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Araqchi slams UK blackmail demands on prisoners

TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi has responded to UK demands that Iran release a British national, describing the demands as blackmail.

Araqchi said on Twitter that the UK seeks to blackmail Iran by refusing to release Iranian funds illegally frozen in UK bank accounts.

“UK tries to blackmail Iran by taking our OWN money- illegally kept for more than 40 years- hostage in exchange for prisoners. This is never going to work. We still have a deal. Time for UK to do right thing and stop letting US to sabotage humanitarian exchange,” the Iranian diplomat tweeted.

The tweet came in response to another tweet by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in which he called on Iran to release a British prisoner called Anoosheh Ashoori. The premier claimed that Ashoori’s detention is “wrongful.” ▶ Page 3

Interview

China is a larger economic player than the U.S.: Fabrizio Verde

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Director of the online newspaper l’AntiDiplomatico says that China has surpassed the U.S. economically.

“Times have changed and China is not the old Soviet Union. In today’s integrated global economy, China is a larger economic player than the United States,” Fabrizio Verde tells the Tehran Times.

The Italian expert says that the U.S. has now irremediably lost its status as the hegemonic power of the world order while China is heading to replace it.

U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is considered by many political observers as a sign of its decline.

Its defeats in Afghanistan and Iraq showed that the era of a unipolar world is coming to an end.

“U.S. imperialism is experiencing historical decay and has no way out to resolve its structural crisis, neither with neoliberalism nor with return to Keynesianism. The future is multipolar,” Verde adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

Do you think the unipolar world order has come to an end? The U.S. is fighting tooth and nail to show that it is still the only leader of the world while China and Russia and some other new emerging powers have started to challenge U.S. hegemony.

They will try to resist in all ways, but U.S. power is in an irreversible decline. They have now irremediably lost their status as the hegemonic power of the world order. A nation must be considered a hegemonic power if it has a whole dominance in key sectors such as economy, population, personnel and military power, research and development. ▶ Page 5

Comedy film producer planning for drama on shock troops’ battle in Valfajr 8

TEHRAN – Ebrahim Amerian, the producer of the comedy films “Dynamite”, “Texas” and “Coconut”, is planning for his new project that will portray a true story about an Iranian shock troop squad that served in the beginning of Operation Valfajr 8.

The movie entitled “Arvand Conquerors” has been written by Farhad Fadakar, who will also direct it as his debut film. Amerian told the Persian service of MNA on Friday.

The film will focus on the 410th Khatam al-Anbia Squad led by Ahmad Amini who was killed just after commanding the squad to cross the Arvand River in the beginning of the operation.

The squad was from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps’ 41st Sarallah Division commanded by Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. ▶ Page 8

Dear readers,
The next issue of the Tehran Times will be published on Saturday, August 22.

Iran Charts Out New Foreign Policy Course

▶ Page 3



Tabriz: a perfect introduction to Iran

TEHRAN – Tabriz is a big but relaxed city, filled with hospitable people and a UNESCO-listed bazaar to explore. It is the perfect introduction to Iran for sightseers crossing over the border from Armenia, or through the Gurbulak Bazargan border from Turkey.

Downtown Tabriz is very walkable and the people are also extremely friendly, something not particularly common in big cities.

“Tabrizians are incredibly warm and hospitable. Within an hour of being in the city, we were greeted and welcomed to Iran at least a dozen times. We were practically getting whiplash from looking over our shoulders so often to see who was shouting a greeting to us,” according to Alexandra Reynolds, who is an American backpacker and blogger.

Like many cities in Iran, Tabriz has a long and rich history but saw many of its historic buildings destroyed by invaders or earthquakes. Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in the ancient city.

The city retained its administrative status under

the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Below are just a few things you can do while traveling to Tabriz and its surroundings:

UNESCO-listed Bazaar of Tabriz

When you visit Tabriz, you must visit the Bazaar of Tabriz. It is one of the oldest bazaars in the world, comprised of an endless maze filled with bustling shoppers and friendly shopkeepers. ▶ Page 6

Raisi: 30 million doses of vaccine to be imported

TEHRAN — Speaking at the meeting of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control on Saturday, President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi confirmed that 30 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be imported.

The announcement by the new president comes as the Covid-19 virus is taking heavy tolls in Iran.

“All public and private sectors, real and legal persons, and individuals must be coordinated and unanimous to control the spread of this dangerous virus,” Raisi stated.

The president said that in order to create this unanimity and coordination, people must be prepared for a comprehensive and decisive confrontation with the coronavirus.

Emphasizing the need to expedite the payment of overdue claims of medical staff and motivate them to continue the selfless activities of the “defenders of health,” Raisi said, “Payment of overdue salaries of medical staff should be one of the priorities of the Planning and Budget Organization. We must also recover and strengthen the medical staff of the universities, the Red Crescent, the armed forces, the volunteer and capable forces of the Basij, the seminarians and the general public volunteers, and we must not allow” the medical staff’s morale to be disrupted.

The president underlined that the next necessary and important step is to speed up the vaccination process.

He also announced the finalization of the import of 30 million doses of vaccine.

Raisi highlighted that it is not solely enough to draft and announce health protocols, adding that if an individual disobeys the protocols and cause people to get sick, he has violated their rights. ▶ Page 2



Iranian professor among world’s top 35 transplant doctors

TEHRAN – Iranian physician, Amir Ali Hamidieh, the founder of pediatric transplantation in Iran, has been included in the list of 35 world-renowned stem cell transplant doctors in the article “one and a half million hematopoietic stem cell transplants”.

The article entitled “one and a half million hematopoietic stem cell transplants: continuous and differential improvement in worldwide access with the use of non-identical family donors” is published in the journal of the Ferrata-Storti Foundation (haematologica).

These physicians and researchers are selected

from different regions of the world who have taken special measures or strategized this science in a specific region of the world.

Hamidieh is the only Iranian physician who was included in this list; he is the founder of the first hematopoietic stem cell donor bank in the Eastern Mediterranean and has a 15-year history of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation at Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

He is also a member of the board of the Asia Pacific Blood and Marrow Transplantation (APBMT), and representative of the ▶ Page 7

The Tehran Times offers condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions



From Inside



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Annual transit of goods via Iran anticipated to hit 11m tons by next March

TEHRAN– Transit of goods via Iran is forecast to reach 11 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (to end on March 20, 2022), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

For the first time in the last 30 months, transit of goods surpassed one million tons in the past Iranian calendar month (June 22-July 22), Rouhollah Latifi stated.

“Meanwhile, since the beginning of this year, we have had an average volume of 900,000 tons of transited goods per month, and if this trend continues until the end of the year, our forecast is to reach 11 million tons of transited goods”, the official noted.

According to Latifi, transit of goods via Iran has risen 48 percent in the past month of this year, as compared to the same month of the past year.

As the IRICA head has recently announced, transit of goods via Iran’s land borders has risen 95 percent during the first four months ▶ Page 4

Iran introduces six Para athletes for Laureus Awards

TEHRAN – Iran’s National Paralympic Committee (NPC) has introduced six Para athletes for the Laureus World Sports Awards.

Late Siamand Rahman, who won two gold medals at the 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games, has been nominated for the for Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability in the Laureus World Sports Awards. Rahman died in March 2020 due to a heart attack.

Dubbed as the world’s strongest Paralympic, 31-year-old legend is remembered as role model to many powerlifters and other athletes in the Paralympic movement – an athlete who has always pushed limits, setting world records on the way and inspiring umpteen sportsmen and women in the process. ▶ Page 3

Japan FM: Tokyo seeks long-standing relations with Tehran, Riyadh

TEHRAN — In an interview with Asharq al-Awsat, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi has said that Tokyo intends to cooperate closely with Tehran and Riyadh to ease tensions in the West Asia region.

Motegi said that Japan was making efforts with Iran, which is included in his regional tour, to urge Tehran to “reduce tensions and work to stabilize the situation” in the West Asia region, pointing to six conversations he held with former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif directly and over the phone.

Motegi stressed that his country could openly exchange views with Iran by taking advantage of their long-standing and traditional friendship.

“For example, when former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Iran during the heightened tensions in the Middle East (West Asia), he directly urged Iran’s Leader (Ayatollah) Ali Khamenei to ease tensions and stabilize the situation. Since then, mutual communication continues at the level of leaders and foreign ministers, and since I assumed my position as foreign minister, I have had 6 conversations with the



Iranian foreign minister, directly and by phone,” he said.

Japan intends to cooperate closely with the concerned countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, to actively contribute to easing tensions and stabilizing the situation in West Asia, taking advantage of its unique and special position, the minister concluded.

Foreign leaders keep congratulating Raisi

TEHRAN — In separate messages, leaders of Ireland, Georgia, and Mongolia have congratulated Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi over officially taking office as president.

Irish President Michael D. Higgins issued a message on Saturday morning wishing Raisi and his team success in overcoming the Coronavirus

pandemic.

In separate but similar messages, Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili and Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh congratulated Raisi over taking office, expressing hope that Iran could expand bilateral relations with Georgia and Mongolia.

Gharibabadi meets new UN official in Tehran

TEHRAN — Iran’s ambassador and permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations in Vienna tweeted that he had met with Stephen Priesner, representative of the United Nations Office in

Tehran.

“I had a constructive and insightful meeting with @stefan_priesner, the new UN Resident Coordinator @UN_Iran, before leaving to Tehran. 19 UN entities have their offices in Iran,” he tweeted.

Qalibaf: Vote of confidence to ministers will begin on August 21

TEHRAN — Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Saturday that the process of reviewing the qualifications of the proposed ministers will begin on August 21.

“The review of the plans and qualifications of the ministers in the specialized committees will be done by noon on Tuesday of this week. Today and tomorrow, the Majlis sessions will be held from 8 to 9:30 in the morning, and after that, the (proposed) ministers will attend the specialized committees according to the specified schedule,” Qalibaf elaborated.

Speaking in an open session of the parliament, He continued by saying that from Saturday, August 21, the process of the vote of confidence will begin in the open session of the Majlis, which will be completed by Tuesday (August 24) or Wednesday (August 25).

The top parliamentarian said that in the reviews, it should be noted that the head of

government is the president who is in charge of advancing things and wants to work with this team.

“Of course, this does not mean that the parliament will vote for the whole list, because the law stipulates that the parliament will have the final say in the vote of confidence, but we must be fair and consider that the president wants to do his job with this team,” he explained.

Qalibaf highlighted that the examination of the qualifications of the proposed ministers should be based on the criteria mentioned in the constitution, such as having experience, plan, competence, accountability and expertise.

“The basis of decision-making in Majlis is based on ability, competency, accountability, plans, and agility in decision-making,” he concluded.

Senior analyst says new Raisi government should adopt new strategy in face of problems

TEHRAN – Hossein Alaei, an expert on strategic affairs, has suggested that the new administration of Ebrahim Raisi to devise new strategy for challenges facing the country.

In an interview with the IRNA news agency published on Friday, Alaei said the cabinet makeup and political issues or of great importance to the public and the people show high sensitivity toward it.

The people want those with managerial posts in the government will be able to do reforms and resolve problems and counter challenges, he remarked.

He said the governments have “come and gone” but the problems have remained unresolved.

Now that a new government has come to power it can with the help of its ministers resolve issues which have turned into “macro problems” in the areas of water, drought, environment, unemployment, etc. the expert suggested.

If only the “persons” are changed, the wrong policies and the problems will persist, he remarked.

The problems are clear and the ways that have been adopted to resolve them have not produced the desired results therefore it is necessary to “revise” those policies, Alaei pointed out.

The expert on strategic affairs said those who have drafted the 2025 Outlook Plan should explain how they want to achieve those goals and if not, why don’t they change the policy?

Alaei said why do countries near and around Iran have succeeded to resolve their problems but we have yet been able to do so.

He asked why do countries which don’t have energy resources have been turned into the hub of energy and people from Europe are living in “dry” neighboring countries but why are people leaving certain areas in the country?

So far as there is will be no change in macro policies the challenges will remain unresolved and even if a minister is more active than the other, he will push the country more toward the “wrong path”.

Alaei, a university professor, said one of the challenges of the country is inappropriate intervention by governments in economic issues including setting prices.

Governments interfere in the market so that people can have access to goods at a lower price but it will produce the opposite result, he pointed out. For example, he said the government put pressure on chicken farms and the result was a sharp rise in chicken prices as producers reduced their production.

“State economy has no result other than costs for the country,” he opined.

He also called on the new government to follow a balanced foreign policy.

It has been stated in the constitution that Iran should make efforts to establish relations with all countries with the exception of the Zionist regime because it will meet the country’s national interest.

The slogan of the Islamic Revolution is “neither East, nor West, the Islamic Republic” and there should be a balance between them, he pointed out.

“For example, we should not allow the East use Iran as a tool in its dealings with the United States and neither the United States use Iran as a tool for its management of the East,” he suggested.

The expert added, “We should make use of international capacities for development of Iran and therefore we should reduce political differences and expand relations with the world.”

Alaei, the former IRGC commander, went on to say that the founder of the Islamic Revolution reached the conclusion in 1988 that the continuation of the war with Iraq will not benefit Iran and he made a U-turn and ended the war.

“This model can still serve as a model for us and if necessary, we should use it in a calculated way.”

For example, he said, in facing the United States “we should act in a way that make ourselves strong and not make them strong... these are the ma-

Raisi: 30 million doses of vaccine to be imported

From page 1 ► The president also stressed the need for stricter surveillance of border traffic and the prevention of illegal traffic, saying, “What has been done so far in this area is necessary, but insufficient, and compliance with health regulations must be closely and effectively monitored.”

Raisi considered planning to reduce visits to government organizations as other necessary measures and specified that all bodies or institutions, which are subject to public visits, must draft the necessary plans to reduce visits and provide services in cyberspace not just for these pandemic days, but for the long term, and providing virtual services is a government priority.

The president further referred to the issue of providing special medicines for Covid-19 patients, saying, “After visiting one of the pharmacies on Thursday, it was decided that in the coming days, the required medicines will be distrib-

uted between 100 pharmacies in the first phase and up to 300 pharmacies in the second phase in order to avoid queues and gatherings in several pharmacies.

Raisi put an emphasis on monitoring the distribution process in these pharmacies.

On August 11, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had called on officials to seriously fix the drug distribution system.

“Stop the disruption of the drug distribution network. Medicine must be made available to the public,” he highlighted.

The new president also mentioned strengthening and increasing the powers of the heads of provincial headquarters to deal with the coronavirus as one of the other



decisions of the Saturday meeting.

“Every individual in the community should first consider himself the addressee of health guidelines and instructions,” the president emphasized.

He added that controlling the outbreak of the virus along with the dedicated efforts of the medical staff and public vaccination, require the determination and public

Medicines must be distributed properly.

cooperation of the people, institutions and agencies so that, God willing, there will be a serious reduction in the number of infected persons and fatalities.

In his August 11 televised address, the Leader suggested that containing the rapidly increasing wave of the Coronavirus is the first and foremost issue of the country.

Placing great emphasis on the

fulfillment of duties and the implementation of decisions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, Ayatollah Khamenei issued important pieces of advice to officials and the people.

“The vaccine, whether imported or domestically produced, must be provided with double effort and in any way possible made available to all people,” the Leader said.

“Fortunately, with the production of the domestic vaccine, its foreign import route is also paved, while before that, despite the payment for the vaccine, foreign sellers failed to fulfill their commitments,” the Leader said, urging officials to take importation and production of vaccine seriously.

The Leader asked the people to observe the health protocols, saying, “Exactly like in the first days of the Covid-19 pandemic, people must fully follow the instructions and guidelines.”

Side by side and hand in hand, usher in a new era for China-Iran friendship

By Chang Hua, Ambassador of China to Iran,

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Iran

(August 15, 2021)

Tomorrow marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Iran. 50 years ago, representatives from both countries signed the Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations in Islamabad, which started a new page for China-Iran friendship.

As the ancient Chinese saying goes, “Even mountains and oceans cannot distance those with common aspirations”. Though China and Iran are separated by countless mountains and rivers, the two ancient civilizations were closely linked by the ancient Silk Road, and the two peoples have forged a profound friendship through exchanges along the Silk Road.

As early as 2000 years ago, the Chinese historical masterwork “Shiji” (“Records of the Grand Historian”) already recorded the Parthian Empire. In the 1st century BC, the envoy of the Han Dynasty named Gan Ying traveled to the Parthian Empire and opened up a route between China and the Roman Empire, later known as the ancient Silk Road. The Parthian King also sent an envoy in return to show his goodwill. Since then, amicable exchanges between the two countries have been continuous. During the Tang and Song Dynasties after the 7th century, many Iranians traveled to China along the land or the maritime Silk Roads to

seek knowledge, practice medicine or pursue business opportunities. Their footprints could be found in Xi’an, Guangzhou, Quanzhou and other large cities in many parts of China. In the 13th century, the famous Iranian poet Saadi wrote down his unforgettable trip to Kashgar, Xinjiang in China. In the 15th century, Zheng He of the Ming Dynasty commanded a huge fleet to carry on his seven maritime expeditions, during which he reached Hormuz in southern Iran three times. The thousands-years-long friendly exchanges between the two countries made great contributions to the development of world civilization. Precious goods like silk, porcelain, tea and technologies of paper-making, metallurgy, printing, gunpowder-making and etc. from China arrived in Iran along the Silk Road, and then were spread to Europe and other places. Pomegranate, grape, olive, spinach and other plants, as well as glass, gold and silver utensils and musical instruments were introduced into China from Iran and Europe, which leaved a far-reaching impact centuries down.

On August 16, 1971, China and Iran formally established diplomatic relations. Once again, the two ancient civilizations joined hands and have ever since left solid footprints of developing side by side and hand in hand.

Over the past 50 years, the political mutual trust between China and Iran has been continuously deepening, and our traditional friendship has grown stronger. The two countries have maintained close high-level exchanges and the connotation of strategic relations have been constantly enriched. In 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Iran and the

two countries announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership, thus opening a new chapter of China-Iran bilateral ties. The leaders of the two countries have had in-depth exchanges of views on enhancing bilateral relations under new circumstances and reached broad consensus, laying out the direction for bilateral cooperation in various fields. It is proven by history that China-Iran relations have withstood the test of changing international situation. The two countries firmly support each other in safeguarding sovereignty and national dignity, as well as the development path chosen by themselves. No matter how the world situation evolves, China’s will to develop relations with Iran does not change. The two sides have firmly supported each other on issues related to their core interests and major concerns of their nation, which has effectively consolidated the strategic mutual trust between the two countries and firmly safeguarded international fairness and justice.

Over the past 50 years, practical cooperation between the two countries in various fields has yielded abundant fruits. China and Iran are highly complementary in economic elements and have broad space for developmental cooperation. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, bilateral trade volume between China and Iran has leapedfrogged from no more than ten million US dollars to tens of billions of dollars. In recent years, the United States’ withdrawal from the JCPOA and reimposition of sanctions against Iran have brought difficulties and obstacles to the practical cooperation between China and Iran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



major issues that the government should take into consideration.”

On the United States’ hostile moves against Iran, the former military commander said, “The nuclear challenge reached its height during the Donald Trump presidency. The greatest economic and political pressure were put on Iran in the history of mankind.”

No time the U.S. has been in such a great hostility toward Iran, he added.

The administration of Trump formally applied the “maximum pressure” against Iran by making use of all the historical experiences in sanctioning other countries so that it could make Iran submit to its demands, said Alaei, a professor of strategic management at Imam Hussein University.

He said it was expected that the U.S. rejoin the JCPOA – the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal – immediately as he called Trump’s policies wrong

and unequivocally called his exit from the JCPOA a reckless act, however, the Democratic administration of Biden has linked return to the JCPOA to “negotiations and a new agreement”.

All expected that the nuclear deal talks reach a conclusion soon and the U.S. lift sanctions but the Biden administration refused to immediately lift sanctions, he said. On the other hand, he added, Iran sought assurances and verification that the United States would not stubbornly withdraw from the JCPOA again and return sanctions.

Now despite the fact that six months have passed since Biden has come to power nothing except negotiations have happened and therefore one of the challenges of the new government in Iran is the Vienna talks, he added.

“U.S. is the greatest hurdle to Iran’s progress”

The Americans have shown over the past four decades that they are the greatest obstacle to Iran’s progress and even without the nuclear dispute the issue of relations between Iran and the United States will remain one of the challenges, he said.

Through its arrogant policies the United States is preventing commercial ties between Iran and other countries to the extent that even friendly countries are not ready to formally enter business dealings with Iran and return Iran’s assets and this is also another challenge for the Raisi government, he elaborated.

The first commander of the IRGC

Navy suggested that Iran should weight costs and benefits of its foreign policy.

“I believe that as we did not have a good relationship with the Soviet Union but there was a revision at the end of the imposed (1980-88) war the issue of reducing tension with the U.S. should also be revised with the consideration of Iran’s national interests.”

He suggested that relations with China and Russia is necessary with regard to the JCPOA “but it not enough”.

“One cannot and should not look at any country as an ally.”

The senior analyst also said many countries don’t want the issues between Iran and the United States to be settled because they know that if tensions between Tehran and Washington are reduced, they will lose their significance for the U.S. and the West.

If Saudi Arabia has become important for the U.S. it is because of hostility of the U.S. toward the Islamic Republic, he remarked.

On the normalization of relations between certain Arab countries and the Zionist regime, he said, “Most Arab countries see their survival dependent on the U.S. and the U.S. has been trying for years to resolve relations between the Zionist regime and these countries.”

“Of course,” he said, “Different administrations in the U.S. have adopted different tactics in this regard. They all have been seeking relations between Arab countries and the Zionist regime.”

From Page 1 ► “Anoosheh and the other British nationals unjustly imprisoned in Iran must be able to return to their families in the UK,” Johnson said.

Earlier, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Rabb also called on Iran to release Ashoori, which also elicited a response from Araqchi.

“On the 4th anniversary of Anoosheh Ashoori’s detention, I call on Iran in the strongest possible terms to free Anoosheh, and all our dual nationals arbitrarily detained, so they can be reunited with their families. Their ongoing detention is totally unjustified,” Rabb claimed.

In response, Araqchi tweeted, “Sec @dominicraab, you know better than anybody else that deal for release of 10 prisoners-incl Anoosheh Ashoori-was concluded weeks ago but your friends in DC froze it. Ashoori and 9 more are taken hostage by U.S. for political goals. Hope you’ll explain this to your own people.”

In mid-July, Iran had insisted that it has reached a deal with the United States and the United Kingdom on



Araqchi slams UK blackmail demands on prisoners

Iran charts out new foreign policy course

TEHRAN – After 16 years of being on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iran will soon acquire full membership in the international body, ushering in a new era of more balanced foreign policy that is expected to set the country on a path of development.

The membership announcement was made after a phone conversation between Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani and his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev.

In a Twitter post on Wednesday, the head of the top Iranian security body said he held a conversation with his “friend and colleague, Mr. Patrushev” in which they examined developments in Afghanistan, Syria, and the Persian Gulf region.

Shamkhani capped off his tweet with glad tidings. “Fortunately, the political obstacles to Iran’s membership in the Shanghai CO have been removed & Iran’s membership will be finalized,” he said.

The news came amid ongoing efforts by the new Iranian President, Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, to put together a government expected to deal with a variety of foreign policy challenges and opportunities ranging from the tattered 2015 nuclear deal with the West to long-term partnership plans with Russia and China.

Throughout his election campaign, Ayatollah Raisi introduced himself as a force for change, both in domestic politics and in foreign policy.

He put his election win in the broader context of change in Iran’s course of history. “The message of the Iranian people in the June 18 election was the message of change and justice,” the president said during his inauguration ceremony, noting, “The Iranian nation stood against the East and the West to prove that religious democracy is a new way of governing that can bring independence and freedom, religion and the world,

tradition, and progress together.”

Pointing to his foreign policy agenda in front of dozens of Iranian and foreign officials attending his swearing-in ceremony, Ayatollah Raisi underlined the need to take heed of the emerging powers on the global stage.

“The world is changing and the interests of nations depend on understanding the new world and strategic interaction with emerging powers, and a successful foreign policy will be a balanced foreign policy,” he said.

This was the latest reference to the path the Raisi government is expected to tread. The SCO announcement by Shamkhani exemplified how the next government of Iran would cement ties with the emerging powers.

In mid-June 2001, leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan announced the establishment of the SCO, also known as the Shanghai Pact. The SCO was meant to create a platform for political, economic, and security cooperation among the members. Since 2005, Iran has enjoyed observer status in the organization. In the following years, Iran requested full membership. But the Iranian request was shelved for years due to some complexities.

Now that Ayatollah Raisi has assumed office, things seem to have finally changed in favor of Iran’s membership. The annual meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State is slated for mid-September and will be held in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, which currently serves as the chair of the organization.

Nour News, a news website close to Iran’s top security body, said Tajikistan has officially invited Iran to attend the September meeting. Ayatollah Raisi will represent Iran in that meeting.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been an observer member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization since 2005, will be accepted

as a permanent member this time at the official request of Russia, which was sent in writing to the secretariat of the organization, Nour News said.

According to the Shanghai Convention, permanent memberships of the new member states must be approved by all permanent members of the organization, which has reportedly been agreed upon, the website added.

Observers have hailed the membership. Mohsen Pak-Ayeen, Iran’s former ambassador to Azerbaijan, described the move as a win-win deal for both Iran and the SCO. “Iran’s membership in the Shanghai Organization is in the interest of both sides – Iran and the organization,” he told Fars News.

All permanent members of the SCO have equal rights in terms of accepting the membership requests of other countries. These equal rights also include other issues. However, China and Russia play a key role in the organization, which makes it a counterbalance to U.S. and NATO influence in the region.

Iran also has signed a 25-year partnership with China that is likely to be implemented in the near future. In addition, a similar plan is under consideration between Tehran and Moscow.

Enhancement of ties between Iran and non-Western powers such as China and Russia will likely continue. But this does not mean that Iran will turn its back on the rest of the world, including occidental countries.

Ayatollah Raisi has made it clear that he wants balanced ties with the East and the West based on mutual respect. Unlike media speculations propagated by certain media outlets, the new Iranian president is not going to ramp up tensions and downgrade ties with the West. In his recent phone conversation with French President Emanuel Macron, Ayatollah Raisi suggested that he is open to negotiations but only if they ensure the interests of Iran.

a prisoner swap, underlining that it was ready to proceed with the deal as soon as the other sides fulfill their part.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh confirmed at the time that a swap has been agreed with Washington and London a day after the U.S. denied the swap. “Iran is ready to proceed TODAY,” Khatibzadeh said on Twitter.

Khatibzadeh was responding to a U.S. response to an earlier tweet by Araqchi saying that the U.S. and the UK were linking the swap to nuclear talks currently underway in Vienna over the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Araqchi had said ten prisoners on all sides stand ready to be swapped but the U.S. and the UK did not fulfill their part of the deal.

“We’re in a transition period as a democratic transfer of power is underway in our capital. Vienna talks must thus obviously await our new administration. This is what every democracy demands,” the deputy foreign minister said.

IRAN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 15, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iran introduces six Para athletes for Laureus Awards

From Page 1 ► Javad Hardani, who represented Iran at 2008, 2012 and 2016 Paralympic Games and claimed three bronze medals at shot put and javelin throw, has been introduced as a candidate for the accolade.

Thrower Mohsen Kaedi, winner of a gold and a silver medal at the 2012 Paralympic Games and two bronze medals at the 2016 Paralympic Games.

Jalil Bagheri Jeddi, who won a silver medal at the 2004 Paralympic Games in discus throw and a gold medal at the 2012 Paralympic Games in shot put.

Zahra Nemati, the flagbearer of Iran at the 2020



Paralympic Games. The archer became the first Iranian woman to win a gold medal at either the Olympic or Paralympic Games after winning a gold medal at the 2012 Paralympic Games. She also won a gold and silver medal at the 2016 Paralympic Games.

Sitting volleyball player Jalil Imeri, who has won three gold medals at the Paralympic Games.

The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual award ceremony honoring individuals and teams from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year. It was established in 1999 by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation founding patrons Daimler and Richemont.

The name “Laureus” is derived from the Greek word for laurel, considered a traditional symbol of victory in athletics.

Mojtaba Hosseini named Paykan coach: official

TEHRAN – Mojtaba Hossein has been named as new coach of Paykan football team on Saturday.

The 47-year-old coach replaced Mehdi tartar who left Paykan at the end of the Iran Professional League (IPL) season to take charge of Zob Ahan.

Hosseini has already coached Naft Masjed Soleyman and Mes Kerman.

Paykan and Zob Ahan finished seventh and 14th, respectively.

Hamidreza Garshasbi appointed Foolad GM

TEHRAN – Hamidreza Garshasbi was appointed as new General Manager of Iran’s Foolad club on Saturday.

He replaced Saeid Azari in Ahvaz-based club. Garshasbi has already worked as General Manager in Persepolis and Paykan.

Under management of Garshasbi, Persepolis won Iran’s league once and advanced to the AFC Champions League final in 2018.

Foolad, as Iran’s Hazfi Cup winners, will participate at the 2021/22 AFC Champions League.

Persepolis assistant coach Karim Bagheri extends deal

TEHRAN – Karim Bagheri extended a two-year deal with Persepolis football club on Saturday.

Bagheri served as Dragan Skocic’s assistant in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 2, where Iran national football team garnered four wins against Hong Kong, Cambodia, Bahrain and Iraq.

Head of Iran football federation Shahabeddin

Azizi Khadem had recently said that the federation is going to hire Bagheri as Skocic’s permanent assistant and it had fueled the speculation about Bagheri’s future.

The 47-year-old coach has penned a two-year deal with Persepolis.

He has played a key role in Persepolis’ success over the past six years.

The Reds have won five successive titles in Iran Professional League.

15 boxers to represent Iran at Asian Youth & Junior Boxing C’ships

TEHRAN – Iran will send six youth and nine junior boxers (15 male boxers) to the ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships.

The competition will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from August 17 to 31.

Milad Fallahi (54kg), Alireza Baratalipour (60kg), Alireza Mousavi (63kg), Mohammadsina Mortazavi (66kg), Hirbod Eslami (75kg) and Mohammad Mehdi Mesbahi (+80kg) will participate at the youth category.

And in the junior category, Ali Asghar Afshari (54kg), Pouria Saeidi Asl (57kg), Mohammad Parsi (60kg), Abolfazl Faridi (63kg), Arian Rostami (67kg), Ali Hasheminasab (71kg), Issa Fardin (75kg), Arian Saedpanah (86kg) and Mehdi Jashnani (92kg) will represent Iran at the competition.

FIFA President congratulates Persepolis over winning IPL title

TEHRAN – FIFA President Gianni Infantino has sent a congratulatory message to the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) and congratulated Persepolis FC over winning the Iran Professional League (IPL) title for the fifth successive time.

Persepolis football team defeated Paykan 2-0 in late July to win IPL for the fifth time in a row.

“On behalf of the entire football community, I would like to congratulate Persepolis since it’s a great achievement for the team. My congratulation goes to players, head coach, coaching staff, medical staff, and the club’s fans,” Infantino wrote.

“I would like to thank Persepolis over sending positive message to the world,” FIFA president added.

Iran basketball player Haddadi tests positive for COVID-19

TEHRAN – Iran basketball veteran center Hamed Haddadi has tested positive for COVID-19.

He was a member of Iran basketball team in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The death toll from the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran has risen to 96,742, the Health Ministry announced on Friday, saying 527 Iranians have succumbed to the deadly disease in the previous 24 hours.

The number of people infected with COVID-19 across the world has surpassed 205 million and the death toll has exceeded 4.34 million.

Syria to meet Uganda in friendly: 2022 WCQ

TEHRAN – Syria football team will play two friendly matches with Uganda as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3.

Syria will face Iran on Sept. 2 in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium.

The Qasioun Eagles will play Uganda on Aug. 23 and 26 in Amman, capital of Jordan.

Syria are in Group A alongside Iran, Korea Republic, the UAE, Iraq and Lebanon

Senior official highlights Gen. Soleimani’s role in defeating Israel in 33-day war

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian official in Iran’s elite Quds Force has shed light on the role of the former commander of the elite force in strengthening resistance against Israel.

Hojjat al-Islam Sheikh Ali Mohammadi, the representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei in Iran’s elite Quds Force, congratulated Lebanon’s people, government and the mujahideen of the Islamic Resistance as well as the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, on the occasion of August 14, which marks the anniversary of Hezbollah’s triumph over Israel in the bloody 2006 war.

In an exclusive interview with al-Ahed, he said, “The victory in the 33-day war was an important and strategic achievement, and its outcome was the transfer of the experience and the model of the resistance from Lebanon to the occupied territories and the broader Axis of Resistance.”

Responding to a question on what his message is to the government, people and resistance in Lebanon on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Resistance in the 33-day war, Mohammadi said, “Before I say anything, I offer my congratulations on the anniversary of the great and commendable victory of the great Lebanese people and Hezbollah in the 33-day war against the aggression of the Zionist entity, which turned the balance of power in the region in favor of the resistance front. I extend my sincere congratulations to all the Lebanese people of different faiths and sects, as well as the Lebanese government and espe-

cially the mujahideen of the Islamic Resistance, particularly my dear brother the mujahed, His Eminence, Hojjat al-Islam val-Muslimin, Hajj Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.”

He added, “The victory of the Lebanese people in the 33-day war constituted a historical turning point in the struggle against the criminals and the Zionist aggressors, and it was achieved in light of the courage and sacrifices of the Islamic Resistance Mujahideen and the army and the support of the Lebanese people and government. The 33-day war began at a time when the Zionists imagined they would emerge victoriously, but the Islamic Resistance disrupted all the Zionists’ calculations and changed the course of the war into a loss for the Zionist entity.”

He noted, “The war, which was scheduled to end in a few days with the victory of the Zionist entity in accordance with the operational plans of the Zionist army, lasted 33 days and finally ended with a catastrophic defeat for the Zionists. Of course, it must be emphasized that the role of Hezbollah and the management and leadership of Hojjat al-Islam val-Muslimin, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, along with other factors, played a distinct role in achieving victory during the 33-day war. Even the psychological and propaganda warfare of the Zionist enemy was dominated by the unique performance of Hezbollah and its Mujahid leader, and it dealt a blow to the enemy.”

He pointed out, “The victory in the 33-day war was an important and strategic achievement, and its out-

come was the transfer of the experience and model of the resistance from Lebanon to the occupied territories and the broader Axis of Resistance. This led to Gaza’s resistance and steadfastness against the Zionist attacks on the Gaza Strip in 2009 and 2014.”

The Iranian official stated, “This victory and the resistance that Hezbollah achieved in Lebanon against the Zionist entity is a permanent example for the mujahideen of the Resistance Front, and it has not and will not be forgotten. The recent war in

we cannot forget the great role martyr Soleimani played in the resistance front.

Gaza and the victory of the Palestinian resistance in the Al-Quds Sword Battle against the Zionist enemy can be interpreted as the most recent reflection and the result of the Zionist defeat against Hezbollah in 2006.”

He also evaluated the role of martyr Lieutenant-General Hajj Qassem Soleimani in strengthening the resistance and fighting the conspiracies of the enemy and creating security in the region.

“What is generally called the Axis of Resistance, as we see it in the region today, is the most important legacy of the martyr Lieutenant-General Hajj Qassem Soleimani. Martyr Soleimani redesigned this front and strength-



Annual transit of goods via Iran anticipated to hit 11m tons by next March

From page 1 ► of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that 3,753 million tons of commodities has been transited through the land borders of the country in the mentioned four-month period, adding that the figure can be increased if the necessary infrastructure is laid, and some barriers are removed.

As previously announced by the IRICA spokesman, 7,532 million tons of commodities were transited through Iran in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) despite the restrictions created by the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Latifi, transit of goods via Iran declined only 67 tons or 0.8 percent compared to the preceding year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020).

The mentioned volume of transit was achieved despite the fact that the figure was expected to fall significantly in the said year.

Iran is one of the countries that has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

In the south of Iran is the Persian Gulf, which is home to the world's major oil-producing countries. This region is considered as the energy bottleneck of the world.

In the north of Iran is the Caspian Sea, which is the best bridge between Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and can play an important role in trade between these countries.

The country, on the other hand, borders Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan to the west and east.

Jask oil terminal's offshore pipeline completed

TEHRAN - The construction of the offshore oil pipeline of the Jask crude oil export terminal has been completed, the operator of Jask oil terminal project in southern Iran announced.

According to Vahid Maleki, with the completion of the shore pooling operation of the sixth line of the terminal's offshore pipeline which connects the terminal to its third single point mooring (SPM), the project's pipeline was fully implemented and completed with a total length of 45 kilometers, the portal of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) reported on Saturday.

The official noted that if the development plans for the terminal are pursued by the new government as scheduled, the second phase of the terminal's development project can be implemented as soon as late September.

The construction of the Jask oil terminal's second pipeline was started immediately after the completion of the first pipeline in late January.

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

In line with the development of the mentioned oil terminal, a pipeline project, dubbed the Goreh-Jask oil transfer project, was also constructed. This project has provided Iran with an alternative route for the country's crude oil exports that are currently carried out through the Strait of Hormuz.

In late July, former President Hassan Rouhani offi-



cially ordered the inauguration of the strategic crude oil transfer project through which the country will bypass the Strait of Hormuz and cut reliance on the chokepoint for its oil trades in the future.

According to the outgoing Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, the new pipeline plays an important role in the Iranian oil industry as the country has officially commenced the export of crude oil from the Makran region.

The pipeline project has currently a capacity of transferring 300,000 bpd and this capacity will gradually increase to one million barrels in the near future.

Constructed with about \$2 billion of investment, Goreh-Jask project also aims to ensure continued oil exports, decentralization of export terminals and diversification of oil export centers, sustainable development, and job creation on the shores of Makran.

"If household consumers do not cooperate by managing their consumption we might be forced to impose supply limitations for industrial subscribers in the steel sector," Motevalizadeh said in a press conference.

Back in May, Motevalizadeh had warned that this year the country will have a difficult peak consumption period.

"This year, we are facing major issues. First, there was a very severe drought during which we saw a reduction in the water supply to the country's hydropower plants to less than half. In this way, we lose the generation of about 4,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity from hydropower sources," the official said on May 19.

On the other hand, due to the intense premature heat, the cooling equipment entered the consumption circuit earlier than usual, he noted, adding: "And a new problem we are facing this year is the power consumption by illegal cryptocurrency mining units."

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

'Improving infrastructure, prerequisite for boosting trade with neighbors'

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce has said improving the country's infrastructure is a prerequisite for developing trade relations with the neighboring countries, IRNA reported.

Hadi Tizhoush Taban noted that trade with neighboring countries shortens the distance for transporting goods and reduces the time and costs of trade.

All around the world, most exchanges are done with neighboring countries in order to facilitate trade, he added.

Stating that Iran is no exception to the world, Tizhoush Taban stressed: "Neighbors know each other's capabilities and needs and can take steps to exchange and barter commodities."

The official stressed that careful planning of shipping and aviation programs and reducing the issuance of directives and trade regulations are among the factors that can facilitate exchanges and help improve infra-

structure.

"Neighboring countries that are members of economic unions have a very high capacity for exports, and Iran can meet many of the needs of these countries, but to achieve this important goal, we need commitment, foresight and updating decisions," the official said.

Iran shares borders with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia whose total value of annual imports exceed \$1000 billion.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent



years.

Last May, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said the country is capable of doubling non-oil exports to its neighbors in two years.

Hamid Zadboum said that considering the future capacities, the TPO has planned to increase non-oil exports to the neighboring countries to about \$100 billion in a two-year time span, in a way that Iran's share of the regional markets will significantly go up.

The official has previously said: "Pakistan and Turkey have the highest capacity to import Iranian goods, which is good news for Iranian businessmen and exporters."

Pointing to the Persian Gulf states as good markets for some Iranian-

made commodities, Zadboum said that large markets such as Russia and China should also be considered by exporters.

Zadboum also said that a surge in exports requires a surge in production, and it means that the quality of Iranian products should be elevated in a way that besides meeting the domestic needs they can meet the target markets' requirements.

The current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21) is named the year of "Production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

It should be considered that the trend of strengthening domestic production has been started in Iran a couple of years ago, as the country is determined to nullify the U.S. sanction on its economy by boosting production to reach more and more self-reliance.

10,000 taxis to be renovated in Tehran province in 1.5 years

TEHRAN - As announced by the managing director of Tehran Omid Karafarini Fund, 10,000 taxis will be renovated in Tehran province by the next 1.5 years.

Farhad Hakim-Nia said the taxis will be renovated through nine trillion rials (about \$214.2 million) of investment.

He said that this fund was established to support applicants for facilities that do not fall into the defined categories of bank lending.

Back in March, Iranian Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) and Tehran municipality had signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for renovating 31 subway trains and 10,000 public taxis.

The MOU was signed by the former PBO Head Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht and Tehran Mayor Pirouz Hanachi.

As reported, over 100 trillion rials (about \$2.3 billion) is allocated only for the renovation of the mentioned 10,000 taxis.

On the same day, Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company also signed an MOU with Tehran Wagon Company for cooperation in



building 105 wagons for the capital city's urban railway fleet.

Tehran municipality had previously signed an MOU with Iran Khodro car manufacturing company to meet part of the transport fleet's need for 3,000 buses.

"Tehran needs 3,000 buses to reduce waiting times at stops so that we will try to achieve this goal", Hanachi had said in June 2020.

The Iranian government has been implementing

several programs, including the renovation of the public transportation fleet and increasing the number of dual-fuel cars, for reducing the country's fuel consumption and also for reducing air pollution in big cities.

In December 2020, Former President Hassan Rouhani had emphasized the need to modernize and develop the country's public transport fleet, and called for the necessary measures to be taken in this regard.

"To achieve the goals of the country's comprehensive transportation plans and to provide desirable services to citizens, the country needs to add new fleet."

The former Iranian transport and urban development minister had also said in February 2020, that the modernization of the country's transportation fleet should continue in the form of a smart movement and bureaucratic processes should be minimized in this regard.

"The transport ministry has fulfilled all its commitments regarding the completion of a comprehensive transport system," Mohammad Eslami said.

Bank loans to economic sectors up over 280% in 4 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - Iranian banking system has paid 7.01 quadrillion rials (over \$166.9 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), registering a 280.4 percent rise from the figure for the same period in the previous year.

According to the data provided by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), banks had paid 2.5 quadrillion rials (about \$59.5 billion) of facilities to various economic sectors in the previous calendar year's first four months, IRNA reported.

As reported, working capital loans paid to different economic sectors in the mentioned four months were about 4.794 quadrillion rials (about \$114.14 billion), accounting for 68.4 percent of the total provided facilities.

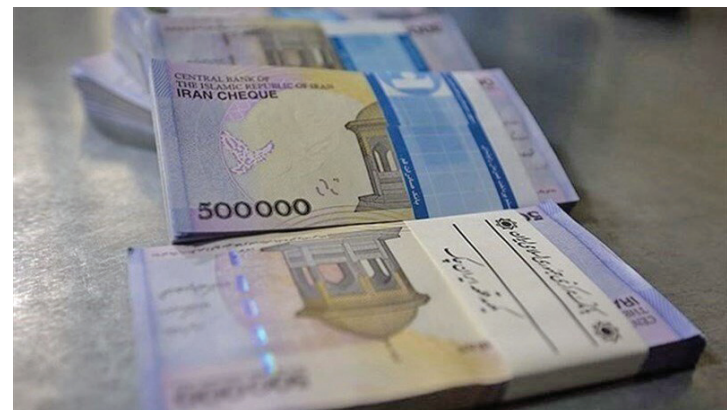
During the said period, the country's mining and industry sector

received over 1.717 quadrillion rials (about \$40.8 billion) in the form of working capital loans, accounting for 35.8 percent of the total such facilities.

Back in July, the CBI had announced that over 4.976 quadrillion rials (over \$118.4 billion) of facilities were paid to various economic sectors in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21) to register a 71.3 percent rise compared to the same period in the previous year.

According to CBI, the country's banking system offered 18.989 quadrillion rials (about \$452.1 billion) facilities to domestic economic sectors in the previous Iranian calendar year of 1399 (ended on March 20), 94.8-percent more than the figure for its preceding year.

CBI has defined supporting pro-



duction as one of its major plans over the past two years.

In early May 2019, Former CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati had outlined CBI plans for neutralizing or relieving the impact of U.S. sanctions on the country's economy and mentioned provid-

ing liquidity and working capital to maintain and boost domestic production as one of those plans.

CBI's plans take two major approaches, one of which is to secure finance for production activities and also to provide the working capital needed for such activities.

Tehranis account for 15% of Iran's total power consumption

TEHRAN - Capital Tehran accounts for 15 percent of Iran's total electricity consumption, an official with the country's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) announced.

According to Masoud Sadeqi, over 8,000 megawatts of electricity is consumed in Tehran and saving only 10 percent of this figure would supply power to a whole city, IRIB reported.

"This week, we are facing a two degree increase in temperature, which will increase consumption by 4,000 megawatts," Sadeqi said.

Noting that in such conditions, 30 to 40 percent of the total electricity is consumed by air-conditioning devices, he said: "Setting the temperature of air conditioners to 26 degrees can significantly reduce electricity consumption.

The official noted that since the current hot wheatear is going to continue, if people do not manage their electricity consumption power outages will be inevitable.

Last week, Mohammad-Hassan Motevalizadeh, Tavanir's managing director announced the possibility of imposing electricity supply limitations for industrial subscribers.



Daily electricity consumption in Iran reached 66,250 MW (66.25 gigawatts) on July 6, to register a new record in the history of Iran's electricity industry as a new heatwave has blanketed the country this summer.

According to the Iranian Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, the mentioned figure was 8,000 MW more than the consumption in the previous year's peak period, and 10,000 MW more than the figure in the previous year's same date.

The country's power plants are currently able to generate only 54,000 MW of electricity which

is nearly 12,000 MW less than the power demand, Rajabi Mashhadi said at the time.

The official noted that each degree of temperature rise would boost the country's electricity consumption by 1,500 MW and the temperature is expected to increase even more in the future.

He underlined the increasing use of air conditioning devices in the summer period as one of the major reasons for the increase in the country's electricity consumption, calling on people to manage their consumption and use the automatically regulated devices to decrease energy waste.

He also announced that the Energy Ministry was importing 650 MW more electricity to offset the surge in demand.

In early July, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian attended an emergency meeting of the country's electricity management headquarters along with other senior officials from the Energy Ministry to discuss the issue and explore ways for alleviating the situation.

Tavanir had also previously announced that the company was implementing over 40 different programs for managing the situation and to prevent blackouts in the country.

TEDPIX drops 3,700 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 3,797 points to 1.48 million on Saturday (the first day of the Iranian calendar week).

Over 12.823 billion securities worth 90.514 trillion rials (about \$2.155 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index lost 2,706 points, and the second market's index dropped 7,880 points.

TEDPIX rose 78,000 points, or 5.5 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.484 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of National Iranian Copper Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, State Retirement Fund, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices.

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the country's production units and companies can boost their employment and production by raising capital through the stock market.

China is a larger economic player than the U.S.: Fabrizio Verde

From page 1 ► In contrast, the situation of the United States portrays a country in economic, social and cultural collapse and decay. Simultaneously, we have a new multipolar order with Eurasian traction in strong growth. Precisely for this reason, the United States, in a desperate attempt to stop its decline has launched a new cold war against Beijing in the style of what it did in the days of the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, times have changed and China is not the old Soviet Union. In today's integrated global economy, China is a larger economic player than the United States. While in the days of the old Cold War, the Soviet Union was much weaker economically than the United States. Already today, China, which is constantly on the rise, is superior to the declining United States in many key aspects. Furthermore, the Soviet Union chose to compete militarily with the United States, with disastrous consequences, given the reduced economic strength. On the contrary, China will not pursue the United States on this terrain by concentrating resources on the defense of its borders and its territory. Moreover, in the long run, economic power invariably outweighs military strength. U.S. imperialism is experiencing historical decay and has no way out to resolve its structural crisis, neither with neoliberalism nor with the return to Keynesianism. The future is multipolar.

Do you think that the EU is reliable when it comes to containing U.S. unilateral moves? Some observers say that the EU cannot take decisions independently as it needs a U.S. security umbrella.

The European Union is an amorphous creature governed by absurd economic policies based on the wildest neoliberalism. A construction without sovereignty that follows the directives coming from Washington. This is why the Trump presidency was badly lived in Brussels. During the G7 summit in Taormina, Trump scrambled the European vassals so much that Chancellor Angela Merkel affirmed that, with these manners, the U.S. had broken a historic relationship of solidarity. Now with the return of the Democrats to the White House, it seems to have returned to the old



fencing where the important directives are decided in Washington and Brussels just executes. Even if France and Germany, perhaps exclusively for economic reasons, try to keep some channels of opening towards Russia and above all China. Just French President Macron, at the time of the Trump presidency, had declared that NATO was in a state of brain death. That denunciation was not followed by any concrete step in the dismissal of a useless and anti-historical entity such as NATO. On the other hand, France is the only country within the European Union that questions strategic autonomy from the United States and that, starting from nuclear deterrence, includes the perspective of defending Europe's independence and thinks in terms of sectors strategic including communication and energy supply networks. The other countries, however, primarily Germany and Italy, do not seem willing to follow Paris in these reflections. So, the European Union, as we said earlier, remains in a subordinate position with respect to the U.S. and NATO.

The world is no longer what it was after 1945 or 1990.

Can Western powers hamper China's efforts to develop the infrastructure of developing countries?

Western countries have announced plans to counter China with its New Silk Road project. These plans, both the one announced by Biden at the G7 and the less clear one launched by the European Union that would like to involve India, involve lavish investments aimed at supplanting the Chinese advance. However, do Western countries have this economic strength? I do not think so. The economies of the Western powers come out devastated and depressed by a long pandemic managed in an absolute bankruptcy from all points of view. Unlike China, which has already started running again. It should also be noted that the New Silk Road brings, empirically, immediate benefits for the countries involved, allowing them to equip themselves with the capital necessary for the construction of expensive infrastructures (roads, railways, ports and airports). In fact, the total investments made this decade are estimated at around \$1,800 billion with the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank as the main lender. Thanks to the modernization of infrastructures, 67 countries that

already adhere to the Silk Road have greater and more stable growth prospects.

How do you assess EU's performance when it tried to confront Trump's unilateral sanctions on Iran? Apparently, they failed to curb Trump's impulsive behaviors?

As we said before, the countries of the European Union have not gone beyond a few verbal skirmishes. So, they ended up accepting that Trump would exit the nuclear deal with Iran and impose new criminal and illegal sanctions on Tehran. Even in this case, Brussels remained in a subordinate position with respect to Washington. In addition, let's go back to the point of the non-real independence of the European Union from the United States. We can then add that there are European countries that have taken advantage of the situation: in 2011, the volume of Italy-Iran trade had reached the remarkable figure of 7 billion dollars. However, in 2013, this volume plummeted to \$1.3 billion because in 2012 sanctions imposed by the "international community" - a euphemism for the United States and its vassal countries - were launched against Tehran for their nuclear program. Meanwhile, France and Germany, especially the latter, were working hard to replace Italy.

Do you think the political milieu of the region (West Asia) is ready for a regional coalition between powers like Iran, Russia, Turkey and China to confront Western outrageous policies?

I believe the times are ripe. I don't see any other alternatives either. On the other hand, it would be short-sighted to remain anchored to a decadent imperialist power like the United States, with its flock of vassal countries. A new world is being built. The world is no longer what it was after 1945 or 1990. Now we have the unipolar order in a downward phase, while at the same time a new Eurasian unipolar order is on the rise. A more human, sharing and more democratic world. I believe, like the president of the Turkish Vatan Partisi Dogu Perincek, that Iran, Russia, Turkey and China are building the 21st-century alliance.

Every picture tells a story, and the story of this picture is grotesque

By John Wight

The decision by the Russian Embassy in Iran, led by Ambassador Levan Dzagharyan, to tweet a re-staging of one of the most iconic images of WWII - the picture of Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt at the Tehran Conference in 1943 - in conjunction with the newly-installed head of Britain's diplomatic mission in Iran, Simon Shercliff, has been met with justifiable anger.

In having his picture taken on the same chairs in front of the same venue, alongside his UK counterpart, then tweeting it out, the Russian Iranian Ambassador is guilty of shockingly poor judgment. At best the picture, the message it conveys, is highly insensitive, and at worst deeply insulting at a time when the Iranian people are suffering under the weight of unprecedented sanctions, including those imposed by the UK.

The official history of WWII frames the Tehran Conference between November 28 and December 1, 1943, as a historic meeting between the leaders of the so-called Grand Alliance - US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin - with the objective of coordinating their military strategy against Germany and Japan at a critical point in the war, and also to discuss various matters with the post-war era in mind.

What the official history of this event conspicuously abstracts is the fact that Tehran, as it is now, was then the capital of a sovereign nation, which at the time was under occupation by British and Soviet military forces.

Iran had declared its neutrality at the start of the war, but this neutrality was ignored and an Anglo-Soviet invasion of the country was mounted in August 1941; this was in service to their respective strategic objectives vis-à-vis the war with Germany.

At the time, Iran was ruled by Reza Shah. He was forced under pressure from the British and Soviets to abdicate, after which his replacement, his son Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, signed a Tripartite Treaty of Alliance with Britain and the Soviet Union in 1942.



It was an alliance in name only, designed to legitimize the country's occupation.

The point is that the world back then was run on the basis of great-power chauvinism and that WWII, just like its WWI, was in the last analysis a war for empire and colonial possessions, with Iran one of many countries drawn into the war against its will, and occupied in violation of its sovereignty.

The Iran of today is unrecognizable compared to the Iran of yesterday. It has, since 1979, placed an unshakeable premium on its independence and sovereignty, refusing to bow to those who yearn for the days when the country was but a doormat in the eyes of imperialist countries led by the likes of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. Its stance when it comes to the ongoing negotiations taking place in Vienna over the JCPOA, and its resistance to US hegemony and Israeli expansionism in the region overall, leaves no doubt of it.

This is why it defies the belief that a Russian ambassador would allow himself to be pictured with a British official like two colonial masters lordling it over a subject people, particularly just after a new administration has taken office in Tehran.

Russia and Iran have enjoyed favorable, if not close, relations in recent years. Syria is, of course, where both countries have worked in tandem to defend the Assad government and neutralize the terrorist threat that has existed there for the past decade. There is, however, understandable distrust

in Tehran when it comes to Moscow's actions in trying to be a friend to everyone, including Iran's enemies, in the region or with a regional agenda, up to and including the US. This distrust conforms to the dictum that he who tries to befriend everyone is a friend to no one.

In response to the furor whipped up by the photo-op in Tehran with the Russian ambassador and the chief of Britain's diplomatic station in the country, the Russian Embassy in Iran issued the following statement via Twitter: "Taking into account the ambiguous reaction to our photo, we would like to note that it does not have any anti-Iranian context. We were not going to offend the feelings of the friendly Iranian people. The only meaning that this photo has to pay tribute to the joint efforts of the allied states against Nazism during the Second World War. Iran is our friend and neighbor, and we will continue to strengthen relations based on mutual respect."

Rather than issue such a convoluted response, perhaps it might have been simpler, and certainly better, to issue an apology and take the offending tweet down.

You just know that this incident and the ensuing fallout will be music to the ears of London. The UK political establishment has gone out of its way to downplay the role of the Soviet Union in crushing Nazi Germany in WWII, while enhancing its own role in that cause. The idea that a British official would agree to such a picture without an ulterior motive is simply not credible. Indeed, it's more than likely that the re-staging of this image was done at the suggestion of Mr. Shercliff in the first place.

In response to the offending image and tweet, Iran's Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, tweeted this: "I saw an extremely inappropriate picture today. Need I remind all that Aug. 2021 is neither Aug. 1941 nor Dec. 1943. The Iranian people have shown - including during the JCPOA talks - that their destiny can NEVER be subject to decisions in foreign embassies or by foreign powers."

Ambassador Dzagharyan and Ambassador Shercliff, kindly take note.

(Source: Press TV)

U.S. rushes to save Americans stuck in Afghanistan

The Pentagon says most U.S. troops on a mission to evacuate the Kabul embassy will arrive by Sunday and will be prepared to airlift thousands of people per day.

The first Marines have arrived at Kabul's international airport as part of a mission ordered a day earlier by President Joe Biden as the Taliban gains more territory amid the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Pentagon spokesman, John Kirby, says "I expect that by the end of the weekend the bulk of the 3,000 (troops) will be in place... capacity is not going to be a problem," Kirby said of the airlifts, adding "we will be able to move thousands per day."

As of this week, some 4,200 people were working at the embassy in the Afghan capital and thousands of more Afghans who served as interpreters or in other support roles in the 20-year U.S. occupation are eager to escape for working with the U.S. military.

Britain and several other Western nations are also sending troops amid fears the Taliban could take control of the capital Kabul.

U.S. expands sanctions regime against Cuba

The United States imposed new sanctions on senior Cuban officials and a military unit, the latest in a series of actions in response to rare protests on the island.

The penalties from the Treasury Department hit two interior ministry officials and the "red beret" military unit.

It is the third round of U.S. sanctions and President Joe Biden has warned additional punitive measures against Havana.

Cuba protested the U.S. action, as it did with previous sanctions. Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodriguez, "such measures reflect double standards of a government used to manipulation

As U.S.-led foreign forces complete their withdrawal after 20 years of occupation, an Afghan government official confirmed that Kandahar, the economic hub of the south, was under Taliban control. The loss is a heavy blow to the government.

Diplomats say some embassies have begun to burn sensitive material ahead of evacuating. According to an advisory seen by media, the U.S. embassy in the Afghan capital informed staff that burn bins and an incinerator were available to destroy material including papers and electronic devices to "reduce the amount of sensitive material on the property"

Meanwhile, the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, warned that "Afghanistan is spinning out of control" and urged all parties to do more to protect civilians. "This is the moment to avoid a prolonged civil war," he said.

Experts have slammed the 20-year American occupation of Afghanistan as nothing short of a complete disaster.

and lies to maintain the blockade against Cuba", referring to Washington's embargo against Havana that has been in place since 1962.

Cuba blames Washington's decades-long economic blockade as well as the Coronavirus pandemic for the economic turmoil in the country.

In June, the United Nations condemned the American embargo for 29 years in a row.

Critics say Washington sanctions independent nations under the pretext of rights abuses while turning a blind eye to allies that have cracked down heavily on protesters demanding the most basic rights.

Venezuela's Maduro, opposition launch crunch talks

Representatives of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and the U.S.-backed opposition are holding crucial talks in Mexico City. The negotiations are aimed at ending political and economic problems.

The heads of both delegations met on Friday night, after six months of talks brokered by Norway, to sign a memorandum of understanding containing the details of the agenda.

It's not the first time that the opposition has sought a deal with President Maduro, however this time opposition leader, Juan Guaido, is losing popularity among his own supporters in the South American country.

Despite that, the opposition delegation is vying for some power in the government.

Maduro will be represented by a delegation headed by parliament speaker Jorge Rodriguez. The opposition team will be led by the politician and lawyer Gerardo Blyde and include Guaido's foreign policy chief, Julio Borges, and other former lawmakers.

In quite significant change from past talks, more international players are set to be at the table this time.

Russia is joining Maduro's camp while the Netherlands is helping the opposition. According to three people familiar with the sensitive nature of the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity; a broader group of about 10 other nations have been designated as key actors.

The Venezuelan government and issues such as sanctions, elections and political prisoners are expected to be discussed.

President Maduro has already warned he will

Biden's "cruel" asylum policy censured

U.S. President, Joe Biden, strongly condemned his Republican predecessor, President Donald Trump's immigration policies, but is now defending them in court. Immigration attorneys and activists are also frustrated with the slow pace of the current administration's Justice Department in tackling the Trump-era immigration policy.

During the election campaign, Biden had promised a more humane immigration approach to the policies of former President Trump.

In a new letter to the Democratic president and other top officials, more than 100 organizations have called for the restoration of all migrants' ability to claim asylum in the United States. It also urged Biden to refrain from any new policies that limit access to asylum; a right enshrined in international law.

Immigration advocates have criticized Biden's asylum policies, saying deporting asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border and other deterrent measures were "cruel, unlawful and ineffective."

The groups urged Biden not to adopt any policies that force migrants to wait in Mexico for the resolution of their cases back in America, which they said: "would unquestionably put individuals in danger and violate U.S. asylum law."

However, the U.S. President has retained an or-

der known as Title 42; one of Trump's most limiting measures which allow U.S. authorities to expel asylum seekers caught crossing the border back to Mexico.

Over the past several months, arrests at the border have risen to a 20-year high, fueling criticism that Biden is following in the same footsteps as Trump. Advocates for asylum seekers say the administration's actions contradict what Biden had promised. At the same time, some Democrats have pressed Biden to end Title 42.

The White House claims the expulsions are necessary to keep U.S. detention centers from becoming overwhelmed during the coronavirus pandemic, which they allege would create a risk for government workers, migrants and the public.

Last week, the administration began forcibly flying some Central American and Mexican migrants arrested at the U.S.-Mexico border to southern Mexico.

Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, says Washington would expand an online asylum registration system so asylum seekers can apply remotely, adding that more changes would be announced in the coming days. He declined to say which asylum seekers would be eligible to use the online system.

New COVID cases in U.S. soar %700 in July

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a nationwide surge in new COVID-19 cases.

U.S. media cited CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices as saying at a meeting on Friday that there had been a 700 percent rise in infections week-over-week since July 1.

William Moss, a professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health confirmed the surge.

"There's no doubt we're seeing a surge in cases now," he said, adding that several

factors had contributed to the new wave of COVID-19.

"The combination of the Delta variant, susceptibility due to relatively low vaccination coverage, some relaxing of our public health measures, these all came together and we're seeing this wave," he pointed out.

CDC had reported earlier that full vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant could spread the virus to others, advising people to wear masks and observe social distancing to help stop the pandemic.

CDC also decided on Friday to go along with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommendation for a third booster dose of COVID-19 vaccines for people with weakened immune systems.

Earlier, FDA had recommended an extra booster shot for people who had weakened immune systems; however, it left the matter in the hands of the CDC to decide who needed the extra shots and it was now up to the CDC to define exactly who should get the additional doses.

A CDC Advisory Committee on Immu-

nization Practices committee spent hours on Friday considering the evidence on the safety and effectiveness of extra shots for the specific group and after much deliberation voted unanimously to offer the third shot to Americans with the weakest immune systems whose immune systems do not work well, either because of disease or medication

The third vaccine should be available for the immunocompromised group, which makes up 27 percent of the population, in the next few days, U.S. media reported.

Sardasht dam holds potential to become tourism destination



TEHRAN – Sardasht dam and its surrounding landscape hold enormous potential to become a popular tourism destination, the governor-general of West Azarbaijan province has said.

“Due to its location as a border city, its pristine and mountainous nature, Sardasht has a high potential for tourism and agricultural development,” Mohammad-Mehdi Shahriari said, CHTN reported.

However, it is essential to attract more investors to Sardasht so that everyone can enjoy the beauty of this area and the hospitality of its people, he noted.

“Sardasht dam requires more investment in terms of tourism infrastructure to unlock its capacity as a top destination.”

Developing accommodation facilities, such as hotels, apartment hotels, and eco-lodge units are amongst measures that should be considered for promoting tourism in the region, he mentioned.

Earlier in March, Deputy Energy Minister for Water and Wastewater Affairs Ghasem Taqizadeh Khamesi announced that 30 dams across Iran have been are planned to be turned into tourist destinations.

A total budget of 1,300 billion rials (some

\$30 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to develop the tourism infrastructure of the dams, the official said.

Water tourism of the dams is estimated to generate 3,000 direct jobs when fully operated, he added.

The official also noted that 182 national dams have been built in the country, most of them have the potential to be tourism destinations.

Back in May 2019, the Ministry of Energy inked a memorandum of understanding with the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ministry to lay the ground for launching dam tourism.

Though much of Iran is composed of arid and semi-arid lands, the country has many rivers, waterfalls ponds, and wetlands offering scenic vistas to nature lovers and eco-travelers, backpackers, birdwatchers, and fishers.

Water tourism involves traveling to locations specifically to take part in water-based activities. Some people who do not wish to partake in water-related activities embark on water tourism trips so that they can visit tourist sites that sit close to bodies of water such as lakes, seas, or even dams. Water tourists are often independent travelers, although some travel firms do organize group trips.

From page 1 ▶ It is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, and deservedly so. You could easily wander around for an entire day (or two) without actually buying anything. Just observing the daily bazaar life is attractive enough.

The vast bazaar also includes 29 mosques, 24 caravanserais, five museums, four madrasas (schools), and four bathhouses. The importance of Tabriz Bazaar was increased due to being on the Silk Road and it became the most important trade center in the world in the 19th century. Nowadays Tabriz bazaar is still one of the main trade centers in Iran and Asia. Strolling around in this bazaar you can find all kinds of souvenirs especially Persian carpets.

Shahgoli Park

Shahgoli park is another spot not-to-be-missed when you travel to Tabriz. This park is a bit away from the center, but definitely worth the trek (a trek by taxi, that is).

There are several food stalls around the park and outside the park’s perimeter, and an upscale restaurant in the center of it. An artificial lake rings the park walkway, making it particularly pretty in the evening.

The park is a Tabrizian favorite come evening time, and a great way to meet locals. Better yet, head there with one of the locals that you’ll inevitably meet while wandering around Tabriz.

The Blue Mosque of Tabriz

Constructed in the 14th century, the Blue Mosque of Tabriz is known as the Turquoise of Islam due to its magnificent blue tiles. The mosque was once part of the Mozarafiyeh complex along with other structures such as a bathhouse and a school.

An earthquake in 1772 severely damaged the place of worship, which was once one of the most magnificent mosques in the world.

Restoration work is going on to this day, and some of the mosaics are still incredible. The mosque is a bit away from the center, but all taxi drivers will know how to get there.

Rocky village of Kandovan

Kandovan is a small village outside of Tabriz. Kandovan is



A view of the Constitution House in Tabriz

Tabriz: a perfect introduction to Iran

also known as the “Cappadocia of Iran” due to its spiring troglodyte caves. It is an easy day trip away from Tabriz by public transport.

Located on the foothills of the Sahand mountain range and at 2200 meters of altitude, the 3000-year-old village is famous for the houses carved into rocks.

These rocks were formed by solidified magma and shaped by nature. Kandovan is one of the two hand-carved villages in the world that are still residential. The uniqueness of the inhabitants’ lifestyle and the stunning houses of this village amaze every visitor. It is also possible to spend a night at the hotel located in this village and experience sleeping inside a hand-carved house.

Arg-e Tabriz

Arg of Tabriz (Arg-e Tabriz) also known as Arg of Alishah dates back to the 14th century. The use of this impressive structure is still unknown, however; it is estimated to once being a place of worship.

Arg of Tabriz was used for defending the city and storing food and ammunition during the wars between Iran and Russia in the Qajar era (1789–1925) and a large part of it was destroyed at that time. The remaining part of this historical monument is of high architectural importance. The archway of Arg-e Tabriz is wider than the Archway of Ctesiphon and is one of the significant features of this structure.

Azarbaijan Museum

Azaribaijan Museum is one of the most important museums in Iran. Ancient coins, pottery, statues, epigraphs, and traditional clothes are some of the objects protected in this museum. Azarbaijan museum is the best place for learning about the history of East Azarbaijan province and its capital city of Tabriz.

Mausoleum of Poets

Iranians have long respected and loved their poets and have been willing to honor their legacy by building shrines.

Tabriz has been the home of

many beloved poets in the history of Iran, many of whom chose Sorkhab neighborhood for living and wished to be buried there after their death.

Built over the former graveyard of the Sorkhab neighborhood, the Mausoleum of Poets (Poets’ Mausoleum) is the eternal home of almost 300 Iranian poets such as Shahryar and Khaqani.

The structure was destroyed due to earthquakes occurring in 1814 and 1815 however; another monument was built in 1971 to honor the memory of the poets. Visiting this monument allows you to get to know a large part of the literature of Iran and its famous poets.

Qajar Museum

Qajar Museum is the house of Hasan Ali Khan Garroosy, one of the most famous politicians in the Qajar era.

His house was bought and turned into a museum in 2005. In addition to the interesting objects exhibited in this museum, the house itself is worth visiting due to its beautiful colorful windows, stucco, and mirror work.

Constitution House

The constitutional revolution of Iran (aka the Persian Constitutional Revolution) took place between 1905 and 1911 and led to the foundation of the first legislature of Iran during the Qajar era.

The movement involved many activists from all around the country including Tabriz. The constitution house was the gathering location and headquarters of the constitution activists in Tabriz such as Sattar khan and Baqir khan. By visiting the constitution house, you will get the chance to learn about the constitutional revolution in Iran and its most famous activists.

Jame Mosque of Tabriz

Jame Mosque of Tabriz (Masjed-e Jameh) is located in Tabriz bazaar and is one of the most important monuments of the ancient city. The mosque was built during the Seljuk era (1037–1194) but some of the decorations were added later. The mosque has one of the most Mihrabs among the mosques in Iran. The embellishments of this mosque along with its historical background have made it one of the most visited monuments in Tabriz.

Partial restoration begins on Achaemenid palace

TEHRAN – A team of cultural heritage experts and restorers has commenced work on parts of Hadish Palace, which is located in UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran, an official with the World Heritage site has announced.

Using special materials and techniques, the restoration project is being carried out in collaboration with the international teams of restorers, Shahram Rahbar said on Saturday, CHTN reported.

The 2,550-square-meter palace belonged to Xerxes I (486-465 BC), the son of Darius I (522-486 BC), the famed Achaemenid king, and his wife Hadish. Various bas-reliefs including Xerxes’ face can be seen on the gates of the palace.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers



northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

The city was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had

burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier. The city’s immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire’s king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall (“Hundred-Column Hall”).

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches,

monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world’s greatest archaeological sites.

The terrace is a grandiose architectural creation, with its double flight of access stairs, walls covered by sculpted friezes at various levels, contingent Assyrianesque propylaea (monumental gateway), gigantic sculpted winged bulls, and remains of large halls.

By carefully engineering lighter roofs and using wooden lintels, the Achaemenid architects were able to use a minimal number of astonishingly slender columns to support open area roofs. Columns were topped with elaborate capitals; typical was the double-bull capital where, resting on double volutes, the forequarters of two kneeling bulls, placed back-to-back, extend their coupled necks and their twin heads directly under the intersections of the beams of the ceiling.

Centuries-old ice storage to be restored for tourism

TEHRAN –A historical Yakhchal (ice storage), which stands tall in the oasis town of Ardestan, is planned to be revived as a tourist destination, Ardestan’s tourism chief has said.

“There will be a complete restoration of the historically significant structure that has been damaged throughout the years and partially restored once,” Mehdi Mashhadi announced on Saturday.

A budget of 750 million rials (\$17,800 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, the official added.

Located in the central Isfahan province, the historical monument was added to the national heritage list in 2018.

When there was no electricity, no refrigerators, and no appliances, people kept a huge amount of water next to the high walls of Yakhchal, which cast a shadow that kept the water cool.

The water turned into ice during the wintertime. Then people cut the ice into many portable parts and put them in the ice house and covered the surface of the ice with special local grass.

The structure is built high to minimize the contact of warm air with the ice surface as the warm air floats upwards. The feature of



the ice storage was essential to its functioning.

There were also wells behind the ice storage with a connective canal at the bottom of the ice storage to the wells with a slight slope.

When people piled up the ice, a little amount of water remained under the heap of ice. If the water was not removed it would make the rest of the ice melt. By channeling the water into the well, not only did they prevent the ice stored in the ice house from melting, but also they had cold and tasty water during summer months when the weather went up to 40 degrees Celsius.

Iranian history: Jiroft culture and Aryan raid

The pre-historical site of Jiroft, situated southwest of Tepe Yahya in the southeastern province of Kerman, is one of the most artifact-rich archeological sites in West Asia.

In January 2001 a group of Iranians from Jiroft stumbled upon an ancient tomb. Inside they found a large number of objects decorated with highly distinctive engravings of animals, mythological figures, and architectural motifs.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, at the time they did not realize the true magnitude and implications of their archeological discovery: one that may alter the accepted notions of the early development of civilizations in West Asia between the fourth and third millennia BC. The objects and their iconography are unlike anything ever seen before by archeologists. Many are made from chlorite, a gray-green soft stone; others are in copper,

bronze, terracotta, and even lapis lazuli.

Aryans or Indo-Iranians belong to the Satem group of Indo-European peoples, linguistically closest to the Slavic people, who had moved eastward, possibly from Kazakhstan, into Western Central Asia. (It seems that earlier a group of Kentum [Centum] Indo-Europeans, the Tokharians, had moved towards the borders of China.)

Pressed by the growth in population, the Indo-Iranians began a southward drive in search of fresh pastures for their cattle and horses. A wave of them reached the western borders of what is now called Iran and formed the ruling class of the Mitanni kingdom in northern Mesopotamia by about the middle of the second millennium.

As stated by Iranica, in 1907 a large number of clay tablets were found in

the palace archives of Boghazkoy, the capital of the ancient Hittites in the north of the Anatolian plateau. These tablets from the mid-14th century contain the first mention of the Indo-Iranian deities Mitra, Varuna, and the Nasatyas invoked as protectors of a treaty between the Hittites and their neighbor, Mitanni, an Asianic people-centered in Azerbaijan.

Other successive waves of Indo-Iranian tribes drove southward, subduing native inhabitants. At some point these tribes, who had lived together for many centuries and shared the same language and religious beliefs, separated: Some took the route through Afghanistan to India, defeated the Dravidian inhabitants of north and northwest India, and settled in the conquered regions, spreading their culture.

Vedic hymns, the oldest extant documents of an Indo-European



Jiroft culture artifact.

language, represent their religious beliefs and rituals. Another branch, consisting of different but related tribes, overwhelmed the native populations of the Iranian plateau and

established their dominion over them.

For a while at least those who were settled in western Persia came under the suzerainty of the Assyrian kings, who made numerous raids into Iranian territories and defeated the Iranian tribes, who had adopted many cultural features from the more advanced Mesopotamians. Some of the Iranian tribes in the south were ruled over by the Elamites; later they achieved autonomy.

The oldest part of the Avesta (the Gathas), ascribed to Zoroaster himself, is linguistically very close to Vedic Sanskrit and shows the closeness in time between the people who produced these texts. Both scriptures show that Indo-Iranians used chariots driven by horses, a fact that must have helped them in their southward drive and conquests. They both use a highly inflected language, the ancestor of

later Iranian and Indian languages.

The Indo-Iranian tribes worshiped a variety of deities, mostly representing aspects or forces of nature, such as the sky, thunder, earth, fire, wind, and waters, or some social or moral principle. Mitra, for example, was the guarantor of pacts and promises, and Varuna, possibly represented by Ahura Mazda on the Iranian side, safeguarded or symbolized the good order of the world and the moral principle guiding it which was to be followed also by men.

Great emphasis was placed on sacrifice as a means of appeasing the gods and insuring their benevolence towards humans, and also on the meticulous performance of rituals and pronunciation of mantras. Magic was also widely practiced in different forms to dispel evil spirits and obtain various benefits.

Over a ton of narcotics discovered in eastern provinces

TEHRAN – The anti-narcotics police have seized over a ton of drugs in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan and the northeastern Khorasan Razavi provinces, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Security forces in the Mirjaveh Border Regiment obtained clues of the intention of drug traffickers to enter the country, and with careful operations, succeeded in discovering the narcotics shipment, commander of border guards Ahmad Ali Goudarzi said.

In this operation, while seizing a vehicle, 827 kilograms of various drugs, including 567 kilograms of opium and 260 kilograms of hashish were confiscated from smugglers, he stated.

Meanwhile, border guards in Khorasan Razavi province discovered 182.5 kilograms of narcotics which had been placed in a car.

The anti-narcotics police discovered 1200 tons of various drugs during the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021), which is two-folded compared to the recent years, Eskandar Momeni, the director of headquarters for the fight against narcotics, said on June 26.

Iran is the leading country in the



fight against narcotics worldwide; despite its proximity to Afghanistan, which is the largest producer of narcotics, he explained.

According to the UN Office, the Islamic Republic's continuous efforts to combat narcotics trafficking came up with the seizure of more than 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of world heroin.

'Common understanding, global action'

Iranian deputy anti-narcotics police chief Naqi Mahmoudi has stressed that the drug trafficking fight requires a common understanding and action by all members of the international community, and no country alone can address the challenges in this area.

Despite the conditions caused by

the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

Iranian professor among world's top 35 transplant doctors

From page 1 ► Eastern Mediterranean Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) Group at the Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (WBMT).

The prominent professor has won several international awards and has published more than 130 international articles in this field.

40 years of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in the world

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation has a history of about 40 years in the world, Hamidieh told IRNA on Saturday.

In the past 40 years, more than 1.5 million people in the world have received hematopoietic stem cell transplants, he added.

Iran's significant contribution to world's scientific growth

The share of Iranian articles with international participation has had significant growth of 209 percent during an eight-year period (2013-2020), becoming the Islamic world's leading country in science diplomacy, according to the Scopus International Citation Database.

The number of articles indexed by the Iranian researchers on the Web of Science website in 2020 increased by 122 percent compared to that of 2013, which made Iran 16th in the world with 69,779 articles, and first among the Islamic countries for several consecutive years.

This improvement is not limited to the number of



articles and the country's share in terms of top articles (the quality) grew from 0.95 percent in 2013 to 4.28 percent in 2020, which indicates a 350 percent growth in the production of the world's top articles.

CLIMATE OF IRAN

(Part 2)

These zones of atmospheric pressure, which are extensive and for the most part clear-cut, are modified to some degree by regional and local wind systems. Among a large number of such systems in Persia two call for particular comment: one is a system of mountain winds that are channeled down the slopes and through the valleys, thus intensifying the effects of the steep terrain, the other is a coastal system that affects a relatively limited expanse of territory.

In autumn the mountain winds blow along the margins of the Alborz and the Zagros, bringing warm, dry currents especially to the Caspian lowlands but also causing occasional breaks in the prevailing humidity of Khuzestan and parts of the Persian Gulf coast.

In Khuzestan they often bring frosts, which endanger the subtropical sugarcane crop; in the highlands, however, it is their great velocity that causes damage, particularly in the Alborz passes at elevations of 2,000-2,500 m, the fluctuating boundary zone between these dry mountain winds and moister currents from the Caspian.

In the upper Safidrud valley near Manjil and in the Talar valley near Gaduk and Firuzkuh, where these broad-scale wind systems overlap with more localized systems, the interpenetrating air masses are channeled through the narrow mountain passes, and the wind velocity often builds to extreme levels before sweeping onto the Persian plateau with enormous power.

Two lesser regional wind systems also call for comment, the so-called



bad-e sad o bist ruz (lit. "120-day wind"), noted for its stability and regularity, and the samal (lit. "north (wind)"). Both originate in the northwest during the summer, in response to extreme low pressures over the Persian Gulf and the Indus basin.

The samal blows across Mesopotamia and sweeps the northern coastal region of the Persian Gulf. The "120-day wind" blows with great predict-

laden with dust and sand but picks up a great deal of moisture while crossing the Persian Gulf and thus produces, through the combination of fine sand and high heat, extremely unpleasant weather in Khuzestan and the Zagros foothills.

Clashes in atmospheric pressure over smaller areas result in another very characteristic feature of Persian weather: the "dust devils" (gerd-bad, lula-bad) that occur daily all over the plateau during the summer months. They are formed wherever there are slight differences in the heating of the earth's surface, for example, when there is extreme localized heating of exposed rock.

These dust devils, frequently only a few meters in diameter, suck sand and dust up into windspouts, sometimes several hundred meters high, and usually blow themselves out after traveling very short distances.

Temperature and precipitation. Persia's situation on the boundary between the "subtropical Saharan-Arabian portion of the desert belt controlled by the trade winds" of the eastern hemisphere, on one hand, and the "Turkestan-Central Asian portion, which belongs to the temperate zone" (Bobek, 1952, p. 65), on the other, is extremely significant.

As already suggested, both the climate and the topography of the

country contribute to distinct regional differences. Harry Bobek (1952, p. 65) has remarked correctly that, if it were not for the Zagros and Alborz, which disrupt the general system of wind circulation and force humid air masses to give up their moisture in precipitation, the two zones mentioned would be "desert spaces flowing into each other without boundaries," and neither the Caspian Sea nor the Persian Gulf would be sufficient to water the wasteland.

An attempt to plot the average temperatures for the entire country reveals a general increase from north-west to southeast reflecting both the respective geo-graphical positions and the elevations of the different regions.

Whereas most of Azerbaijan is characterized by average annual temperatures of about 10° C, the average annual temperature on the Persian plateau is between 15 and 20° C. The entire Persian Gulf coast area, on the other hand, registers an annual average of more than 25° C; the highest annual average, about 30° C, occurs in southeastern Persia (station: Iran-sahr).

In many respects average monthly temperatures and the annual extremes are much more significant than annual averages, especially in determining land use. The climate on the plateau is characterized by hot summers and extremely cold winters, with resulting broad ranges between the annual maximum and minimum temperatures, 20° C or more at many upland stations (e.g., Tabriz, -1.7° C in January, 25.4° C in July).

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

The climate on Iranian plateau is characterized by hot summers and extremely cold winters.

It originates as a hot, dry west wind

ENGLISH IN USE

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Martyr Soleimani made efforts to bypass U.S. medicine sanctions: health minister

Over the past year, martyr Qassem Soleimani supported and made efforts to bypass the sanctions imposed by the U.S. so that people do not feel lack of medicine and medical equipment, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said on Monday.

After the U.S. government imposed new sanctions on Iran, despite their lies about not sanctioning medicine, food and medical equipment, they put the highest pressure on us to procure medicine and medical equipment, he lamented.

"I wrote two letters to the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom to inform him of the American crime against humanity. However, General Soleimani was the one who helped greatly to import medicine in different ways," he explained.

وزیر بهداشت: شهید سلیمانی برای شکستن تحریم‌های دارویی تلاش کرد

سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت گفت: شهید قاسم سلیمانی در یک سال اخیر بسیار مارا همراهی و حمایت کرد تا توانستیم از مسیرهای مختلف حلقه تحریم‌ها را بشکنیم تا مردم در خصوص دارو و تجهیزات پزشکی با مشکل زیادی روبه‌رو نشوند.

نمکی در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا افزود: بعد از اینکه آمریکایی‌ها تحریم‌های جدیدی را به ما تحمیل کردند و علیرغم دروغ‌ها منی بر تحریم نبوده‌اند، دارو، غذا و تجهیزات پزشکی، اما بیشترین فشار را به مادرزمینه تهیه دارو و تجهیزات پزشکی آوردند.

"در همین زمینه نیز من دو نامه به آقای تدریس - دبیر کل سازمان جهانی بهداشت نوشتم که این کار آمریکایی‌ها جنایت علیه بشریت است. شهید قاسم سلیمانی یکی از افرادی بود که به شدت کمک می‌کرد که این حلقه تحریم را بشکنیم و از هر راهی که می‌توانیم برای مردم دارو تهیه کنیم."

SOCIETY

AUGUST 15, 2021

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Charity generates 21,000 jobs in deprived areas

TEHRAN – Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, will provide employment for 21,000 individuals residing in deprived areas of the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

With the implementation of 7,000 job creation projects in Sistan-Baluchestan this year which began on March 21, some 21,000 jobs will be created in underprivileged areas of the province, Morteza Niazi, deputy head of Barekat Foundation for employment development said.

Out of 7,000 job plans, 1,650 have been put into operation and another 5,200 projects are in the process to be launched, he stated, adding that moreover, it has also planned to implement 300 family business projects (micro workshops) in deprived areas of the province.

He went on to say that 22 cities and 993 villages of Sistan-Baluchestan are covered by the employment creation activities of Barekat Foundation, YJC reported on Saturday.

"By the end of last year (March 20), the Foundation has implemented 14,530 job creation projects in deprived areas of the province, which has provided business opportunities for more than 43,500 people.

Jobs created in Sistan-Baluchestan are mainly in the fields of livestock, aquaculture, clothing production, poultry, and technical services; This year, the Barekat Foundation is launching 70,000 new community-based projects, which



will create more than 210,000 job opportunities for residents of in deprived and rural areas of the country," he explained.

To date, the foundation has launched 120,000 community-based projects with a budget of 115 trillion rials (nearly \$2.7 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) in deprived

areas, which has created employment for 360,000 people.

According to Niazi, the number of villages covered by the Foundation has increased from 7,575 villages last year to 8,000 this year. The foundation is also active in 440 cities.

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

To date, the foundation has created employment for 360,000 people.

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.

IRCS denies sending coronavirus vaccines to Venezuela



TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), has denied sending any shipment of COVID-19 vaccines from Iran to Venezuela.

A video went viral on social media on Wednesday, in which a person claims that a consignment of Sinopharm vaccine is to be sent to Venezuela when the country is dealing with the fifth wave of the pandemic and is highly in need of vaccine.

"Our routine is that when we purchase a ship-

ment of vaccine from China, we will receive it at Imam Khomeini Airport and deliver it to the Ministry of Health" IRCS spokesman Mohammad Hassan Qousian said on Saturday.

"When the consignment of another country arrives at Imam Khomeini Airport, this is a kind of cargo transit, and investigations have shown that this consignment was transferred from China to Iran to be sent to Venezuela," he explained.

The IRCS has never confiscated any shipment of COVID-19 vaccine from other countries and has never sent the quota of the Iranian people to other countries, he emphasized.

Transshipment is the shipment of goods or containers to an intermediate destination, then to another destination.

One possible reason for transshipment is to change the means of transport during the journey, known as trans-loading. Another reason is to combine small shipments into a large shipment (consolidation), or the opposite: dividing a large shipment into smaller shipments (deconsolidation).

Transshipment usually takes place to reduce transportation costs or circumvent sanctions imposed on the destination country.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 14

New cases	29,700
New deaths	466
Total cases	4,389,085
Total deaths	97,208
New hospitalized patients	4,154
Patients in critical condition	7,152
Total recovered patients	3,700,828
Diagnostic tests conducted	27,078,261
Doses of vaccine injected	18,581,226

