



Israel Receives a Slap In The Face From Hezbollah

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Report



Protecting the environment with renewable energy

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Today, the use of renewable energy such as wind is one of the main options for energy production in the world, Iran should produce a thousand megawatts of wind energy per year, according to the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021).

Wind, as a source of clean energy, can play an important role in energy production and reducing the use of fossil resources. It also produces less pollution and greenhouse gases.

At the end of 2010, the nominal capacity of wind power generation worldwide was equal to 197 GW, today the capacity of wind power in the world is 487,000 thousand MW, while the capacity of our country's power plant is 75,000 MW, of which only about 140 MW includes wind energy and the share of solar energy is less or close to zero.

Denmark, meanwhile, holds the world record for wind energy production in 2019, meeting 47 percent of its electricity needs from wind energy, of which 47 percent is wind power, 29 percent is offshore energy and 18 percent is another source.

Resources provided, the country of about 6 million people, is surrounded by water and have the favorable condition and high renewable potential. ► Page 7



In memory of Nagasaki victims



Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

From Inside



Report



Sayyed Nasrallah's speech on "historic" 2006 war victory

The Secretary-General of Lebanon's Hezbollah Movement has delivered a speech marking the 15th anniversary of the victory against the Israeli regime's 33-day war on Lebanon that began in July 2006.

More commonly referred to in Lebanon and the wider region as the July war, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah touched on effects of the victory against Israel after 15 years.

Nasrallah says the most important responsibility of all Lebanese is preserving the results and victory of the war. "The victory did not come through negotiations" he said "but through human sacrifices, patience and steadfastness."

He stressed the importance of how this changed the equations and status quo against Israel as was witnessed most recently by the Palestinians' 11-day battle against the regime in an operation dubbed sword of al-Quds.

When it comes to Lebanon, Nasrallah said the most important strategic and historical achievement was that the war maintained 15 years of security in the country.

For decades, Israeli warplanes used all of Lebanon as a playground to launch airstrikes as Israeli leaders pleased. Lebanese infrastructure, residential areas and institutions were struck, he said, "nothing was spared".

With the exception of one incident in 2014, on the Lebanese-Syrian border, that left no material damage or fatalities (and prompted a quick response); since the 2006 war Lebanese citizens have enjoyed "security from Israeli warplanes", attacks or any other forms of aggression.

The bigger question, Nasrallah said, that all Lebanese should ask themselves is; why has there been no Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon over the past 15 years since the July war ended?

Is Israel afraid from the UN Security Council, the Arab league, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation or public opinion? ► Page 5

Raisi appoints his vice president, chief of staff

TEHRAN — On Sunday afternoon, President Ebrahim Raisi officially appointed two key members of his cabinet.

Mohammad Mokhber and Gholam Hossein Esmaeili were appointed respectively as first vice president and presidential chief of staff.

Mokhber has been the head of the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam during the last two decades. The achievements of his office, especially in recent years and the days of the coronavirus outbreak, were noticed by people.

Also, he had previously served as deputy chief of commerce at the Mostazafan Foundation, managing director of Khuzestan telecommunication and deputy governor of Khuzestan.

Mokhber holds a PhD in international law and has authored numerous articles and books in the fields of economics and law.

Gholam Hossein Esmaeili also served in Judiciary. His last position was Judiciary spokesman.

Iran Blood Transfusion Organization selected as WHO partner

TEHRAN – The Blood Transfusion Organization and the High Institute for Research and Education in Transfusion Medicine were selected for the third time as a partner center of the World Health Organization (WHO).

With the successful and complete implementation of the activities of the second period of the WHO Cooperative Center in the field of blood health education and research, the Blood Transfusion Organization and the High Institute for Research and Education in Transfusion Medicine were selected as partner centers from September 2021 to September 2025.

During the third period of membership, the two partner centers cooperate with the ► Page 7

Tabriz refinery taking steps to place among Asia's top 10 refineries

TEHRAN – Managing Director of Tabriz Refinery in northwestern Iran has said his company is taking new steps for placing among Asia's top ten refineries in the coming years, IRNA reported.

"In line with the second stage of the company's strategic planning which began in the second half of the previous [Iranian calendar] year (September 22, 2020) new steps are being taken for Tabriz Refinery to place among Asia's top ten refineries," Gholamreza Baqeri said in a press conference on Sunday.

According to Baqeri, the first stage of the refinery's strategic planning was made in the Iranian calendar year 1394 (ended in March 2016), and with the completion and realization of the first stage

the second part of the planning was prepared and started in the second half of the previous year.

The company's planning is mainly focused on supplying feedstock, the production and supply of high-quality products needed by customers, sustainable development and improvement of business system through supply chain management, branding and product quality improvement using domestic capabilities, the official said.

Baqeri mentioned the refinery daily processing capacity of 110,000 barrels and noted that the refinery accounts for seven percent of the country's total refining capacity.

He mentioned liquefied gas, Euro 5 gasoline, or-

dinary gas oil, Euro 5 gas oil, furnace oil, and aircraft fuel as the main products of the refinery, adding that currently special petroleum products such as light naphtha, vacuum bottom, granular sulfur, ethane, butane, hexane, lube cut, base oil, isofeed, isoricyclic, petroleum solvent 406-404-402, benzene, bitumen, anti-corrosion, antifreeze and reformate are also among the refinery's products basket.

Underlining his company's future plans considering the country's growing demand for petroleum products, he said: "This company, in line with the country's comprehensive program for developing refineries, is implementing several development projects with a total investment of 1.258 billion euros."

Heydariyyeh Mosque: secrets of one of ancient places of worship

TEHRAN – Masjid-e (the mosque of) Heydariyyeh is a magnificent monument from the Seljuk period, presumably from the late 12th or early 13th century. There is a wonderful air of calm that surrounds the place of worship, which is located in the Bolaghi district of Qazvin, north-central Iran.

Under the Qajar dynasty in the 19th century, the modest mosque was incorporated into the structure of a madrasa. However, most parts of this madrasa were later demolished to make way for the construction of an elementary school in 1955.

The stylistic features of the Heydariyyeh mosque that consists of a single domed chamber prayer hall resemble those of the Friday Mosque of Qazvin, and it is therefore assumed that the Heydariyyeh Mosque was built or renovated by the same architect, according to Archnet.

This mosque was located on the south side of a courtyard, which was surrounded by the madrasa's arched cells on its east, west, and north sides. Based on André Godard's plan of the madrasa, the entrances to the complex were located on the northeast and northwest of the courtyard,

and there were once nine cells on the east and west sides next to the entrances. The north side of the madrasa was comprised of a central iwan flanked by three cells on each side.

According to Arthur Pope's plan of the Heydariyyeh Mosque, the square plan of its Seljuk prayer hall is 14 by 14 meters on the outside and 10 by 10 meters on the mosque's interior.

The mosque is entered from the north, where an entrance iwan, measuring six by 14 meters, was later added to the Seljuk structure. The domed chamber of this mosque is structured similarly to Sasanid Chahar-taq fire temples, within which the square plan is transformed into an octagon via squinches that support a brick dome. However, the dome of this mosque is no longer extant. A recent temporary roof now protects the interior space.

The mosque is constructed of brick and is famous for its splendid brickwork facing and carved stucco decorations. Additionally, its decoration is remarkable for its early glazed tiles. Arched niches in interior corners are topped with carved stucco inscriptions and muqarnas brick decorations. ► Page 6



Zakani elected as Tehran mayor

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TEHRAN — In the afternoon meeting of the Tehran City Council, Alireza Zakani was elected as the mayor of Tehran, winning the highest number of votes in the 21-member council. Zakani was a candidate for the presidential post but he withdrew in favor of Ebrahim Raisi. He was the representative of the people of Qom in the parliament.

Interview



Sexual misconduct a feature of post-Christian societies: ex-Senate candidate

By Ali A. Jenabzadeh

TEHRAN – A former U.S. Senate candidate says criminal sexual misconduct in the government, military, entertainment industry, etc. is the result of American and Western European acceptance of unrestrained behavior.

"The United States and Western Europe are post-Christian societies heavily impacted by Cultural Marxism which has been working toward the victory of the 1960s Sexual and Drug Revolutions in every aspect of American and Western European life," Mark Dankof tells the Tehran Times.

Andrew Cuomo, the governor of New York, has been accused of sexual harassment by multiple women starting in December 2020, with the accusations covering a range of alleged behavior. ► Page 5

Velayati: Resistance path will continue with dignity

TEHRAN — Ziyad al-Nakhlah, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, met with Ali Akbar Velayati, the Leader's adviser on international affairs on Sunday.

Velayati congratulated al-Nakhlah on the victories of the Resistance Front, saying, "The path of resistance and struggle has achieved remarkable and indescribable progress and has been able to achieve many victories for the oppressed nation of Palestine and the region."

The veteran politician added that he is confident that this path will continue with dignity and honor.

"Those who are the cause of instability and insecurity in the region must leave the region, and with the recent victories, valuable developments will undoubtedly be achieved in favor of the Resistance Front," said Velayati, who was Iran's foreign minister from 1981 to 1997.

The chief of the Islamic Jihad Movement said the Islamic Republic has always proven that it stands with Palestine and its ideals.

"With that support, the Islamic Jihad Movement has been able to show its authority more powerfully than before," Nakhlah elaborated.

Praising the position of Iran in supporting the aspirations of the Palestinian people, al-Nakhlah added that the Islamic Jihad movement and the oppressed people of Palestine and Gaza were able to "humiliate" Israel with a "brave war".

He also noted that the Palestinians stand by the path drawn by martyr General Qassem Soleimani and appreciate it.

Al-Nakhlah said, "These martyrs and devotees of the Resistance Front are taking a step in the direction that Imam Khomeini drew with three major slogans. 'The United States is the great devil', 'Israel is a cancerous tumor' and 'Quds is the axis of the unity of Islam that must be liberated.'"

"We must continue to do so until victory is achieved,"

cluded.

The leaders of the Axis of Resistance visited Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Ebrahim Raisi as the new Iranian president.

In separate meetings with leaders of the Axis of Resistance on Friday and Saturday, Raisi reiterated Iran's unwavering support for the Resistance Front, lauding their fruitful moves and tactics.

In a meeting with al-Nakhlah, the Iranian president described the Islamic Jihad as an influential group in defending the rights of the Palestinian people and said, "Today, the power to determine the fate of Palestine is in the hands of the warriors and resistance groups, and this will continue until the final victory is achieved."

Noting that the final victory belongs to the right front, Raisi stated, "The wrong front is desperate and helpless against the right front in Gaza, despite having armed and material power."

In the meeting, the Islamic Jihad leader congratulated Raisi on his victory on behalf of the Palestinian people and resistance warriors.

Al-Nakhlah added, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has become a model in the world for the peaceful transfer of power, while we witnessed a chaos in America a few months back."

He pointed out, "The message of your speech on the day of the inauguration was to support rights, justice and the oppressed, and we will be by the side of Islamic Iran until the liberation of Holy Quds."

Iran calls 'normalization' plan with Israel failed step

TEHRAN — The Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council has condemned any action that would strengthen and help expand the Zionist regime's occupation, describing implementation of the "evil plan" to normalize relations with the Tel Aviv regime by some Arab countries as a "failed step".

Ali Shamkhani made the remarks in a meeting with Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Hamas Political Bureau on Sunday.

Shamkhani lauded more than 70 years of resistance by the Palestinian people to liberate lands from the clutches of the Zionist regime.

The top security official added, "The volume of fire, the range of missiles and the tactical capability of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad that succeeded to pass through various radar systems and the Iron Dome have invalidated the idea of the invincibility of the Zionist regime."

Shamkhani added that the "collapse of this fake regime can be seen in the not-too-distant future."

Admiral Shamkhani also lashed out at plots by the Israeli regime, saying Tel Aviv not only uses military tools to advance its sinister

General Salami lauds PMF for defeating ISIL

TEHRAN — Major General Hossein Salami, commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), stated on Sunday that Iranian forces support Iraq's Popular Mobilization Force (PMF), also known as Hashd al Sha'abi in Arabic, to counter terrorism and combat foreign occupation.

Meeting PMF leader Falih al-Fayyadh in Tehran on Sunday, General Salami praised the resistance organization for its strategic role in defeating the terrorist organization of Daesh (ISIL) and maintaining national security and stability.



"The real political force is the field power, and the Mobilization Force is extraordinary in this sense. God willing, their power will be expanded as a defensive force based on great ideals, firm beliefs, internal unity and a high degree of discipline."

Salami also described the resistance movement and the connection between the PMF and the people as the key to its success, saying, "You and all of us must be vigilant to prevent the people from being affected by the psychological warfare launched by the enemy. Even if you have left the difficult phase of the fight behind, you should never ignore the enemy's tricks."

He also said that an important part of what is now called the decline of the United States on the world stage occurred in Iraq.

This means that the resistance formed in that country weakened the Americans, exhausted them, increased their costs, and allowed them to choose between two evils: stay and suffer harm, or leave and admit defeat, Salami explained.

The head of the IRGC further emphasized that the connection between the IRGC and the PMF is rooted in the sacred religion of Islam, regardless of geographical boundaries.

"We are the continuous supporters of the Resistance Front and this great battle. We hope that the resolution of the Iraqi parliament on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country can be fully enacted, and that an independent, sovereign and secure Iraq will continue to exist and advance without an occupier," the top general remarked.

On January 3, 2020, the United States assassinated Iran's legendary counterterrorism commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, and his Iraqi companions including PMF deputy leader Abu Mahdi Muhandis in a drone strike near Baghdad International Airport.

Two days later, the Iraqi Parliament unanimously passed a bill requiring all U.S.-led foreign troops to withdraw from Iraq.

However, since then Washington has been delaying troop withdrawal, occasionally targeting counter-terrorism organizations.

At Sunday's meeting, Falih thanked the Iranian nation and the IRGC for their support of the Iraqi people and the PMF.

"Martyr Soleimani was the one who inspired the mobilization of the troops. Today, the PMF owes its existence to the efforts of General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who sacrificed their lives," he said, adding, "Any power or country that is friendly to Iraq will not be hostile to the PMF."



goals, it also uses cyberspace for psychological warfare and create rift among the the Resistance Front.

"In order to neutralize the soft war measures of the Zionist enemy, the Islamic Resistance must activate its capacities in this field, while maintaining and strengthening the cohesion of the Resistance forces, exposing the political, security and social realities of the Zionist regime to the world," Iran's top security official suggested.

TEHRAN — Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Sunday highlighted that Iran rejects any terrorist act, calling the Zionist regime of Israel as the biggest terrorist in the world.

In response to a question about the G7 statement blaming Iran for the suspicious attack on an Israeli-operated tanker in the Gulf of Oman, the top parliamentarian said, "We have always stated that we are against any illegal action and any terrorist move, but now those who have trained Daesh (ISIL) and terrorists and have even supported it, take such approaches."

He added that once in a while there are news about problems created for the ships in the Red Sea.

"If there is a terrorist, the Zionist regime is at the top," Qalibaf underlined on the sidelines of an open session of the parliament.

"We always follow the rules and regulations and we always seek the security of international sea routes and transfer of energy. Those who have a terrorist view take these positions," he added.

On August 6, the G7 issued a statement calling the incident for the Mercer ship "a targeted and deliberate attack," pointing fingers towards Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh issued a statement on Saturday stating that attributing suspected attack on the Israeli-operated oil tanker to Iran are "baseless scenarios" designed to complicate the atmosphere.

"We condemn the baseless statement of the G7 foreign ministers and the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs, which is full of baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Khatibzadeh said in response to the statement of the G7 foreign ministers.

The spokesman added that the Mercer ship incident occurred just a few days before the inauguration of the new Iranian president, which is a manifestation of the democratic transfer of power in Iran.

"Such baseless scenarios, which are often the work of the Zionist regime from behind the scenes, are designed to confuse the atmosphere," he added.

According to the spokesman, these allegations have customers among those who are immediately ready for unrealistic and irrational conclusions.

"In fact, for the experts and those familiar with the history of this region, the planning of such conspiracies by the Zionist regime at different times is not new," he added.

The Israeli-operated ship Mercer Street was suspiciously attacked off the coast of Oman on July 29 while traveling from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah. Two crewmen, a British and Romanian national, died in the attack.



Qalibaf calls Israel the greatest terrorist

zania to the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah. Two crewmen, a British and Romanian national, died in the attack.

Iran's ambassador to the UN has said the United Nations Security Council must reject deceptions and fabrications by Israel.

"Today, Israel and its supporters presented fake information on recent incidents in regional waters to convince UNSC to censure Iran and failed," Majid Takht Ravanchi tweeted on Friday.

"We strongly reject these allegations. The UN Security Council must confront Israel's adventurism in the region and reject its deceptions and fabrications" he added.

The suspicious attack on the ship has led to wild speculations ranging from an Israeli "retaliatory" strike inside Iran to derailment of the already faltering nuclear talks between Iran and the West in Vienna.

Zahra Ershadi, ambassador and charge d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN, has also censured Israel for playing victim to divert the attention of the public away from its crimes in the region.

"We just heard a distorted statement about the Mercer Street vessel incident. Let me say a few words about it. First, our thoughts are with the families of those who have lost their loved ones in that unfortunate incident. Immediately following this event, Israeli officials accused Iran of the incident. This is what they usually do. It is a standard practice of the Israeli regime. Its aim is to divert the attention of the world public opinion from the regime's crimes and inhumane practices in the region," she stated.

She added, "To that end, they accuse others of wrongdoing. In almost all incidents in the Middle East, Israel accuses Iran. They do it immediately and provide no evidence."

Iran has called the claims against Iran a false flag operation intended to demonize Tehran.

"Playing victim, lying and deception are part of their toolbox," Ershadi said, noting, "Israel's hue and cry on the Mercer Street incident is aimed, in particular, at hiding its terrorist acts against commercial navigation. Only in less than two years, this regime has attacked over 10 commercial vessels in regional seas. On 17 January 2021, the Syrian Prime Minis-

ter stated that 7 oil tankers en route to Syria were attacked. Israel was behind these incidents that caused serious fuel shortage in Syria. On 11 March 2021, mainstream media outlets reported that Israel targeted at least a dozen vessels bound for Syria, mostly carrying oil."

The Iranian diplomat went on to enumerate Israel's malign activities against Iran and beyond.

Also, Iran's ambassador to Paris on Friday rejected as "delusional" accusations against Tehran.

Qassemi emphasized that Iran - as the country that has the most coastline with the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman and enjoys several thousand years of civilization - has always made great efforts throughout its history to strengthen regional peace and stability and protect security of the Persian Gulf and freedom of navigation.

"Peace, stability, freedom of navigation, and the safeguarding of strategic waterways in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and even in other parts of the world, are an undeniable principle and necessity for Iran," he added.

The Iranian envoy also warned that Tel Aviv and its partners are trying to disrupt Washington's new policy on a political settlement of Iran's nuclear issue.

"Enraged by possible continuation and progress of the diplomatic process and negotiations as well as new approaches in the U.S. government on the resolution of issues ahead through political channels, the occupying extremists and their allies are doing their best to undermine this process, and in their evil path, they are using every trick to create an unconstructive and destructive atmosphere for warmongering," he said.

"Relying on false and baseless accusations and fabricated scenarios by third parties is like planting mines in the path of rationality and disrupting diplomatic trends.... Their recent adventures in the Mercer Street incident will be neither their first conspiracy nor their last anti-Iran measure. Iran will pass through such warmongering multi-purpose traps more vigilantly than ever."

Qassemi further stressed that Iran strongly condemns any destabilizing act or conspiracy that targets the freedom of navigation and transportation in the sensitive region.

Abir Bassam, a leading Lebanese commentator, says the history of Israel is full of evidence that shows its criminality against its own people and others.

"Anything is justified for the sake of getting more sympathy and support from its operators, mainly Britain and the United States, who take turns in playing this role," she notes.

Iran insists on inter-Afghan dialogue to settle conflict

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Sunday met with Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the UN secretary general for Afghanistan, who led a delegation to Tehran to exchange views with Iranian Foreign Ministry officials about the intensifying war between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

In the meeting, Zarif referred to the serious situation in Afghanistan and the increasing complexity of disorder in the country.

He mentioned the wrong policies of foreign powers as one of the important factors in the current situation in Afghanistan.

Announcing Iran's readiness to assist and facilitate talks between the Afghan parties in order to advance the peace process in Afghanistan, the foreign minister said that the conflict in Central Asian country can be resolved only through talks between Afghans themselves.

He added, "The global community must adopt a political solution to the crisis in Afghanistan and condemn the violence and its aftermath."

For his part, the special envoy stressed the importance of the role of Iran and other countries in the region in contributing to the Afghan peace process.

Arnault added that no country can solely solve the current disorder in Afghanistan.

"Only collective cooperation can reduce the severity of the situation in Afghanistan," the special envoy insisted.

Arnault also stressed the importance of inter-Afghan talks as the only way to overcome the rapidly spreading conflict in Afghanistan and considered his talks in Tehran useful and important.

Iran has tried hard to broker peace between warring parties in Afghanistan.

In his press conference on August 1, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said that the situation in Afghanistan is serious.

"For the Islamic Republic of Iran, security of the Afghan people has always been a top priority. We have declared to all parties and groups in Afghanistan that they must consider the protection of the Afghan people in all their actions and talks," he noted.

Iran has always been ready to do whatever is necessary to achieve peace in the country and maintain the security of the Afghan people, he insisted.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has facilitated



the first round of talks between the Afghan parties in Tehran and is ready to facilitate the second round."

He reiterated Iran's position that there is no military solution to the Afghanistan crisis.

"As we have repeatedly stated, the key is to hold genuine inter-Afghan dialogue and form an inclusive government with all Afghan groups. The Taliban are part of the present and future of Afghanistan," Khatibzadeh highlighted.

He reiterated that everyone should be aware that genuine inter-Afghan dialogue can be a lasting solution for Afghanistan.

"Iran considers the security of Afghanistan as its security," he said, adding that Iran is in

"The global community must adopt a political solution to the crisis in Afghanistan and condemn the violence and its aftermath."

contact with all parties in Afghanistan and will do whatever is necessary to build lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Iran is pushing hard for peace in neighboring Afghanistan.

Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, the special representative of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for Afghanistan, met with Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar in Kabul on July 27, discussing the latest developments surrounding Afghanistan.

Taherian assured the Afghan foreign minister of Tehran's support for the peace process in Af-

ghanistan while maintaining the achievements the Afghans have made over the past two decades.

Iran's special envoy also called for further cooperation between Kabul and Tehran in various areas, including border cooperation and coordination between different sectors.

According to the Afghan Foreign Ministry, Atmar said he appreciates the reasonable stances of Iran in supporting peace efforts, ending violence, putting an end to arbitrary killings and torture of civilians, and human rights violations in the territories captured by the Taliban.

Atmar also warned a domination of the Taliban and the escalation of violence by the group will lead to a spread of extremism and the presence of international terrorist groups, including ISIS, in Afghanistan and regional countries.

Fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces has increased over the past two months as foreign troops pull out of the country.

The Taliban is thought to have captured up to half of all the Afghan territory.

As U.S. forces have withdrawn, the Taliban have made rapid gains, retaking border crossings and rural areas.

The Taliban, who were pushed out of power by the U.S. invasion nearly 20 years ago, have also seized key roads as they seek to cut off supply routes.

To establish peace and security in Afghanistan, Iran hosted a meeting between a Taliban delegation and a group of figures who support the republican system on July 7 and 8. Foreign Minister Zarif, who led the talks, urged both sides to show courage in making peace.

"Courage in peace is more important than courage in war because peace needs sacrifice and forgiveness, needs ignoring one's maximal demands, and paying attention to the other side's demands, especially in these talks where there is no other side, and both sides are brothers seeking peace and calm for the Afghan nation," Zarif told the Afghan participants.

The Iranian foreign minister added, "What I ask you is that use this opportunity and end the war in Afghanistan as soon as possible, and provide the Afghan people with the chance to develop."

He also voiced Iran's readiness to facilitate peace talks. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is always ready to facilitate your talks in any way you prefer," he pointed out.

Israel receives a slap in the face from Hezbollah

TEHRAN — On the eve of the anniversary of the 2006 July War between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel, an exchange of fire took place between the two sides. On the surface, it seemed a minor incident in the perennially unstable West Asia region. But in reality, it was strategically important in terms of reiterating the longstanding red lines along the Lebanon-Israel border.

For more than a decade, the shared borders between Israel and Lebanon have been relatively stable and calm compared to Israel's borders with Syria and the Gaza Strip. Southern Lebanon has been the only region that continued to be stable despite the presence of Resistance groups. And the underlying reason for this is the 2006 war that changed the balance of power between Hezbollah and Israel. During that war, Israel faced a formidable foe in Lebanon for the first time. Hezbollah showed much prowess and capability, facing down a foe that had believed its self-proclaimed delusion of being invincible.

The lesson Israel learned from the 2006 war was that no Israeli provocations and aggressions against Lebanon would go unanswered. This red line was respected by Israel throughout its so-called "campaign between wars," a military doctrine mostly aimed to confront Iran's spheres of influence in the region while keeping the confrontation below the threshold of an all-out war, to eliminate its regional influence and undermine its nuclear program.

Despite being a Resistance stronghold, southern Lebanon was spared Israeli military strikes and bombing until most recently. In what appeared to be a bid to change the rules of engagement between Israel and Lebanon, Israel launched at least two airstrikes on Lebanon, the most severe such strikes since 2006, after unidentified gunmen fired three rockets at Israel on Wednesday.

The Israeli aggression came at a time



when even the Israelis themselves concluded that Hezbollah was not behind the last event. Israeli Brigadier General Nitzan Nuriel, the former head of Israel's counterterrorism bureau, admitted that it is more likely that it is Palestinians than Hezbollah. "I believe Hezbollah is not behind the last event," Nuriel noted.

However, Israel chose to proceed with its plan to commit aggression against Lebanon in an apparent effort to test the waters and see if Hezbollah still attached importance to the rules established after the 2006 war.

It was in these circumstances that Israeli warplanes carried out two raids on the town of Mahmudiya, about 12 kilometers from the Israeli border. They struck an open area.

This aggression prompted Hezbollah to restore balance by responding to Israel. On Friday, the Resistance in a statement claimed responsibility for the rockets fired from the Arqoub area towards the occupied Shebaa Farms, declaring that "the groups of the martyr Ali Kamel Mohsen and the martyr Muhammad Qassem Tahan in the Islamic Resistance bombed open lands in the vicinity of the Israeli occupation sites in the Shebaa

Farms with dozens of 122mm rockets." And this was in response to "Israeli air raids on open lands in the Al-Jarmaq and Al-Shawakir areas last Thursday night."

Following the Resistance's response,

“Balance of deterrence is the most strategic achievement of the 33-day war”

video footage uploaded on social media platforms purportedly showed a few people getting in the ways of a Hezbollah vehicle that carried rocket launchers. As usual, some media outlets started propagating misleading analyses about the people of southern Lebanon getting fed up with the resistance group.

Hezbollah issued a statement explaining what happened. "At 11:15 a.m. on Fri-

day, the Islamic Resistance responded to the Israeli aggression by targeting the vicinity of Israeli enemy posts in Shebaa Farms with dozens of rockets fired from woodlands that are far from residential areas," the statement said. "The Resistance has been and will stay keen to ensure the safety of its people."

Lebanese Al-Akhbar newspaper quoted security sources as saying that those who intercepted the Hezbollah vehicle were supporters of former pro-Israel Lahd militiamen. They ambushed Hezbollah rocketry unit which carried out the attack on the open areas near Zionist military posts in occupied Shebaa Farms.

The sources added that the former Lahd militiamen played a vital role in ambushing and seizing the truck loaded with a launcher and rockets by inciting the locals to congregate around the vehicle.

But this suspicious incident failed to overshadow the importance of Hezbollah's response, which once again reaffirmed to Israel that its aggression will always be answered.

In his recent speech, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah underlined this. He stressed on Saturday that the Resistance won't allow the Israeli enemy to change the rules of engagements, warning that the Israeli army will be destroyed in any future war. In a televised address via Al-Manar on the fifteenth anniversary of divine victory in the 2006 July War, Sayyed Nasrallah said that the balance of deterrence is the most strategic achievement of the 33-day war.

He described the Israeli aerial aggression on south Lebanon on Thursday as a dangerous development, elaborating on the Resistance retaliation in Shebaa Farms which took place on Friday. He also noted that Hezbollah doesn't fear a war with the Zionist entity, affirming that the Lebanese Resistance party is fully prepared to confront any Israeli war.

Iran’s embassy in UK rejects British diplomat assessment on Israeli ship

TEHRAN — The Iranian embassy in the UK has reacted to allegations by UK envoy to the UN Barbara Woodward that Iran was responsible for the attack on an Israeli-operated ship off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

Woodward repeated earlier accusations that Iran has attacked Israel's Mercer Street. "The UK knows that Iran was responsible for this attack. We know it was deliberate and targeted. There is no justification for what happened," she said, accusing Iran of disregarding international law.

She added, "The global economy, our food, our goods depends on the safety of commercial shipping. That's why we have international laws that protect the freedom of navigation."

The Iranian embassy took a jab at the British diplomat using its own words. "Good points," the embassy said on Twitter.

It added, "Food, goods and commercial shipping of Iran is also being jeopardized for years either by unlawful sanctions or attacks on its vessels. But no reaction. International law shall apply on all and work for all."

The embassy also called on the UK to present evidence to support its "grave" allegations. "Grave allegations need hard evidence," it said.

Woodward reiterated the Group of Seven foreign ministers' claim on Friday that Tehran was involved in the attack on the Israeli-managed oil tanker, which resulted in the death of two civilians, a British and a Romanian citizen.

The Iran on Saturday roundly dismissed the G7 accusations, calling them "groundless" and "anti-Iran."

"We categorically condemn the unfounded statement by G7 foreign ministers and the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy in which baseless accusations have been leveled against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

"It is noteworthy that the scenario of this incident played out only a few days before the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's new president, which is a manifestation of the democratic transition of power in Iran," he explained.

"Such baseless scenarios, which are usually developed by the Israeli regime, are aimed at stirring up tension, and are unfortunately believed by those who are ready to draw unreal and unwise conclusions," said Khatibzadeh.

"In fact, those who are familiar with the history of this region are no strangers to such conspiracies by the Israeli regime at different points in time," he noted.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has been fully committed to ensuring the security of the strategic Persian Gulf waterway and the Strait of Hormuz, and regards it as part of its own security and remains ready to work with the regional countries to establish and ensure a lasting collective security system in the region," he noted.

Meanwhile, he added, Iran will not hesitate one iota to



defend its sovereign rights in that domain.

Mercer Street was attacked off the coast of Oman on July 29 while traveling from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah. The oil tanker, managed by Israeli shipping magnate Eyal Ofer's Zodiac Maritime, was reportedly attacked by suicide drones. Zodiac Maritime said two crewmen, a British and a Romanian national, died in the attack.

"With profound sadness, we understand the incident onboard the M/T Mercer Street on 29 July, 2021 has resulted in the deaths of two crew members on board," the UK-based Israeli company said in a statement on Friday afternoon, a day after the attack.

Israel, the U.S. and the UK blamed Iran for the attack without presenting any evidence to support their accusations.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett claimed that Tel Aviv knows with certainty Iran attacked the Mercer Street ship and will respond to it.

Grave allegations need hard evidence

"I determine, with absolute certainty – Iran carried out the attack against the ship," Bennett stated, according to the Jerusalem Post. "The intelligence evidence for this exists and we expect the international community will make it clear to the Iranian regime that they have made a serious mistake."

He noted, "In any case, we know how to send a message to Iran in our own way."

Iran has said it was not behind the attack on the Israeli ship. Khatibzadeh has responded to allegations by U.S. and UK top diplomats against Iran about the suspicious attack on the Israeli oil tanker.

Khatibzadeh said the statements issued by U.S. and

UK top diplomats contain "contradictory" claims and "provocative and false accusations." He condemned these statements and called them "deeply regrettable."

"Such coordinated statements (from Britain and the U.S.) include contradictory phrases per se, in a way that they first level accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran without providing any evidence and document and then talk about the 'possibility' of this," Khatibzadeh said.

The spokesman described Iran as an advocate and supporter of the safe navigation of ships in the Persian Gulf and international waters, and said as a country that has the longest sea borders in the Persian Gulf, Iran is always prepared for cooperation with regional countries to ensure maritime security.

He also noted that Iran considers the presence and interference of the extra-regional forces in the Persian Gulf waters and its littoral states to be harmful to the region's stability and security.

"It is a pity that these countries (the U.S. and Britain) have remained supportively silent about the terrorist attacks and acts of sabotage against Iranian trade vessels in the Red Sea and international waters, but have raised bogus allegations against Iran with political bias in a brazen manner. If these countries have any evidence for their bogus claims, they should present them," he added.

In a following tweet, Khatibzadeh warned, "As guarantor of Persian Gulf security, Iran strongly condemns provocative & orchestrated UK/US statements. Having kept silent abt REPEATED terrorist attacks on IRANIAN ships, they now baselessly accuse IRAN. Any anti-Iran adventurism will receive IMMEDIATE & DECISIVE response."

In the midst of the kerfuffle over Mercer Street, several Western media outlets alleged that a number of commercial ships off the coast of the United Arab Emirates were harassed by allegedly Iranian forces. Iran strongly denied any involvement and even said there were no incidents taking place in the Gulf of Oman, where the alleged harassment reportedly happened.

Allegations propagated by Western media were dismissed by Iranian officials as a prelude to new adventurism by the West against Iran. The senior spokesman for the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, denounced the Western press reports about the alleged incidents in the Gulf of Oman as "psych ops" and an effort to pave the way for new adventurism against Iran.

"Conflicting reports by Western, Zionist, and Saudi media about any maritime insecurity and hijacking of vessels in the region's waters are sort of psych ops and a prelude to new adventurism," the Iranian general said. "The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while supporting passage of commercial ships, are well-prepared and have full intelligence surveillance over any suspicious moves."

The spokesman also called for steps by other countries in this regard.

"Accordingly, it is necessary that all countries take practical and legal steps to cooperate on full nuclear disarmament, which has been clearly stated in article 6 of the NPT, away from biased political approaches of some countries, which are in possession of nuclear arms," he stressed.

Iran comes 27th at Tokyo 2020, two places behind Rio 2016

TEHRAN — Iran finished in the 27th place at the 2020 Olympic Games, while the country had come 25th in the previous edition in Rio.

The Iranian athletes claimed seven medals – three golds, two silvers, two bronzes – one silver more and two bronze medals less than Rio.

Shooter Javad Foroughi won Iran's first medal in the Games in the men's 10-meter air pistol.

Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammadreza Geraei claimed the second gold in the 67kg final bout.

Sajad Ganjzadeh also took a gold medal in the men's karate kumite competition in the +75kg category.

Weightlifter Ali Davoudi won a silver medal at the +109kg weight class. And freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani took Iran's second silver in the 86kg weight class.



Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammadhadi Saravi won a bronze medal at the 97kg category, while Amirhossein Zare snatched a bronze in the men's freestyle 125kg.

Iran had sent 66 athletes to Tokyo in 16 sports, three athletes more the country sent to Rio 2016.

Now, the Iran's sports officials should start their work as soon as possible for the Paris 2024 because the success requires long-term strategic planning process.

Iranian woman climber Jafari killed in Kyrgyzstan

TEHRAN — Iranian woman climber Mehri Jafari was killed at the Peak Pobeda in Kyrgyzstan.

She was last seen on Wednesday, descending from an altitude of 6,000m.

It is believed that another Iranian climber, Saeid Mirzaei, was ahead of Jafari on Peak Pobeda, though his status is not currently known.

The Iranian mountaineer has been killed, Rokna news agency reported.

On Thursday, a helicopter dispatched by Kyrzgytany authorities spotted an object high on Pobeda, but was unable to land because of the helicopter's large size.

According to a recent Instagram post, Jafari planned to solo Pobeda Peak and Lenin Peak as part of a previously unfinished project.

Pobeda (Victory) Peak is the northernmost 7,000'er in the world and is considered the most difficult of the five Snow Leopard summits. It is the highest mountain in the Tien Shan and is also known by its Kyrgyz name, Jengish Chokusu.

In 2008, Jafari became the first Iranian woman to summit neighboring Khan Tengri Peak. She is a British solicitor and Iranian human rights lawyer.

Shooter Khedmati satisfied with Tokyo's performance

TEHRAN — Najmeh Khemati, Iranian female shooter, believes that she has had a satisfying performance in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Khedmati, 25, finished 18th in the qualification round of the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the 2020 Summer Olympics, which took place on 31 July 2021 at the Asaka Shooting Range. She failed to qualify for the final round of the competition and left Tokyo early.

However, the Iranian shooter is satisfied with her performance at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I thought I did well in the competition. Obviously, I went to Tokyo with the mindset of getting a good result for Iran, but I was satisfied with my overall performance. Given the high scores of the other shooters, I can say that I shot well," Khedmati said in her interview with Tehran Times.

Of the seven sharpshooters Iran sent to the Olympics, four were women as Khedmati was joined by Fatemeh Karamzadeh, Hanieh Rostamian, and Armina Sadeghian.

Khedmati finished sixth in the qualification round of the Rio 2016 Olympics and qualified for the final stage, where she ended in the eighth position.

She was one of the first athletes to win the Olympics quota and was supposed to represent Iran in 10m Air Rifle. Still, the Iranian shooting federation decided that Khedmati would compete in the 50m rifle (3 positions) event, which is not her favored distance after all. Few expected to see her challenge for a medal.

"It was my second experience at the Olympic Games. I preferred to compete in 10m Air Rifle due to my good result, but the federation thought differently.

"We had problems in terms of having standard sport shooting bullets due to international sanctions against Iran. However, the federation did its best to provide facilities for us. We had a good training camp in Hungary, and there we used the standard bullets. But it was just two months before the Olympics, and if we had more time training with professional bullets, we would have got better scores in Tokyo," Khedmati added.

After 165 minutes and 120 shots, she found herself crashing out of the qualification stage in 18th position, with a total score of 1165-52x.

Karim Bagheri will join Iran’s coaching staff

TEHRAN — Head of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) Shahabeddin Azizi Khadem said that Karim Bagheri will join the Iran coaching staff.

The Persepolis coach was a member of Iran staff in Bahrain, where Iran earned four wins in the 2022 World Cup Qualification Round 2.

Now, Azizi Khadem said that the federation wants to add Bagheri to coaching staff in the final round of the 2022 World Cup qualification once again.

Iran have been drawn in Group A along with South Korea, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and the UAE.

Iran bashes U.S. on anniversary of Hiroshima nuclear bombing

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has put out a statement on the 76th anniversary of the U.S. nuclear bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima, saying the bombing is a reminder of a grave crime against humanity by Washington.

"The Hiroshima incident demonstrates that this country [the U.S.] is ready to put in every effort and take every inhuman action to achieve its illegitimate and insensible objectives," Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

"The memory of the victims of this incident is a reminder to the world of the necessity of pursuing and seriously realizing the exalted ambition of a

world free from nuclear weapons and underlines that the dark shadow and the permanent threat of such weapons are putting the international peace and security at risk"

The spokesman also slammed the double standards the U.S. and other nuclear powers apply to the issue of nuclear weapons.

"Nuclear powers, including the U.S., have declared their clear commitment for permanent nuclear disarmament, within the framework of international agreements, especially the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In spite of that, not only no practical and serious

step has been taken in this regard, so far, but also these countries, led by the U.S., are increasingly modernizing their arsenal, on the one hand, and increasingly focusing on nuclear arms in their military-security doctrines, on the other," Khatibzadeh said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, unservingly, within its fundamental policy on international disarmament for all, and while reiterating equal and peaceful use of nuclear energy, has always considered keeping, using and threatening to use such unconventional weapons to be against all human criteria and international

legal obligations and declares its strong determination to advance and realize the ambition of a world free from nuclear weapons and is always ready for constructive cooperation with the international community."

The spokesman also called for steps by other countries in this regard.

Iran, Finland discuss expansion of technological, trade ties



TEHRAN – Head of Iran-Finland Joint Economic Committee Gholamhossein Jamili met with the Finnish economic and international trade advisor in Tehran to discuss the expansion of technology and trade ties.

In this meeting, the Iranian side expressed willingness for developing mutual economic relations on the basis of technical knowledge and technology, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCI-MA) reported.

Speaking in the meeting, Jamili noted that Finland is one of the most influential and pioneering European countries in the field of startups, knowledge-based, and innovative and creative companies.

"We want to change the focus of our cooperation from the physical exchange of goods to the development of cooperation on the basis of technical knowledge and technology," Jamili stressed.

He referred to a recent meeting between Iranian businessmen and Finland's ambassador to Tehran, saying that in that meeting a report on

the status of the two countries' trade was presented.

He further expressed dissatisfaction with the low level of trade exchanges between the two countries, saying: "Finland is one of the important countries that, despite its effective role in the field of technology and its share in international markets, unfortunately, has had a very low level of trade with Iran over the last decade."

"Part of this [the low level of trade] has been due to insufficient mutual knowledge about the two countries' markets and part due to the lack of serious will on the traders' side," the official added.

Elsewhere in the meeting, the Finnish official underlined Iran's great capacities and potentials for investment and trade, saying: "There are many opportunities and good economic incentives to invest in Iran; We can work together to identify these opportunities."

He suggested holding training courses for Iranian entrepreneurs by ICCIMA in collaboration with the Finnish Embassy in Tehran.

TEDPIX jumps 10,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN – TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 10,100 points to 1.417 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 7,458 billion securities worth 55,225 trillion rials (about \$1.314 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index gained 6,793 points, and the second market's index rose 22,223 points.

TEDPIX rose 90,000 points, or 8.5 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.



The index closed at 1,406 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Group, National Iranian Copper Company, Social Security Investment Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices.

As forecast by a capital market analyst, TEDPIX is going to improve in the second half of the current Iranian calendar month (ends on August 22).

Mehdi Bayat-Manesh has said that considering the current trend of capital inflow into the market TEDPIX is expected to rise in the current month.

"It is expected that the upward trend of the market in the last one month, when the stock index rose from 1.4 million points to 1.8 million points, will continue, and it is also likely that according to the forecasts, the stock index will once again enter the 1.4 million-point channel by the end of the current month," he said.

According to Bayat-Manesh, the government policies for supporting the upward trend of the market should continue in the coming months in order to ensure this upward trend.

"It is also better for the managers of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to take the necessary measures for supporting the market so that the stock market index can once again reach more than two million points, which takes at least a few months to happen."

He pointed to the continuous increase in inflation rate in recent months and its effect on capital market transactions and added: "Shareholders' fears and worries about investing in the market will be eliminated by increasing government support and will increase their willingness to invest in this market."

Following the supportive measures taken by the government, the Iranian stock market has been gradually getting back on track and experts believe that the market is regaining people's trust.

TEHRAN – Over 4.43 million tons of wheat have been purchased from Iranian farmers at guaranteed prices in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), according to the data provided by the Government Trade Company (GTC).

As reported by IRNA, the total value of the mentioned wheat is estimated at 220 trillion rials (about \$5.23 billion) of which the government has so far paid 17.5 trillion rials (about \$416.6 million) to the farmers.

Khuzestan province with 1,083 million tons, Fars with 506,000 tons, and Golestan with 449,000 tons of output were Iran's top wheat providers in the current year, accounting for nearly 50 percent of the country's total wheat cultivation.

This year, each kilogram of wheat has been purchased at a price of 50,000 rials (about \$1.19) which has doubled compared to the previous year.

In recent years, due to self-sufficiency in wheat production and the supply of this strategic product by domestic farmers, wheat imports



Govt. guaranteed wheat purchases exceed 4.4m tons

No problem in providing funds needed to import Covid-19 vaccines: CBI

TEHRAN – The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said the bank has no problem in providing the necessary funding for the imports of Covid-19 vaccines into the country, IRIB reported on Sunday.

"The central bank, in cooperation with the country's banking system, has provided the foreign currency needed to import Covid-19 vaccines and there is no problem in this regard," Akbar Komeijani said.

Komeijani stressed that despite all the problems, providing the foreign currency needed for the coronavirus vaccine has been and is one of the priorities of the country's banking system.

He further noted that the vaccination of all employees of the country's banks is being carried out vigorously, adding: "The necessary arrangements for injecting the second dose of the vaccine have already been made for next month."

In late July, Iran received two consignments

of Sputnik V and AstraZeneca vaccines supplied by Russia and Japan, respectively.

The first batch of vaccines supplied by Japan had been imported on July 23.

Toshimitsu Moteji, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, announced on July 13 that the Japanese government will donate 2.9 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Iran through the COVAX facility.

Iran has also received two batches of vaccines from the COVAX facility. The first shipment included over 700,000 doses of Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by South Korean firm SK Bioscience, and the second one consisted of 1,452,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by Catalent Anagni of Italy.

The Islamic Republic is currently producing vaccines jointly with three countries of Cuba, Russia, and Australia, which may also be released by September, while two homegrown vaccines have so far received the emergency



use license.

COVIRAN BAREKAT, the first coronavirus vaccine made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam which was unveiled on December 29, 2020, started to be mass-produced on March 29.

IME's value of weekly trades doubled

TEHRAN – The value of trades doubled at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, 1,026 million tons of commodities worth over \$555 million was traded at the exchange, showing 14 percent and 99 percent growth in volume and value of trades, respectively, as compared to the previous week.

As reported, IME sold 603,573 tons of commodities on its metals and minerals trading floor worth more than \$345 million.

On this floor the IME traded 369,793 tons of steel, 5,200 tons of copper, 7,075 tons of aluminum, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate, 85,000 tons of zinc dust, 210 tons of zinc ingots, 105,670 tons of cement, 25,000 tons of iron ore, 24 kg of gold bars and 5,500 tons of DRI.

The next trading floor was the oil and petrochemical on which the exchange saw trade of 390,250 tons of commodities valued at more than \$194 million.



Commodities purchased on this floor included 99,9540 tons of vacuum bottom, 113,850 tons of bitumen, 78,200 tons of polymeric products, 33,695 tons of chemicals, 55,500 tons of lube cut, 2,338 tons of base oil, 50 tons of argon, 290 tons of insulation and 5,100 tons of sulfur.

It's worth noting that the IME played host to trade of 32,492 tons of commodities on its side market as well.

Nearly \$480m of non-oil products exported from Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN – Over 1,506 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$478.997 million was exported from Sistan-Baluchestan province in the southeast of Iran during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), a provincial official announced.

Mohammad-Ali Khashi, the director-general of the customs department of Zahedan (the center of province), named cement and clincker, dates, gas, coriander seeds and other agricultural products as the main exported products, and Pakistan, Afghanistan, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the major export destinations.

The official also announced that 540,217 tons of products valued at \$328.697 million has been imported to the province in the first four months of the year.

He mentioned rice, wheat, corn and barley, mango, sesame, spare parts, tangerines, and livestock as the major imported items and Russia, Germany, Denmark, Pakistan, India, and the UAE as the main sources of imports.

As announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 47 percent during the first four months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi has said that



Iran has traded 50.8 million tons of non-oil products worth nearly \$29 billion with other countries in the mentioned four-month period, which indicates also 21 percent growth in terms of weight on an annual basis.

The official put the four-month non-oil export at 38.3 million tons valued at \$14.3 billion, with a 65-percent rise in value and a 27-percent growth in weight.

The IRICA head mentioned liquefied gas, polyethylene, iron semi-finished products, methanol, gasoline, iron and steel ingots, steel products, iron rods, liquid propane,

bitumen, and copper cathode as the main exported products in the said time span.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 10 million tons worth \$4.3 billion, Iraq with 10.9 million tons worth \$2.8 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 4.3 million tons worth \$1.6 billion, Turkey with one million tons worth \$923 million, and Afghanistan with 1.8 million tons worth \$728 million.

The official further announced that Iran has imported 12.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$14.5 billion in the first four months

of the present year, with 32 percent growth in value and five percent rise in weight year on year.

He said that the basic goods accounted for 9.4 million tons of the imported items.

Mir-Ashrafi named cellphones, livestock corn, sunflower oil, barley, meal, wheat, soybeans, sugar and rice as the main imported commodities.

The United Arab Emirates with four million tons of goods worth \$4.7 billion was the first largest exporter of goods to Iran in the four-month period, followed by China with one million tons of goods worth \$3.1 billion, Turkey with 1.3 million tons worth \$1.5 billion, Germany with 351,000 tons worth \$563 million, and Switzerland with 672,000 tons worth \$539 million, the official stated.

As Mir-Ashrafi has previously announced, the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

He has put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons, and said that the figure shows a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

meric products, 125,773 tons of chemicals, 15,908 tons of base oil, 100 tons of slops wax, 492,350 tons of vacuum bottom, 27,025 tons of sulfur, 450 tons of argon, 1,030 tons of insulation and 113,000 tons of lube cut.

It's worth noting that there was 16,605 tons of various types of commodities traded on the IME's side market.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market's various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Daily electricity consumption in Iran drops 4,000 MW

TEHRAN – Daily electricity consumption in Iran reduced 4,000 megawatts (MW) on Friday compared to the previous day, data provided by Iran Grid Management Company showed.

As IRNA reported, the country's electricity consumption stood at 58,350 MW on Friday, while the figure was reported to be 62,495 MW on Thursday.

Based on the mentioned data, the country's electricity consumption on Friday was 2,000 MW more than the figure for the same date in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Over 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.

This year, however, new deteriorating factors like severe drought and the decline in the country's water resources as well as a new wave of illegal cryptocurrency mining across the country have also worsened the situation.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has previously announced that the company is implementing over 40 different programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

In late July, Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi had announced that the daily electricity consumption in the country was over 65,000 MW (65 gigawatts), nearly 11,000 MW more than the country's current power generation.

Sexual misconduct a feature of post-Christian societies: ex-Senate candidate

‘U.S. and the West have already died spiritually’

From page 1 ► He has denied all allegations and has apologized for his comments being interpreted as sexually charged.

Now Cuomo faces calls for resignation from powerful Democrats in wake of the AG report.

Apparently, the number of sexual harassment and scandals in the U.S. is not unnoticeable; from Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky to Andrew Cuomo which necessitate a serious reconsideration about regulations concerning sexual harassment by politicians.

"Serious criminal sexual misconduct in government, the military, the media, the entertainment industry, and the educational institutions are subsequently the result. This misconduct and the America-Western societal acceptance of the LGBTQ agenda and the abortion industry illustrate the nature of cancer eating away at the West like a soul-devouring moral and spiritual bacteria," Dankof argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

What is your comment on sexual harassment allegations against New York Governor Andrew Cuomo?

The allegations may well be true, and Cuomo and I are political enemies representing diametrically opposed points of view, but I have concerns about the way the American media has handled these currently anonymous allegations.

A toxic political and cultural milieu has developed in the United States, which presumes someone to be guilty of sexual harassment allegations yet to be proven in a court of law. This is absolutely dangerous business. It extends not only to the arena of sexual harassment charges but charges relating to "white supremacy," "racism," "homophobia," and COVID-19.

As but one example of this phenomenon, it has now emerged that Dr. Peter Hotez, a professor of pediatrics and molecular virology at the Baylor College of Medicine, is insisting that "Federal Hate Crime Protections" may need to be extended to Dr. Anthony Fauci and other scientists "targeted by right-wing extremism." Presumably, this would include Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and his Children's Health Defense organization, which has published many responsible articles written by medical experts with backgrounds in epidemiology, immune systems,

and virology who virulently disagree with Fauci and the pro-CDC scientific sources on vaccines and their potential dangers. The notion that this responsible dissent should be prosecuted as Federal Hate Crime in the form of the "Scientific Integrity Act of 2021" is textbook fascism or Stalinism. You pick which one.

How do you evaluate the Democrats' reaction to these allegations while they supported him as an anti-Trump governor when Trump was president?

The hypocrisy and political sleaze involved in all of this extends to both political parties. In this current case involving all of the collective vitriol aimed at Andrew Cuomo, we must ask why it is that the Democratic establishment and the news media continue to embrace Bill Clinton despite his legendary sexual misconduct which has even included credible allegations by Juanita Broaddrick and Paula Jones of sexual assault. Clinton committed perjury in the Lewinsky Affair during the Starr Investigation, and yet was acquitted by a Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate. In more recent times, the Zio-controlled American media has been working overtime to conceal Mr. Clinton's 26 separate trips to Jeffrey Epstein's "Pedophile Island," along with those of other prominent American and world figures because of the connection of the Epstein-Maxwell pedophile sex ring to the Israel Mossad and its global blackmail operation against prominent political elites. It is also significant that Jewess Monica Lewinsky's alleged connections to an Israeli intelligence operation compromising Mr. Clinton have been buried by the media and serious investigation by the American Deep State agencies. One may ask why.

The legendary sexual misconduct of John F. Kennedy as chronicled by Seymour Hersh in "The Dark Side of Camelot" is another area conveniently ignored by a Democratic establishment and news media, including the President's proven involvement with mob moll Judith Campbell Exner linked to Chicago crime syndicate chieftain Sam Giancana.

In the summer of 1963, Kennedy was sexually involved with Helen Rometsch, an agent at the height of the Cold War working for the East German STASI, an extension of the Soviet KGB. Why does all of this remain concealed from the American public which gets its information from Corporate Amer-



ican Media? And does anyone currently believe that Governor Cuomo's alleged misconduct can possibly be in the same category of irresponsibility as that of these two Democratic Presidential Icons?

FDR once observed that "Nothing in politics happens by accident." Andrew Cuomo has suddenly gone from a beloved Democratic Icon status to the white man's answer to comedian Bill Cosby. President Biden and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio have run away from the Governor. They have called upon him to resign. Why? I'm suggesting that there is more to the timing and bandwagon effect of the leaks and accusations against the Governor than meets the eye. And how did Joe Biden vote in the U.S. Senate impeachment trial of Bill Clinton?

Finally, there is the recent criminal conviction of Jewish homosexual Democratic Party financial contributor Ed Buck of Los Angeles, an intimate political associate of Hillary Clinton and virtually every other power-broker in the Democratic Party and the Gay and Jewish Los Angeles communities. Buck's crimes and conviction for said crimes are reported by Deon Osborne of the Black Wall Street Times who tells us that "Buck was convicted on four counts of distribution of methamphetamine, a single count of maintaining a drug-involved premise, and two counts of enticement to travel in interstate commerce for prostitution. For years, family members of Buck's victims sought criminal charges against the wealthy donor, but the politically connected predator wasn't arrested until 2019. While prosecutors used the deaths of Gemmel Moore, 26, Timothy Dean, 55, and a third victim to finally indict Ed Buck, investigators say he abused as many as 10 or more victims in his effort to fulfill his fetish for injecting gay men with methamphetamine, who then became unconscious or unable to move while Buck sexually tortured them."

Where is the Democratic Party establishment on this? The news media? And calls for a wider Federal investigation of Buck's political and financial relationships with these establishments? How does this compare with what is being done to Andrew Cuomo by people who have loved him up until now? Why the glaring discrepancies in the treatment of these cases? Draw your own conclusions.

Apparently the number of sexual harassments and scandals in the U.S. is not unnoticeable; from Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky to former U.S. president George H. W. Bush. Is there any regulation to protect women from sexual harassment?

Let me be clear about something. As a Pat Buchanan GOP Paleo-Conservative, George Herbert Walker Bush and his sons are my political enemies every bit as much as Governor Andrew Cuomo. Yet I do not believe that President Bush was guilty of sexual misconduct of any seriously credible variety. The allegations against him involved what may have been a small degree of inappropriateness in some photo-op situations when Mr. Bush was an elderly man, wheel-chair bound, and with an advanced stage of Parkinson's Disease.

In what I saw reported, the suggestions that he was some sort of lecher are unfair. Mr. Bush may have been guilty of some ill-advised attempts at humor in a suddenly humorless and PC America, but his actual known record as a married family man is excellent.

We have plenty of laws in the United States to protect people victimized by sexual misconduct, harassment, and assault. Let's simply see the allegations of criminal activity in this arena taken to open court and established by jury conviction. Governor Cuomo is owed that. So is any other American. And the credible allegations about Cuomo's Executive Orders on COVID-19 and nursing home admissions with subsequent major loss of life are suddenly invisible, with an absolute focus on sexual misconduct allegations. Again, why?

“A toxic political and cultural milieu has developed in the United States.”

Is there any concern among the American public with regard to unrestrained behavior when it comes to interaction between opposite sexes? It seems that there is a big difference between Western countries and Eastern ones in this regard.

The United States and Western Europe are post-Christian societies heavily impacted by Cultural Marxism which has been working toward the victory of the 1960s Sexual and Drug Revolutions in every aspect of American and Western European life. Serious criminal sexual misconduct in government, the military, the media, the entertainment industry, and the educational institutions are subsequently the result. This misconduct and the American/Western societal acceptance of the LGBTQ agenda and the abortion industry illustrate the nature of cancer eating away at the West like a soul-devouring moral and spiritual bacteria. Putin in Russia, Orban in Hungary, and your leaders are to be commended for fighting this tooth-and-nail. All of them recognize the lethal character of this cancer, and who is deliberately targeting and financing these perversions and why.

How can religions like Christianity, Judaism and Islam impact political leadership and push it towards a moral direction?

The traditional versions of these faiths bring moral backbone and resistance into the cultures which would otherwise succumb to these demonic malignancies. The problem is that it is arguably true that the United States and the West have already died spiritually. Witnessing the aftermath of this, other nations and leaders must band together in an absolute alliance against these evils to defend against them every bit as much as against terrorism, military aggression, and central banking blackmail.

Sayyed Nasrallah's speech on "historic" 2006 war victory

From page 1 ► Is this down to Israeli ethics, faith or is the regime sticking to international rules and laws?

Of course not, even our children know this; Nasrallah quipped.

What has prevented Israel from launching airstrikes on Lebanon over the past 15 years, in basic terms, Israel's hesitance and fear of entering into another battle with the Lebanese resistance.

Nasrallah goes on to ask who prevented this "imperialist barbaric, immoral, inhumane enemy" protected by the United States, other global powers and "unfortunately some Arab nations?" Addressing all Lebanese, he said there is only one answer; referring to the movement itself.

Nasrallah says the regime is aware what the resistance can inflict "inside Israel, its vital infrastructure, its army" who showed its "failure" in the July war.

The Hezbollah leader went a step further saying Israel is afraid about its existence, should it wage another war on Lebanon. He put the deterrence down to the rise of Lebanese and regional resistance against Israel.

For this reason, Nasrallah highlighted, how the biggest Israeli concern since 2006, is Hezbollah's weapons. He says Tel Aviv has exhausted every single option at its disposal, no matter how far-fetched that option is, to disarm Lebanon from Hezbollah's weapons.

Weapons that Nasrallah says safeguard the territorial integrity of the country. And an issue that Israel wants to go back to the era of pre-2006 and pre-2000 (Israel's forced withdrawal from Lebanon).

Despite this, he says from 2006 until today, by Israel's own admission, Hezbollah possesses more weapons, more experience, higher quality of training as well as expanding the scope and variety of its missiles including the expansion of high precision missiles.

The latter of which Nasrallah noted that Benny Gantz (Israel's minister of war) himself said bluntly, the threat of Hezbollah's precision guided missiles, is a game changer and poses a threat to Israel's survival.

The Hezbollah leader also added that some Israeli airstrikes in Syria are to help terror groups there, some are to halt efforts by forces fighting terror troops and some are aimed at military capabilities that reach the resistance movement in Lebanon.

Sayyed Nasrallah says Israel has failed on all three fronts and that all Israeli airstrikes in Syria have not changed anything.

He acknowledged the loss of human lives and material damage.

However, when it comes to the goals of the airstrikes; they have been a failure.

Syrian government force and its allies have defeated terrorists and the flow of "missiles to Hezbollah have not been affected".

At the same time, Nasrallah noted that Israel is testing the waters to prop up some credibility.

This he says, is what happened over the past few days.

One incident led to another, Israel started shelling, this was met with quiet, the regime then launched three airstrikes at midnight on open fields with a view to then launching airstrikes on perhaps a building and slowly seeing how far it can go.

For this reason, Nasrallah said what happened is a dangerous development, the type of which Lebanon had not seen over the last 15 years.

The Hezbollah Chief said, some individuals in charge, living in palaces, did not feel the airstrikes.

However, the residents that live near these open fields were terrified in the middle of the night, which Nasrallah said was the aim of the airstrikes, to terrorize the locals in the south.

Nasrallah says Israel had the impression that this



will pass without a response, considering Lebanon's multiple domestic crises.

He said Israel used the opportunity to try and rebalance the equations that Hezbollah had imposed 15 years ago.

Nasrallah says it was time to make a decision on how to respond.

Here, Nasrallah spoke very openly.

He said Hezbollah has two types of retaliation.

One can take weeks, months or even longer.

For example, following the death of a Hezbollah member in Syria. The resistance movement made preparations to kill an Israeli soldier.

Israel, anticipating Hezbollah's response, deployed a heavy contingent of forces to the Lebanese border, about a mile wide, and kept them there for two months. They were heavily protected.

Nasrallah says the opportunity to make a successful operation did not arise. "We don't just fire a rocket for the sake of firing a rocket" he noted.

The revenge will therefore come at a later time and place of Hezbollah's choosing.

Citing another case of a Hezbollah member that Israel killed before in Syria, Nasrallah said a late response would have been worthless and valueless; that's why Hezbollah reacted immediately.

He says this is also why Hezbollah responded quickly to the Israeli airstrikes with a barrage of rockets.

Nasrallah says both the enemy and the friends say Hezbollah's response to the Israeli airstrikes was a calculated one.

Israel declared that it struck open fields and it did indeed strike open fields with no casualties or material damage.

"We also struck open fields in the occupied Shebaa Farms with no casualties or material damage."

In a message to Israel "so the enemy knows, we have options" to escalate appropriately.

"There are open fields in Northern occupied Palestine."

"There are open fields in the occupied Golan Heights... which we will of course fire from Lebanon not Syria."

This is "a step in a series of steps that we can take" and "we immediately claimed responsibility in an open statement."

Nasrallah said this was not a "secret, hidden response." This was a "message."

Nasrallah says the aim of the retaliatory attacks was to reimpose the 15-year status quo and the movement has no intention of changing the equations on the ground.

Nasrallah warned Israel any future airstrike in any area in Lebanon will be met with the appropriate response.

He advised Israel to examine the issue before undertaking any military adventurism; saying Hezbollah's goal is to protect Lebanon and that this mission will be conducted no matter what circumstances the country is going through domestically.

The African Union, Israel and the futility of appeasement

For decades, African countries have supported the Palestinian liberation struggle against Israel, seeing in it parallels with their own anti-colonial movements. Likewise, the African Union has not hesitated to criticize Israeli international law violations and occupation of Palestinian lands.

Most recently, Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat condemned Israel's war on Gaza and its violent attacks against Palestinians in Jerusalem. So why on earth did the commission grant Israel the privilege of an observer status at the AU just two months later?

It is not like Israel has had a change of heart in its treatment of Palestinians. If anything, Israeli leaders have doubled down on what international human rights organizations have called war crimes and have persisted in their colonial policies, despite African condemnation.

As South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has argued, Israel is erecting an apartheid system in Palestine akin to apartheid South Africa as colonization, in the form of illegal, exclusively Jewish settlements, goes on unabated.

Some South African and Israeli observers have deemed Israel's racist regime "far worse" than South Africa's pre-1994, given the large-scale ethnic cleansing that has taken place in Palestine.

All of this begs the question: Why would Mahamat,

a seasoned politician, allow such a questionable and grave decision to be made without consultation with the member states?

This is especially disturbing considering that an absolute majority of African states have only recently renewed their trust in Mahamat's leadership, re-electing him for another four-year term!

Already, some major countries from Algeria to South Africa have flatly rejected Israel's admission to the Union, in any form, as incompatible with the values and principles of the AU charter, demanding an explanation and outright reversal.

Now, I realize that a number of African and Arab leaders have appeased Israel as a way to reach out to the United States. They reckon that Israel has major sway in Washington and may be of help to influence the decisions of the world's superpower in their favor.

Indeed, such pragmatism – read opportunism – may have worked for the likes of Sudan in getting U.S. sanctions lifted after it began normalizing relations with Israel.

In other words, U.S. leaders have encouraged such malpractice, no less the present administration, which claims to put human rights at the center of its foreign policy.

Mahamat's own impoverished and embattled home country, Chad, has stepped up its relations with Israel over the past four years for military and strategic gain.



But how does that relate to the African Union Commission? And why should the Palestinians always pay the price?

After all, the Ethiopia-based AU Commission is not a state; it is a continental organization that represents all 55 member states, most of whom have suffered terribly at the hands of the same type of repressive colonialism that is besieging Palestine.

Africa's inter and intra-state politics are too complicated to address in one article, but there is certainly a unique shared history and a certain commonality among African states that cannot be forgotten or ignored.

Not long ago, Israel was directly implicated in sup-

porting Western colonial enterprises in Africa. And it armed and trained some of the worst African regimes during the Cold War.

Even when Western nations distanced themselves from apartheid South Africa, Israel remained the racist regime's best friend, praising apartheid and cooperating with Pretoria in nuclear weapons development.

Worse still, it never apologized for it. Ever.

And while Israel did try to improve relations with African countries by providing various types of aid and technical assistance over the past two decades, it has also armed some of the continent's unsavory regimes.

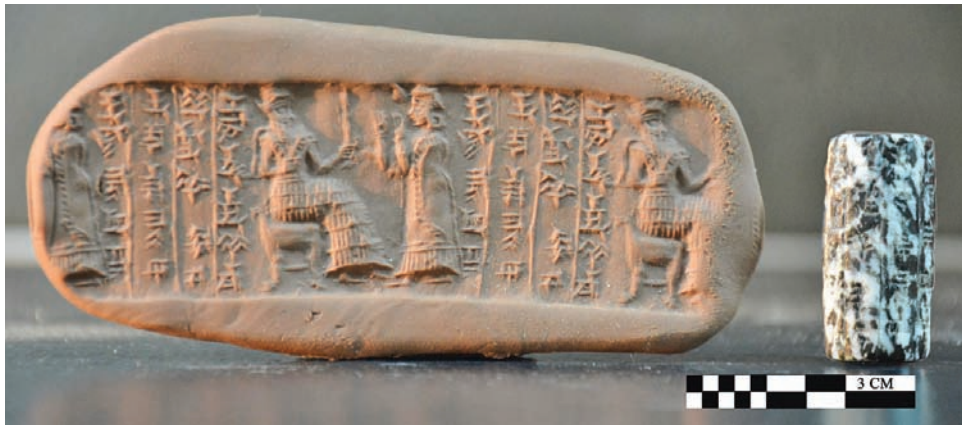
Still, there is nothing that Israel can offer Africa that it cannot purchase on the world market or obtain from the various world powers vying for influence on the continent.

In other words, pragmatism does not justify appeasing racism.

It is not a coincidence that the late Nelson Mandela, who led reconciliation in South Africa, never reconciled with apartheid Israel and persisted in his support for the Palestinian struggle while vehemently opposing anti-Semitism.

I remember his words all too clearly when I attended the Durban World Conference Against Racism 20 years ago where my book, Palestine/Israel: Peace or Apartheid, was launched.

(Source: Al Jazeera)



Moveable properties in Khuzestan added to national heritage list

TEHRAN – A selection of 12 moveable properties in Khuzestan province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Sunday in a letter to the governor-general of the southwestern province, CHTN reported.

Inscriptions, petroglyphs, statues, traditional costumes, and stone seals were among the historical objects added to the prestigious list.

Khuzestan is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System yet it

is a region of raw beauty where its visitors could spend weeks exploring. The province is also a cradle for handicrafts and arts whose crafters inherited from their preceding generations.

Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

Qajar-era bathhouse restored to former glory

TEHRAN – Work has commenced restoring Hammam-e Hassan Abad, a Qajar-era (1789–1925) public bathhouse, which is located in the oasis city of Meybod in Yazd province.

Strengthening and repairing the walls of the historical structure are parts of the restoration project, Maybod's tourism chief Mehrdad Zolfagari said on Sunday.

With an area of 350 square meters, Hammam-e Hassan Abad has two small and big bathhouses as well as a cistern (Ab-anbar), the official added.

The complex was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2007.

Bathhouses or 'hammams' in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

There were also male and female public bathhouses; at daybreak, a longhorn (boooq-e



javaz) was blown to announce that the bath was ready. Men came to the baths from daybreak till the afternoon. Women could use the bathhouses from then to sunset. In some cases, five days were allocated to men and two days to women.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past time.

According to UNESCO, Meybod is a remarkable example of the viability and transmission of human being's collective thoughts from different generations to the present one. "What is significant in the city of Meybod is the regularity in city planning. The anatomy and spatial structure of the city show original plans which conform with the old Iranian city planning."

Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, Yazd enjoys a very

harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

It is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.



el. Today the carving is done using small electric machines with round stone discs that rotate.

The speed of the rotation of the disks depends directly on the kind of carves. The faster the rotations of the discs are, the deeper the carves will be and on the contrary, the slower the rotations, the shall-

lower the carvings will be. Also, by changing the thickness of the stone disc, hand movement, and duration, the form, and depth of the carving change, too.

In the art of crystal carving, first, the points where the intended design is to be applied are marked, then the carver holds the

Heydariyyeh Mosque: secrets of one of ancient places of worship

From page 1 ► The rhombus brick patterns on the squinches are decorated with inscribed bas-relief circles. There is also a fine floriated Kufic plaster inscription frieze below the dome arches. Some of the inscriptions are from the Surah Hashr in the Quran.

The mihrab on the south wall of the prayer hall is composed of finely carved stucco on a painted blue background. Although the bottom half of the mihrab has been dam-

aged, it remains one of the finest examples of Iranian stucco mihrabs. Stylized high-relief pomegranates and pine cones are found on the frame around the mihrab and the arch of the dome above the mihrab.

A Muslim-majority country, Iran is home to many gorgeous churches and chapels that feature amazing architecture and exquisite ornate works. Moreover, the ancient city of Qazvin is blessed with some historical churches and Armenian neigh-



borhoods, which are visited as travel destinations for their splendor and architectural beauty.

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 caravan-serai-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.

The city is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais of the country, Sa'd-al Saltaneh caravan-serai. 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.

Iranian islands may be next destinations for Dubai Expo visitors

TEHRAN – The Iranian islands of Kish and Qeshm are ready to welcome visitors and participants of the Dubai Expo 2020, which will be held from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, the deputy tourism minister has announced.

Dubai's short distance from Iran's southern cities and islands means that expo visitors and foreign tourists can easily travel to and enter the country's free zones during the six-month event, ILNA quoted Vali Teymouri as saying on Sunday.

However, due to the current closure of the borders, the tourism ministry proposed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that visa facilitation be considered in order to support and benefit the private sector and tourism activists, the official explained.

Considering more than 192 countries participating and more than 25 million visitors anticipated, the expo would be a great opportunity to promote Iranian tourism, he added.

Back in June, the official announced that Iran's pavilion at Expo is planned to showcase each province's strengths and assets in tourism, cultural heritage, handicrafts, as well as its natural sites, traditional ceremonial practices, and historical significance.

The official noted that Iran will attend the event with the motto of



"Iran, An Ancient and Stable Civilization with a Diversity of Ethnicities" to introduce the Iranian rich culture to the visitors.

Taking part in the Expo is also intended to promote economic, social, and cultural links with the countries attending the event, he mentioned.

Expo 2020 originally was scheduled for October 20, 2020 –April 10, 2021, but due to the outbreaks of the coronavirus, the event has been postponed. However, the organizers keep the name Expo 2020 for marketing and branding purposes.

Throughout the years, World Expos have been global events dedicated to

sharing top-notch innovation, showcasing ground-breaking inventions, and discovering resolutions to fundamental challenges by facing humanity. They are organized every five years and last for six months.

Known as the province of islands, Hormozgan province is located on the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. It embraces scenic islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most beautiful ones and top tourist destinations in southern Iran.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can

swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature-lovers.

Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

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.

Ancient currency: glimpses of early Islamic coins

TEHRAN – Being made in most ages of precious metal, or possessing a significant token value, coins have always been prized, often hoarded, and, therefore, frequently buried for safety.

In the Islamic currency system, the first coin that bore an Arabic inscription was called a dinar and was similar, in both size and weight, to the Byzantine solidus.

In the margin surrounding the design the testimony of Islam was written in Arabic: "In the name of God, there is no deity but God; He is One; Muhammad (PBUH) is the messenger of God."

The Muslim conquest of Persia, also known as the Arab conquest of Iran, led to the fall of the Sasanian Empire in ca. 651 and the eventual decline of the Zoroastrian religion. The conquering Muslims at first mimicked the coinage of their predecessors. In the western provinces, they issued gold and copper pieces imitated from contemporary Byzantine coins, modifying the cross on the reverse of the latter somewhat to suit Muslim sensibilities. In the eastern provinces, the Arab governors issued



silver dirhams that were copies of late Sasanian coins (mostly of those of Khosrow II; with the addition of short Arabic inscriptions on the margin and often the name of the Arab governor in Pahlavi; even the crude representation of the fire altar was retained.

Here are glimpses of early Islamic coins:

Umayyad coins (661-750CE)

As part of a policy to unify the various regions under Islamic rule, Caliph Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan introduced the first Umayyad gold

coins in 691CE. Within a short period, Islamic Coins replaced all Sassanian and Byzantine coins in Muslim lands, according to Muslim Heritage.

Abbasid coins (750-1258CE)

The Abbasid Dynasty experimented with different kinds of coins. They improved the appearance of coins using a more elegant form of Kufic script and the legends and the size of the legends on the dinars were changed so that they could include two margins.

Fatimid coins (909-1171CE)

During the Fatimid Dynasty, Islamic coins were of such high quality and so abundant that they became the most widespread trade coins in the Mediterranean world.

Andalusian coins (711-1494CE)

Muslims minted their first gold coins when they entered Spain in 711CE. The new coins were modeled in size and design after the Arab-Byzantine but their inscriptions were in Latin. A large star in the center of the obverse field distinguished the Islamic Spanish coin from the Arab-Latin one.

Another tourism complex to be constructed in southern Iran

TEHRAN – An agreement in principle has recently been reached to launch a tourism complex in Khatra county, the southern Fars province.

A sum of 100 billion rials (\$2.3 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) will be invested in the project by the private sector, Khatra's tourism chief said on Sunday.

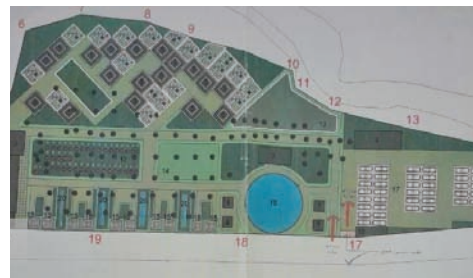
"The complex aims to boost tourism in the region and encourage potential investors to invest in the sector," Ali Asghar Taheri stated.

A swimming pool, a playground, 17 36-meter residential suites, and 10 pergolas will be part of the complex, he noted.

Covering an area of one hectare, the complex is expected to generate some 20 job opportunities upon its completion, the official added.

Earlier in May, tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan inaugurated 28 cultural heritage-and-tourism-related projects across Fars province.

The projects worth 7.3 trillion rials (about \$173 million) include hotels, apartment hotels, traditional restaurants, agritourism unites, museums, eco-lodge units, and rural guesthouses.



The ancient region of Fars also spelled Pars, or Persis was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Iranian handicrafts: crystal carving

TEHRAN – Crystals have long been created in Iran to captivate human attention with their enigmatic mysterious beauty. Carving crystals is one of the most original and common methods of decorating crystal works tracing back to the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC).

Sassanid artists were also very skillful to do so. Experts say the art of making crystal works in the Islamic era was highly influenced by the works from ancient Iran.

However, what today we refer to as carving glass and crystal in Iran began in 1935 when a crystal factory was established and went through many ups and downs during the time, according to Visit Iran.

In this artistic process, diverse designs are carved onto crystal pieces using specific stones that are harder than the production and elevates it to another lev-

Charity foundation implements 360,000 job creation projects

TEHRAN – Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, has carried out 360,000 job creation projects for the deprived over the past three years, IRNA reported on Sunday.

In the past three years, 360,000 job creation projects have been implemented in different regions of the country, of which 750 projects have been industrial enterprises, and efforts are being made to implement



200,000 projects this year (began March 21). Hossein Madani, head of the Foundation, said.

He announced that the total number of jobs created by the Barekat Foundation will reach up to 600,000 by the end of this year.

The jobs were in the fields of technology, services, animal husbandry, agriculture, and handicrafts, he added.

He went on to note that “in the capital city of Tehran, we have generated 10,000 jobs so far; This year,

another 1,500 projects will be implemented throughout the province.”

Recently, the Foundation announced to open up 9,300 jobs for persons with disabilities.

Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam was founded in 1989. In the Iranian calendar year, 1386 (March 2017-March 2018) Barekat Charity Foundation- the social arm of the organization- with the aim of promoting social justice was established.

Socio-economic empowerment of communities by encouraging entrepreneurship prioritizing breadwinner women, developing infrastructures such as water supply and power grids, building roads, constructing schools and increasing educational spaces, promoting health for all, granting non-repayable loans and insurance especially in less developed areas and regions most affected by 1980s war and natural disasters are of the priorities of the charity foundation.

Protecting the environment with renewable energy



From page 1 ► Resources provided, the country of about 6 million people, is surrounded by water and have the favorable condition and high renewable potential.

Meanwhile, Germany is a leading country in this field.

These conditions are also suitable for a country like Iran because it is surrounded by water from both the north and the south where the wind is constantly blowing every year, for example, 120-day winds in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Kahnooj hot winds, Manjil winds, Raz or Shareh winds in Qazvin province, Naeshi winds, and Tash winds in Hormozgan province are some of the winds that always blow in different parts of the country.

According to the National Development Plan, Iran also plans for renewable energy and focuses on wind energy.

However, historically, Iran is one of the leading countries in the use of wind energy in windmills, but the first modern and industrial use of wind power in Iran was started in 1955 when two mod-

ern wind turbines with a capacity of 500 KW were purchased and installed in northern Gilan province, after which the government decided to develop wind energy in the country.

Currently, the capacity of wind farms in Iran is 302 MW, while the economic potential of the construction of such power plants is more than 7,000 MW, which certainly can be very effective and useful in managing the peak of the electricity load in the country.

The first document related to the development of clean energy was prepared by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization with the assistance of the World Bank. In addition to this document, based on the 20-year National Vision Plan, Iran must establish an annual 90 MW wind farm by the end of 2025.

According to the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan, 1,000 MW per year and a 75 MW wind power plant must be installed in the country every month not to lag behind in development. The share of wind energy in the world is increasing, so we must move faster and plan more.

In Iran, despite having significant capacities, unfortunately, wind and solar energy use are not satisfactory compared to other countries, the countries of the Persian Gulf have also started very extensive measures in this field. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are launching cities that use all their energy from renewable energy sources, or Ethiopia has installed 230 MW wind farms, which is twice above our country's amount.

However, we are still witnessing the country lagging behind in the field of renewable energy production, so that according to the Sixth Development Plan, 5,000 MW of wind power should be built in the country, which has not been done yet. Accordingly, we have to launch an average wind farm with a capacity of 75 MW per month, while we are far behind.

However, Iran is not in good condition in terms of environmental and biological components and is very fragile, greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution due to the use of fossil fuels have not only threatened the environment but also affected health.

Wind energy as a source of clean energy is one of the most economical methods of generating electricity that does not cause pollution and is also inexhaustible, according to studies, the production of each kilowatt-hour of electricity from wind in comparison with fossil fuel power plants can prevent the release of about one kilogram of CO2. On the other hand, when electricity generated from wind energy is injected, the same amount of environmental pollutants is reduced.

Of course, Iran has several wind farms, but despite its unique capabilities, it must take longer and faster steps in this area to help the economy, health, and fragile environment.

Iran Blood Transfusion Organization selected as WHO partner

From page 1 ► WHO by holding a workshop on centralization and management of blood transfusion centers, a workshop on optimal use of plasma for refining, and conducting two research projects on blood donor management and assessing the health and adequacy of blood in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Moreover, they will help implement the World Health Organization strategies on blood health and adequacy in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Also, the first membership period was from 2013-2017 and the second membership period started from 2017 to 2021.

During these courses, the partner centers succeeded in holding seven training workshops and an international seminar and conducting a research project to review the status and trends of 10 years of health and blood adequacy in the region.



Over 2.1m Iranians donate blood per year

Blood donation in Iran has long been done voluntarily as over 2.1 million Iranians donate blood annually, Haji-Beigi said on June 14.

There are currently 178 blood donation centers in the country, with Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Tehran, and Mazandaran provinces having the largest number of blood donation centers, he stated.

Highest blood donation in Eastern Mediterranean

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007.

More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP).

Only 55 of 171 countries produce PDMP through the fractionation of plasma collected in the reporting country. A total of 90 countries reported that all PDMP are imported, 16 countries reported that no PDMP was used during the reporting period, and 10 countries did not respond to the question, according to WHO.

Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region so that out of 9.9 million blood donation units in this region, more than two million belongs to Iran.

Also, the index of blood donation is 25 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

ENGLISH IN USE

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50bcm of groundwater withdrawn annually in Iran

An annual amount of 50 billion cubic meters of groundwater resources are withdrawn to supply agricultural, industrial as well as drinking water in Iran, a researcher in the field of water resources has stated.

The amount is 10 times greater than the water covering Lake Urmia, amounting to 5 billion cubic meters, ISNA news agency quoted Mohammad Reza Goldansaz as saying on Sunday.

About 60 percent of drinking water and the water used in industrial sector and 50 percent of the water consumed in agriculture sector is pumped from aquifers, he noted.

Referring to the country being highly dependent on underground water, Goldansaz said that if the resource runs out, we will face serious problems.

سالی ۵۰ میلیارد متر مکعب از آب‌های زیرزمینی برداشت می‌شود

یک پژوهشگر حوزه منابع آب با اشاره به اینکه سالانه ۵۰ میلیارد متر مکعب از منابع آب زیرزمینی برای مصارف خانگی، صنعت و مصارف کشاورزی برداشت می‌شود.

محمد رضا گلدان‌ساز در گفت و گو با ایسنا اظهار داشت: سالانه حدود ۵۰ میلیارد متر مکعب از منابع آب زیرزمینی برداشت می‌شود که این مقدار به اندازه حجم ۱۰ دریاچه ارومیه است.

وی با بیان اینکه وابستگی ما به آب زیرزمینی بسیار زیاد است و اگر روزی این منبع تمام شود با مشکلات زیادی روبرو می‌شویم، اظهار کرد: در کشور ما به دلیل وجود شرایط اقلیمی خشک و نیمه خشک، وابستگی به منابع آب زیرزمینی قابل توجه است و حدود ۶۰ درصد مصارف خانگی و صنعت و حدود ۵۰ درصد مصارف کشاورزی توسط آب زیرزمینی تأمین می‌شود.

PEOPLES OF IRAN

(Part 3)

It seems that the earliest migration of the Indo-Europeans from the reputed homeland in south Russia was by the centum group, some of whom in the early second millenium moved into Anatolia (the Hittites, contributing to the complex mix of ethnic groups in Asia Minor), others into western China (the Tokharians).

This movement may have injected Nordic racial elements into the existing populations. A few tribes of centum-speakers (some perhaps subsumed under the label “Gutians” in cuneiform sources) could have come onto the Iranian plateau, but we have no evidence, as we do for the next migration, that of the Indo-Iranians (or Aryans).

The latter were the first satem-speaking Indo-Europeans who moved south from their supposed homeland in present-day Kazakhstan. In the second half of the second millennium B.C.E. in northern Mesopotamia, the kingdom of Mitanni had Indo-Iranian elements, who displayed elements specific to Indo-Aryan culture.

They possibly were to be found only among the ruling class or as specialists in horse warfare. Perhaps their predecessors in western Iran and the Zagros from the 18th century B.C.E., the Kassites (q.v.), shared a common lineage with them. As for movements in the east, the present-day Dardic speakers of northern Pakistan are claimed to be descendants of the Indo-Iranians who first moved into the subcontinent.

Undoubtedly these early Indo-European speakers mixed with the local population and for the most part were absorbed into it. At the beginning of the first millennium B.C.E. numerous Iranian-speaking tribes, coming from the northeast, expanded over the plateau, giving their languages to the indigenous peoples rather than being absorbed.

One of the factors which enabled the Iranians to prevail was their mastery of horseriding. Although horses had been used previously to pull wagons or chariots, it was probably the Scythian/Saka Iranians on the steppes of southern Russia who evolved their earlier practice of riding horses to control sheep or cattle into a military application as cavalry.

This innovation enabled them to display a mobility surpassing that of other formations. By the time of the establishment of the Achaemenid empire the spread of Iranian languages and dialects was proceeding apace.

The Iranian dahyus “lands.” The Achaemenids Darius I and Xerxes I proclaimed themselves in their inscriptions “king of lands holding many/all peoples. Later, in Sasanian times, Shapur II calls himself “lord of kings and peoples.”

These claims, during and after the period when tribal organization was the paramount societal form, are well verified by the classical sources. From the earliest Old Persian and Avestan sources, the sense of “people” and “land” seem intertwined in the term dahyu (q.v.).

Some Achaemenid dahyu names, indeed, are the plural form of an ethnonym and may carry little geographical precision. Subsequently, with the advent of sovereign states, an administrative terminology was imposed on the dahyus, while their ethnographic realities endured. For the evolution of the Sasanian term Shahr “land, satrapy” rendered with the flexible Greek term ethnos.

From the list of satrapies of the empire in Herodotus and Darius’s Bisotun inscription, the peoples of the plateau may be described as follows: in the west the Medes occupied the vast area from Fars to the Caucasus mountains.



(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

Climate change to blame for Europe’s summer of extreme weather, say analysts

Unusually hot and dry weather in much of southern Europe together with heavy rainfall in other parts of the continent are combining to produce one of the most challenging summer seasons in years.

Reports across southern Europe, from Italy to Greece and Turkey, show record or near-record high temperatures. The weather condition has sparked wildfires on the Italian island region of Sardinia, prompting local officials to evacuate hundreds of residents and declare a state of emergency. In Greece, the capital city of Athens and its famed Acropolis have been shrouded in heavy smoke for days, with firefighters working around the clock.

“The country is facing an unprecedented environmental crisis, with multiple large fires,” Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told journalists on Thursday after visiting the site where the ancient Olympics were held. More than a dozen villages in the area had been evacuated for safety reasons.

Lenio Myrivili, the first-ever chief heat officer appointed for Athens, said recent events were a call to action.

They confirm the fact that “heat is becoming more of an issue for cities, one that we have to take seriously,” Myrivili told Xinhua. “We have to start mobilizing.”

Massive fires have also prompted evacuations in Turkey and Albania. In North Macedonia, the government declared a 30-day state of crisis while it confronts wildfires, while on the island of Malta, residents have experienced record-high temperatures.

In Romania, the capital city of Bucharest this week experienced its highest temperatures in years, something local climatologist Roxana Bojar-iu said was partly due to global warming.

While some parts of Europe are burning, other parts are being drenched by unseasonal rainfall. In recent weeks, Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland have all been hit by heavy rains that have left dozens dead, and damaged buildings and key infrastructure.

Like many expert observers, Virginijus Sinkevicius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, put the blame for the extreme events on climate change, calling on countries to take strong action.

“We are fighting some of the worst wildfires we have seen in decades,” Sinkevicius said via social media. “But this summer’s floods, heatwaves, and forest fires can become our new normality. We must ask ourselves, is this the world we want to live in? We need immediate action ... before it is too late.”

Most experts agree that while it is impossible to link any one specific weather event to climate change, there seems to be consensus that the frequency and intensity of such events have been accelerated by climate change.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 7

New cases	39,419
New deaths	542
Total cases	4,158,729
Total deaths	94,015
New hospitalized patients	4,102
Patients in critical condition	6,462
Total recovered patients	3,539,035
Diagnostic tests conducted	26,494,040
Doses of vaccine injected	15,661,958

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets;
cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and
forbearance will conceal many defects.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:10 Evening: 20:45 Dawn: 4:20 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

History of art in Iran: post-Qajar painting

Part 2

About the mid-1950s, Iranian modernists started to receive official encouragement via the Department General of Fine Arts (later to become the Ministry of Arts and Culture).

It had become apparent that a major exhibition, organized nationally on a regular basis, was needed to give impetus to the modern art movement while paving the way for the participation of Iranian artists in such international venues as the Venice Biennale.

Marcos Grigorian (b.1925), an Italian-educated Iranian modernist who initially worked in an expressionist vein but shifted to abstract earthworks, had returned to Iran in 1954 and pioneered in starting one of Tehran’s first art galleries—Galerie Esthétique, became the moving spirit behind the organization of the new biennial exhibition, which came to be known as the Tehran Biennale.

Since each of the five Biennale exhibitions that were held in Tehran are landmarks in the short history of modern art in Iran, a brief review of these events appears in order.

First Tehran Biennale

Inaugurated on April 14, 1958, it was held at the Abyaz Palace within the Golestan Palace compound.

The show brought together the works of 45 painters and four sculptors. Among the well-known participants—well-known then or now—one finds the following: Sohrab Sepehri, Jalil Ziapur, Manuchehr Sheibani, Nasser Ovissi, Parviz Tanavoli, and Marcos Grigorian himself.

Judging by the exhibition catalogue, one can find all the major modernist schools represented, with the quasi-cubist works having perhaps a slight edge.

Second Tehran Biennale

This edition of the biennale was held in April-May in 1960 at Abyaz Palace.

The number of participants was increased to 68 and one finds the following among them: Bahman Mohasses, Sohrab Sepehri, Abolqasem Saiedi, Jazeh Tabatabai, and Mohsen Vaziri- Moqaddam.

Abstract canvases were on the increase while some artists exhibited, as in the first biennale, explicitly Iranian subject matter.

Third Tehran Biennale

Held during April-May 1962 at Abyaa Palace. The number of participants had once again risen, this time to 101. Some of the better known participants: Hossein Kazemi, Hossein Zenderudi, Mansureh Hosseini, Leyli Matin-Daftari, Masud Arabshahi, and Bahman Borujeni. Zenderudi’s paintings in the exhibition were the first specimens of a type that will bear the label of “Saqqkhaneh School”.

The majority of the works on display were highly diverse, a collection of clashing styles and techniques.

The writer of the introduction to the biennale catalogue, however, discerned “a vein of independent national art with local coloring.”

Fourth Tehran Biennale

This edition also took place at the Abyaz Palace during April-May 1964. The number of participants now reached 113, amongst whom one finds Kamran Katuzian, Abdorreza Daryabeigi, Sadeq Barirani as well Behjat Sadr, Hossein Zenderudi and Hossein Kazemi.

The number of abstract paintings had increased, a phenomenon that the writer of the introduction to the official catalogue considered a natural consequence of the three previous Biennales and the prizes awarded to nonrepresentational works.

But there was still a good deal of attention paid to Iranian subject matter and an increasing number of artists were seen to draw on the esthetic qualities of the Persian calligraphy in their work.

A calligraphic painting by Hossein Zenderudi.

Fifth Tehran Biennale

This edition was organized in June-July, 1966 at the Ethnographical Museum.

The biennale had become this time “regional”, i.e., it had brought together modern canvases and sculpture pieces not only from Iran but also from Turkey and Pakistan, the country’s partners in R. C. D. (Regional Cooperation for Development).

The organizers of the event had high hopes of turning the Tehran biennale into an Asian affair, and so considered its regionalization only “an intermediate step”.

Thirty-eight artists from Iran had been joined by 37 artists each from Turkey and Pakistan.

The Iranian participants had no doubt been cut down (from the record 113 in the previous biennale) to create an equality of participation among the three neighboring states.

The Iranian section appeared stronger as a result of the pruning job undertaken by the selection committee. The number of abstract canvases had decreased to make room for works with explicitly Iranian subject matter.

The Fifth Tehran Biennale was the final one in the series. The reasons for its demise were never publicly explained. Besides the biennale, a number of galleries which opened in the 1960s and early 1970s helped stimulate activity in the art field.

These included the galleries Qandriz, Saba, Negar, and Borghese, the Mess Gallery, the Seyhun Gallery, and, later, Zand and Saman. An unofficial avant-garde artists’ club, the Club Rasht, founded by Parviz Tanavoli, the sculptor, Roxanna Saba, and Kamran Diba, an architect, painter, and artistic catalyst, served for a few years in the 1960s as a locale where ideas were traded between painters, musicians, and writers.

Foreign cultural societies such as the Iran-America Society and the Goethe Institute also encouraged young artists by exhibiting their work.

The interest and encouragement of Farah Diba and of the government helped to impart to the modern art movement a measure of legitimacy beyond their grass-root support.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

Winners of Khayyam International Exhibition of Photography announced

TEHRAN – The 8th edition of Iran’s Khayyam International Exhibition of Photography announced winners in the six categories.

Iran’s Focus Photo Club organizes the competition annually with the help of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the Fédération Internationale de l’Art Photographique (FIAP).

In the Open Monochrome category, the PSA Gold Medal was awarded to M. Yousuf Tushar from Bangladesh for his photo “Journey for Lives”.

Jamshid Farajvand-Farda won the FIAP Gold Medal for his photo “Peace”, while Australian photographer Yongxiong Ling received the Kamal-ol-Molk Gold Medal for “Going Home”.

The PSA Gold Medal in the Open Color section went to Alexander Zelinskiy from Russia for his photo “Di Liman”.

Ajar Setiadi from Indonesia won the Kamal-ol-Molk Gold Medal for his “A Pair of Birds”, and the FIAP Gold Medal was awarded to Paolo Stuppazzoni from Italy for “Vibe in Rosso”.

In the City category, Jasmina Gorjanski from Croatia won the PSA Gold Medal for “Freezing in the City Center”, and the FIAP Gold Medal went to David Sadler from Scotland for “Outside Dhaka New Market”.

The Kamal-ol-Molk Gold Medal of this section was given to Spanish photographer Pedro Luis Ajuriaguerra

“A Pair of Birds” by Indonesian photographer Ajar Setiadi won the Kamal-ol-Molk Gold Medal of the Open Color section at the 8th Khayyam International Exhibition of Photography in Iran.

Saiz for “Niemeyer Colors”.

The FIAP Gold Medal in the Conceptual Photography section was awarded to Iranian photographer Qasem Sahrai for his “Revive a Life”.

Mohammad Rezaei from Iran also won the PSA Gold Medal in this category for “Seize”, and Hesameddin Baqeri-Kaffash’s “Alone” received the Kamal-ol-Molk Gold Medal.

Chinese photographer Xingzhi Yan’s “Funeral in the Snowstorm” was honored with the FIAP Gold Medal in the Travel category.

The PSA Gold Medal of this section went to Vladimir Karamazov from Bulgaria for “The Hand of the Sun”, and Iranian photographer Mostafa Bidokhti’s “Ancient Lake” won Kamal-ol-Molk Gold Medal.

In the Minimalist Photography section, the FIAP Gold Medal was awarded to Iranian photographer Amin Fayazi for his “Footprint”, while the PSA Gold Medal went to Franco Rubini from Italy for “Intimacy”.

Irish photographer Catherine Bushe’s photo “The White House Cat” won the Kamal-ol-Molk Gold Medal.

Ukrainian center to publish Persian drama “Women’s Auschwitz”

A poster for the second edition of the Persian play “Women’s Auschwitz” by Ali Safari.

TEHRAN – Tehran-based publisher Amareh announced on Saturday that a publishing house in Ukraine will publish the Persian World War II drama

“Women’s Auschwitz” bilingually in Persian and Ukrainian.

This decision to publish the play in Ukraine is part of an Iranian troupe’s plan to perform this play in Ukraine and a cultural exchange between Iran and the country, the publisher said in a press release.

Written by Ali Safari, “Women’s Auschwitz” was published in 2019 and Segane, a group directed by Raha Hajizeinal, performed it at Tehran’s City Theater Complex afterwards.

“Women’s Auschwitz” is about three women who are spending the last moments of their lives in the Auschwitz concentration camp operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II and the Holocaust.

Amareh has recently released the second edition of the play as the first part of a trilogy by Safari.

Segane is preparing to give performances of the play and “Holodomor”, the final part of the trilogy

Movies from Iran line up for Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film

TEHRAN – Ten movies by Iranian filmmakers will be competing in the 39th Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film Festival, which opened today in Providence.

“Bi Aban” by Mehrdad Kuroshnia is the sole narrative feature of the Iranian film lineup.

Aban is a forest ranger who has to get married in another month. In a chase with wood smugglers, he finds a little girl on the road who has died. Everyone doubts that he must have had an accident with the child, but Aban does not admit it, rather he admits that he killed a girl 15 years ago in such a situation and secretly buried her. The police ask him for a sign or a document, but he has no evidence, and even the place where he buried the child has become a highway. Aban complains about himself, but there is no evidence to prove his conviction.

The short documentary “Parizad” by Mehdi Imani Shahmiri is also competing in the Oscar-qualifying festival.

It is about Aunt Keshvar, a lonely rural woman who weaves an unknown and nearly forgotten fabric

“Bi Aban” by Iranian director Mehrdad Kuroshnia.

named “Geleelj”. She shares information about the role of Geleelj in the daily life of the villagers and legends around his homeland.

Director Zahra Malayeri’s animated short “Kakaei” will also be screened at the festival, which will run

until August 15.

In southern Iran, the word “kakaei” means seagull. It is about a lonely little girl living in southern Iran and through several incidents, she discovers the truth about herself.

The lineup also includes the narrative short films “All the Time” by Shadi Karamrudi, “Eko” by Mahin Sadri, “Face” by Vahid Kordlu, “Cats” by Mohammad Rasuli, “Waiter” by Zahra Asgari, “Wet” by Saeid Jafarian and “Witness” by Ali Asgari.

“Eko” is a highlight of the lineup. It is about a woman who has just turned forty and, recently having separated from her partner, is struggling with depression. She faces many different lives she could have had, hearing and seeing herself everywhere.

Another outstanding movie of the collection is “Waiter”. It tells the story of Navid, a young boy who works in a café. He used to record other people’s conversations, and this causes him to notice his dark past among the sounds, which leads to his mental breakdown.

Henrik Ibsen’s “Ghosts” walking at Tehran theater

TEHRAN – An Iranian troupe put on a reading performance of Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen’s “Ghosts” at Tehran’s Mehregan Theater on Sunday evening.

The reading performance was staged by director Parastesh Purnirza based on a Persian translation of the play by Mehdi Forugh.

The reading was performed by a cast composed of Parastesh, Hamzeh Maddah, Zeinab Khatibi, Mehran Yari and Mohammad Moradi.

The troupe will repeat the performance for five other nights.

The play was written in 1881 and first staged in 1882 in Chicago, Illinois, in a production by a Danish company on tour.

“Ghosts” is the story of Helen Alving, a widow who is haunted by the many

mistresses of her deceased husband and by her son who has inherited syphilis from his philandering father.

“Ghosts” is a scathing indictment of Victorian society in which Ibsen refutes the notion that if one simply fulfills one’s duty rather than following one’s desires then a good and noble life will be achieved.

Scandalous in its day for its frank discussion of venereal disease and marriage infidelity, “Ghosts” remains to this day an intense psychological drama and sharp social criticism.

Like many of Ibsen’s plays, “Ghosts” is a scathing commentary on 19th-century morality. Because of its subject matter, which includes religion, venereal disease, incest and euthanasia, it immediately generated strong controversy and negative criticism.

Since then the play has fared better, and is considered a “great play” that historically holds a position of “immense importance”.

Theater critic Maurice Valency wrote in 1963, “From the standpoint of modern tragedy ‘Ghosts’ strikes off in a new direction... Regular tragedy dealt mainly with the unhappy consequences of breaking the moral code. ‘Ghosts’, on the contrary, deals with the consequences of not breaking it.”

“Ghosts” has been filmed, and adapted for film and television, numerous times in various languages. It was adapted at least three times for silent films.

In 1915, George Nichols directed a film of the same name for producer D. W. Griffith.

Also in 1915, it was filmed in Russia, directed and adapted by Vladimir Gardin. In 1918, the Italian production

A poster for a reading performance of Henrik Ibsen’s “Ghosts” at Tehran’s Mehregan Theater.

company Milano Films released an adaptation titled “Gli Spettri”, starring Ermete Zacconi and his wife Ines Cristina Zacconi.

Jhumpa Lahiri’s novel “Whereabouts” comes to Persian bookstores

TEHRAN – Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri’s 2018 marvelous novel “Whereabouts” has been published in Persian.

The book translated into Persian by Razieh Khoshnud has been published by Mahi.

Exuberance and dread, attachment and estrangement: in this novel, Lahiri stretches her themes to the limit.

The woman at the center wavers between stasis and movement, between the need to belong and the refusal to form lasting ties.

The city she calls home, an engaging backdrop to

her days, acts as a confidant: the sidewalks around her house, parks, bridges, piazzas, streets, stores, coffee bars.

We follow her to the pool she frequents and to the train station that sometimes leads her to her mother, mired in a desperate solitude after her father’s untimely death.

In addition to colleagues at work, where she never quite feels at ease, she has girlfriends, guy friends, and “him”, a shadow who both consoles and unsettles her.

But in the arc of a year, as one season gives way to

the next, transformation awaits. One day at the sea, both overwhelmed and replenished by the sun’s vital heat, her perspective will change.

This is the first novel she has written in Italian and translated into English. It brims with the impulse to cross barriers. By grafting herself onto a new literary language, Lahiri has pushed herself to a new level of artistic achievement.

Earlier in 2020, Ketab Tadaei, Tehran-based publisher, released another Persian rendition of the novel translated by Ghazal Qorbanpur from the Italian edition “Dove mi trovo”.