlis (Iranian parliament) passed a law banning the employment of retirees. But how much was it implemented?

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli has said that increasing the youth's share in managerial positions is on the agenda, while the average age of managers in the ministry has decreased by only two to three years.

Statistics show that a quarter of the country's young population in decision-making positions is quite absent. However, if this young population is not exposed to practical empowerment, they will certainly face challenges in the future and will not be able to use the existing opportunities for growth and lose the opportunity in management and decision making.

If our hearts beat for Iran, we must cherish water

→ **1** Qanats in Iran were clear proof of how Iranians had been managing water use in the course of history.

Farmers have been chiefly using underground water to feed paddy fields, a move which has led to a great depletion of underground water resources in many places in Iran.

Despite low precipitation and depletion of underground water, there seems to be no sign that farmers intend to replace high water-consuming crops with those needing less.

Still, watermelon is being extensively cultivated. This is despite the fact that every kilogram of watermelon consumes between 300-400 liters of water.

The problem does not lie only with the Agriculture Ministry who has reluctant or unable to convince farmers that such excessive use of underground waters will turn Iran into an uninhabitable place in the coming decades if compensatory measures are not taken.

Most people in cities are also oblivious or uncaring toward water scarcity. In the same way that people are used to excessive use of gasoline because of its low price, they are also accustomed to using water excessively. The Ministry of Energy is responsible for failing to implement a plan to force citizens to stop using water more than what is necessary.

Despite water scarcity, people still use a few hundred liters of drinkable water to clean their yards and parking lots. They can do this by using just dozens of liters of water, but since there is no encouragement or supervision most citizens don't care.

Only citizens in arid places like Yazd, Kerman, and Sistan-Baluchestan cherish water.

If our hearts beat for Iran, we should highly value water and use new technologies to save water, otherwise, we make our homeland an uninhabitable place.

Slovenia strengthens cooperation with Iran in beekeeping

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — The ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Iran, Kristina Radej, has said cooperation between Slovenia and Iran in various segments of beekeeping has been strengthened.

In a message to Iranian beekeepers on the occasion of the World Bee Day, the Slovenian envoy said “In this respect, cooperation has been strengthened with an emphasis on professional education, the implementation of effective health control, the transfer of new knowledge, methods and technologies in the wider field of beekeeping.”

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's fourth international commemoration of the World Bee Day will take place virtually, bringing new focus to the importance of self-sufficiency in local food, in which bees and other pollinators have a vital role, the message reads.

“The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Iran will also mark the World Bee Day virtually. We hope that the situation will improve to the extent that we will be able to carry out the most important projects in the second half of the year, during Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.”

Our activities will be focused primarily on the promotion of beekeeping and pollinator protection, as well as cooperation at the international professional level. Through long-term projects, we would like to provide professional support to Iranian beekeepers and encourage their cooperation with the international community.

“As I noted in my speech at the Congress of Beekeepers in Karaj last year, Iranian beekeeping has made tremendous progress in recent years. Despite many challenges, beekeeping associations and professional institutions are working hard to connect more closely with the international community.”

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and the Iranian Beekeepers' Association will certainly contribute to these efforts.

The UN General Assembly has declared 2021 the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV), which represents a unique opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of fruits and vegetables for humans. On World Bee Day, let's remember our how pollinators help produce nutritious and diverse fruits and vegetables.



Iran informs IFRC of launching campaign to help Palestinians

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has informed the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) of launching a national campaign to collect public donations in favor of Palestinian people who are under Israel's brutal attacks.

“In line with the realization of the humanitarian mandate, I am pleased to inform you that despite the imposed sanctions and existing challenges in fighting with COVID-19 across Iran, the Iranian Red Crescent Society intends to contribute USD 100,000 to the emergency appeal issued by the IFRC with regard to the recent conflicts in Palestine in order to be earmarked for the provision of emergency ambulances,” IRCS President Karim Hemmati wrote in a

letter to IFRC President Francesco Rocca.

Meanwhile, please note that we have launched a national campaign in cooperation with the related institutions to collect public donations in favor of the affected people in Palestine for further contributions, the letter also reads.

On May 17, Iran's Emergency Services Organization announced readiness to provide medical treatment for the victims of the Zionist regime's brutal attacks on Gaza.

“Iran's Emergency Services is ready to send medical teams in order to help the Gazans wounded in the wake of Israel's brutal attacks and it is doing its best to transfer the injured to Iran for treatment if necessary,” the organization's head Pir Hossein Kolivand wrote in a letter

to Health Minister Saeed Namaki.

On May 6, the Israeli Supreme Court decided a forced eviction of the Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. The Palestinians protested over the unfair ruling, as they were forced to leave their homes.

Israeli forces stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, and dispersed the Palestinian worshippers elsewhere in East Jerusalem. Israel has been heavily bombing Gaza since last Monday, in which 212 Palestinians have been killed so far, including 61 children and 35 women, and 1,400 Palestinians were also injured.

The Palestinian resistance has also launched rain rockets in the occupied territories in response to the Israeli aggression and attacks on Gaza.

Travel a thousand miles for dream and Meet in Beijing

Chang Hua, Chinese Ambassador to Iran

“You and me, From one world, We are family. Travel dream, A thousand miles, Meeting in Beijing.” At the opening ceremony of the 29th Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, British singer Sarah Brightman and Chinese singer Liu Huan sang the beautiful Olympic theme song “You and Me”, which still lingers on after the great success of the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

In 2022, China's capital Beijing and Zhangjiakou City of Hebei Province will jointly hold the 24th Winter Olympics and Paralympics. This is the second time that China enters into the “Olympic Time”. Once again, the world's attention is on China, on Beijing.

Lately, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a phone call with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach that China is confident in successfully holding the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games on schedule, and is ready to work with the IOC and the international community to ensure that the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will be a simple, safe and wonderful Olympic event. Making the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic

pic Winter Games a complete success is a solemn commitment made by the Chinese government and people to the international Olympic community.

In the face of the severe challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the global economic recession, China has always been active in fulfilling its commitments in its Olympic bid in line with its responsibility as a major country. China took the lead in controlling the domestic epidemic and realizing economic and social recovery, which created favorable conditions for the successful holding of the Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

With the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics less than nine months away, China is steadily carrying forward all preparations in order to host the games on schedule. The construction of all 12 competition venues has been completed on time, the organization of the games and operation of the venues are being carried out in an orderly manner, logistical efforts are picking up steam, and publicity, promotion and cultural activities are going on orderly. China has carried out test runs of snow and ice sports, and effectively tested key elements involved

in holding the games.

China stands ready to work with the IOC to strengthen Covid-19 vaccine cooperation and jointly build an effective line of protection for athletes participating in the games. China will organize various test runs in the second half of the year so as to lay a firmer foundation for the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

In the preparations of the games, China has always been committed to the principle of hosting “Green, Inclusive, Open, Clean” Olympics. Hosting Green Olympics, requires ecological priority, resource conservation, and environmental friendliness, laying a beautiful China background for the Winter Olympics.

The location and construction of the Winter Olympics venues adhere to the concept of green development. National Aquatics Center, known as the “Water Cube”, creatively set up a curling venue over the swimming pool to realize the “water-to-ice conversion”, which is unprecedented in the world.

Hosting Inclusive Olympics, requires shared participation, shared efforts, and mutual benefit, so that the Winter Olympics will have positive social effects. The Beijing-Zhangjiakou High-speed Railway

was completed and opened to traffic, and the development of the ice and snow sports industry helped Chongli District of Zhangjiakou alleviate poverty. The 2022 Winter Olympics brought tangible benefits to the people.

Hosting Open Olympics, requires facing the world, facing the future, and facing modernization, to make the Winter Olympics a booster for opening up.

Hosting Clean Olympics, requires diligence and thrift, prevention of corruption, improving efficiency and upholding zero tolerance for doping issues, to make the Winter Olympics as clean and pure as ice and snow.

In the process of preparing for the Winter Olympics, China makes full use of the venues of the 2008 Olympic Games, uses

renewable energy, embodies Chinese cultural characteristics, pays attention to cultural heritage, and provides Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions and Chinese strength for the development of the Olympic movements.



(to See the full text scan this code)

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 187)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

واژه‌های ادبی و رسمی

Literal and Formal Words

کلمات ادبی و رسمی مخصوص نوشتند. در صحبت کردن معمولاً از این کلمات استفاده نمی‌شود:

آدبی و رسمی	عادی و غیررسمی
آموختن	: خیلی چیزها یاد گرفتاهم.
اتومبیل	: با اتومبیل می‌رویم.
اکنون	: اکنون کار می‌کنم.
به نام	: جایی به نام لاله‌جین
پذیرفتن	: حرف تو را می‌پذیرم.
گفتگو	: باید با هم گفتگو کنیم.

دک = کتاب کار

تمرین ۱. “هن” یا “خ” بگذارید و غلط‌ها را تصحیح کنید:

۱. () مردم ایران و چند کشور دیگر به فارسی صحبت می‌کنند.
۲. () فارسی زبان سوم دنیای اسلام است.
۳. () ادبیات فارسی ارزش بسیار دارد.
۴. () دانشجویان خارجی زیادی به زبان و ادبیات فارسی علاقه‌مندند.
۵. () در ایران دوره‌ای برای ادامه تحصیل وجود ندارد.
۶. () علاقه‌مندان می‌توانند برای تحصیل به ایران مسافرت کنند.

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Patience is of two kinds: patience over what
pains you, and patience against what you
covet.

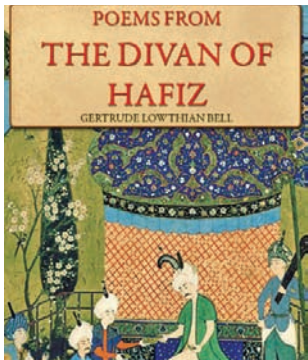
Imam Ali (AS)

Translations of Hafez poetry in English

Part I

The first poem by Hafez to appear in English was the work of Sir William Jones (1746-94). His translation of the Torke Shirazi ghazal, both in prose and verse, as a “Persian Song”, set a precedent for later translators.

The rest of the 18th century produced very little, though the translation by John Nott (1751-1825) is worthy of note. Since the



Poems from the Divan of Hafez™
translated into English by Ger-
trude Lowthian Bell

beginning of the 19th century, however, Hafez has become the most translated of the Persian poets.

Translations of Hafez are varied and numerous but generally they can be divided into three categories. A number of translators have found prose the most suitable medium in which to present Hafez to the English reader. Some of these translators provide word-for-word translations, sacrificing idiomatic English for “fidelity”. Their aim is no more than to provide a crib for the student of Persian.

The complete translation of the Divan by Lieut.-Col. H. Wilberforce Clarke (1840-1905) stands as an exemplum of the particularly graceless and dogmatic. A highly Sufistic interpretation, heavily interpolated with notes within the body of the literally-translated text, it offers a mass of unassimilated information, which obfuscates all the poetic qualities of its original.

Almost all the translators of Hafez in this category have argued that the sense of the poem can be more accurately represented in prose. There is however a more subtle argument, which is that to translate into English verse form would be to impose an alien and inappropriate set of conventions.

Edward Byles Cowell (1826-1903), whose best translations of Hafez are in prose (though he also translated in verse) explains: “We have not put them into rhymed dress, preferring to leave them in a nebulous shape . . . without impressing an arbitrary form on the translation. Our translation is strictly literal as we wished to give the reader an idea of Hafiz as he really is.”

Cowell’s translations, though literal, are written in smooth idiomatic English and are amongst the best of Victorian translations. Among the prose translations, and perhaps deserving more attention than they have generally received, are those in what Jones calls “modulated, but unaffected prose.”

Here the translator is not restricted by rhyme and meter, but offers readability and euphony. Some of Jones’s translations, as well as those by S. R. (Samuel Robinson, 1794-1884) and Justin Huntly McCarthy (1860-1936), are examples of this kind.

Their rhythmical prose aspires to a kind of prose-poetry, with affinities to the prose of the Authorized Version of the Bible. Unfortunately too many of these translators have taken excessive liberties with the imagery of the original, resulting in a sometimes confusing texture of irrelevant associations of word and image.

Most translations from Hafez are in verse. Within this category, three different kinds of translations are distinguishable. The first is made up of versions that try to imitate the rhyme and meter of the original.

This kind of translation has been described as “literary acrobatics”. Only three translators of Hafez have attempted this method: Walter Leaf (1852-1927), John Payne (1842-1916), and Paul Smith (b. 1945).

In performing their “literary acrobatics,” the first has just managed to avoid a fall, but the second and third have, unfortunately, taken very heavy tumbles. Leaf’s, indeed, is an impressively intelligent piece of work which reproduces many of the formal features of the original, while managing to be as faithful as most translations in far freer verse forms.

Payne’s version, on the other hand, offers a grim warning against this kind of translation. It is extremely unmelodious and, at times, well-nigh incomprehensible in its use of archaic and coyly poetic diction.

Smith, like Payne, has attempted to translate the whole Divan. His version is very much indebted to his predecessors. As Smith (like Payne) tortures Hafez into English ghazal forms, the results are as unattractive and as unsuccessful (and indeed as unreadable) as Payne’s version.

Many more translators have chosen to present Hafez in a more familiar English verse form. The main objection here is the one expressed by Cowell, which is forcefully expressed again by Peter Avery (b. 1923) and John Francis Alexander Heath-Stubbs (b. 1918), who argue that “the employment of rhymed stanza-forms of traditional English verse inevitably leads to the imposition of formal conceptions which are . . . alien to Oriental poetry.”

(Source: Encyclopedia Iranica)
To be continued

Iranian actors sympathize with Palestinians in Gaza war

➔ The video has also been posted by Payman Maadi, a star of the Oscar-winning drama “A Separation”.

Hanieh Tavassoli, a star of the acclaimed movies “No Sound” and “Cyanide”, and Fereshteh Hosseini, star of the award-winning dramas “Rona, Azim’s Mother” and “Parting”, have also posted the video on their Instagram.

Habib Rezai, a star of the acclaimed drama “The Glass Agency”, also published a post on his Instagram, sharing a photo of a Palestinian girl holding a doll with a Palestinian flag in the rubble of their home, which was destroyed by Israeli bombs.

He also wrote, “The world’s dolls would be left orphans if the little girls could not survive.”

Parviz Parastui, who co-starred with Rezai in “The Glass Agency”, has also sympathized with the Palestinian people in an Instagram post showing a video of a little Palestinian boy shocked by Israeli air attacks.

“A Gazan child shocked by horrible bombings with a big question on his mind of how can his soul injured by these dreadful shocks be healed in the future,” he also wrote.



A child attends a protest by Palestinians and pro-Palestinian supporters against Israeli attacks on Gaza amid Israeli-Palestinian fighting, in Santiago, Chile. (Reuters/Ivan Alvarado)

On her Instagram, Naemeh Nezamdoost, a star in a popular Iranian TV series, has also reacted to the slaughter of the Palestinian

people in Gaza.

“Should the children witness such crimes,” she wrote and added, “Do the

Tarkovsky’s “Ivan’s Childhood” joins Fajr Classic Preserved lineup



“Ivan’s Childhood” by Russian filmmaker Andrei Arsenyevich Tarkovsky.

A R T TEHRAN — Renowned Russian filmmaker Andrei Arsenyevich Tarkovsky’s

debut film “Ivan’s Childhood” will be screened in the Classics Preserved section of the 38th Fajr International Film Festival.

Produced In 1962, the lineup does not follow a chronological pattern of events, but rather presents frequent flashbacks at the front during World War II when the Germans were invading the Soviet Union.

Nikolay Burlyaev stars as Ivan Bondarev, a Soviet orphan during WWII, who works as a scout at the German frontlines forming a friendship with three other Soviet officers. Ivan seeks vengeance for his family members who were killed by the Nazis.

“Ivan’s Childhood” won the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival as well as the Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival.

In an article published in 2013, Dina Iordanova, a professor of film studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, quoted a comment by Tarkovsky saying, “The most beautiful memories are those of childhood.”

“Like Ivan’s, Tarkovsky’s childhood was spent during the war,” she noted.

Iordanova identifies the similarities between the film’s main character, Ivan, and the director’s personal life, in reference to Tarkovsky’s numerous private visions being depicted in the film’s scenery.

“In particular, he identified the images of the birch wood, the camouflage of birch branches on the first-aid post, the landscape in the background of the last dream, the lorry full of apples, and the horses wet with rain steaming in the sunshine as derived from his personal memories,” Iordanova stated.

Tarkovsky is considered as one of the most prominent directors of Russian cinema with a lofty status in the motion picture industry around the globe.

The Soviet-era Russian filmmaker and theorist won several awards at the Cannes Film Festival, including the Grand Prix Special du Jury and the Ecumenical Jury’s FIPRESCI award.

Earlier last week, the organizers of the Fajr festival announced that French director François Truffaut’s directorial debut “The 400 Blows” will also be reviewed in Classics Preserved, a non-competitive category of the event, which will take place in Tehran from May 26 to June 2.

“The Father” to represent Bulgarian cinema at Fajr film festival

A R T TEHRAN —

The Father”, the Bulgarian

submission to the 93rd Academy Awards, joined the official lineup of the 38th Fajr International Film Festival, organizers announced on Tuesday.

The film has been co-directed by Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov, who attended the 35th edition of the Fajr festival in 2017 with their film “Glory”, which brought Stefan Denolyubov the Crystal Simorgh for best actor and his co-star Margita Gosheva the Crystal Simorgh for best actress.

The 2016 drama film “Glory” revolves around the chaos of bureaucracy when a

railway worker returns millions of dollars he found on the tracks.

While the storyline of “Glory” presents a moral dilemma in an attempt to address something of a paradox where the main character is punished for doing a good deed, “The Father”, however, delves into the surreal realities of modern-day Bulgaria.

The 2019 comedy-drama “The Father” presents a different theme when a son is confronted for all his lies after arriving late to his own mother’s funeral.

After directing “The Lesson” in 2014 and the “Glory” in 2016, the two directors earned praise for conveying social and political messages through their films,

including a special mention from the International Federation of Film Societies at the 2016 Locarno International Film Festival.

“The Father”, which is the third part of a trilogy that began with “The Lesson” and “Glory”, won the Grand Prix - Crystal Globe Award for best film at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

The film has also won other awards including the Golden Owl Award for best film at the 17th Tirana International Film Festival in Albania.

The 38th edition of the International Fajr Film Festival is scheduled to take place in Tehran from May 26 to June 2.



“The Father” by the Bulgarian director Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov.

Iranian Film Festival Zurich unveils official lineup

A R T TEHRAN —

Fifteen filmmakers will be competing in the Iranian Film Festival Zurich, as the organizers have announced the official lineup.

The festival is scheduled to take place in the Swiss city from May 26 to June 3.

Among the films is “The Blue Girl” directed by Keivan Majidi.

In a remote village between the rocky mountains in Kordestan, everyone is in love with football, but there is no level field upon which to play the game. The children decide to climb up the mountain in order to find somewhere to play the game.

“Killer Spider” is another highlight of the lineup.

Directed by Ebrahim Irajzad, the film is about Saeid, a forty-year-old mason, who is severe and fanatical in his religious beliefs. One day his wife is accosted by a driver who assumes she is a prostitute. Seething with rage, Saeid seeks revenge. In so doing he gets into various bruising encounters, and each time comes out the worse. He then



Mani Haqiqi and Saeid Pursamimi act in a scene from “Amphibious” by Borzu Niknejad.

Belgian director Jaco Van Dormael to share experience at Tehran workshop

A R T TEHRAN —

Belgian director and writer Jaco Van Dormael, who is most famous for his special focus in respectfully and sympathetically portraying people with mental and physical disabilities, is scheduled to hold a workshop during the 38th Fajr International Film Festival.

The workshop will be organized online on May 6, and Iranian critic Majid Eslami will conduct an interview with Van Dormael during the workshop, the organizers announced on Wednesday.

Van Dormael, 64, spent his childhood travelling around Europe, before going on to study filmmaking at the INSAS in Brussels, where he wrote and directed his first short film, “Maedeli la Brèche” in 1981, which received the Honorary Foreign Film Award at the Student Academy Awards.

His feature debut, “Toto le Héros”, won the Camera d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1991.

Five years later, his “Le Huitième Jour” brought his two leading actors, Daniel Auteuil and Pascal Duquenne, the award for best actor at Cannes. In 2009, his third feature film, “Mr. Nobody”, won Magritte Awards in six categories, including best film and best director.

“It’s always mysterious and it’s always a miracle when the audience comes to see a

film,” Van Dormael said regarding how his works generally are distributed in a report published by Screen Daily about “Bovary”. his first screen effort since “The Brand New Testament” in 2015.

“When I make a film, it’s like dropping a message in a bottle in the sea. I never know who will find it or if somebody will read the message. I don’t know what will happen with this one,” he added of the international prospects for “Bovary”.

“It’s a very strange film... I know it’s not theater but I don’t know if it is a film.”

The Fajr International Film Festival will take place in Tehran from May 26 to June 2.