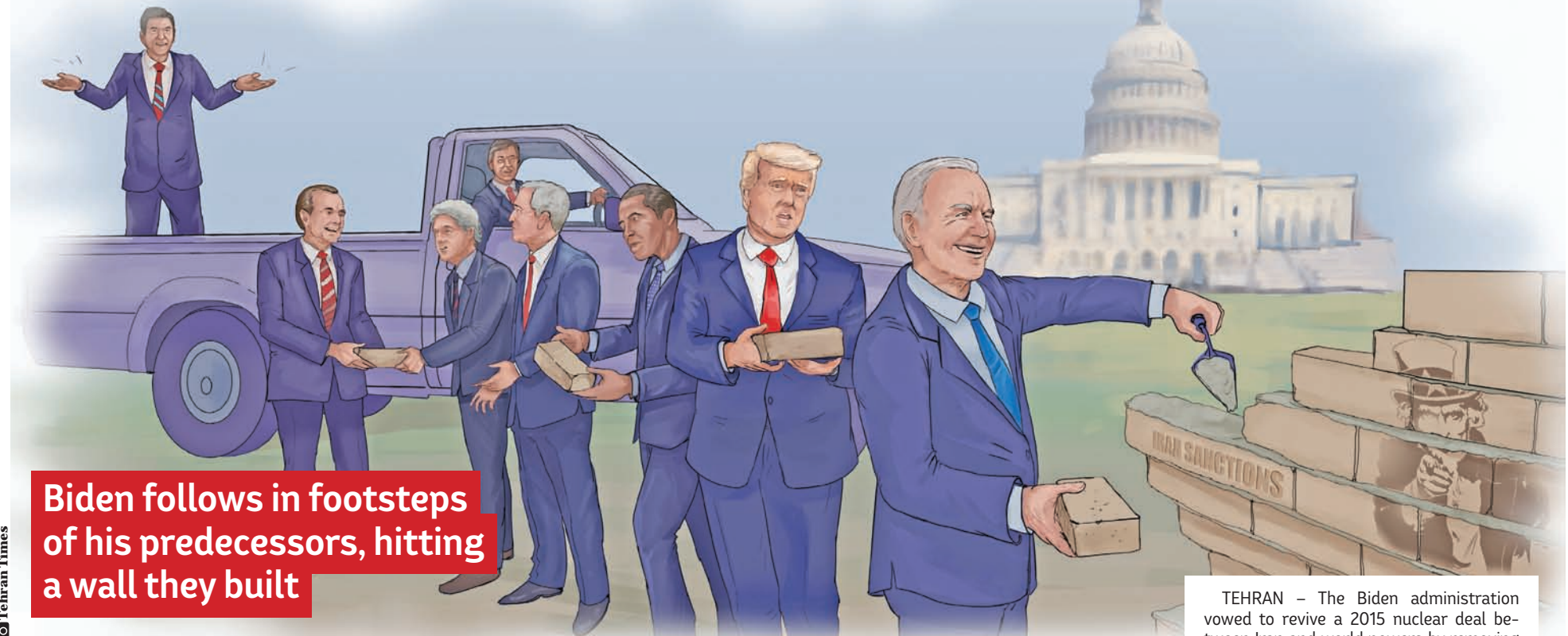


Another Brick in the Wall



© Tehran Times

Biden follows in footsteps of his predecessors, hitting a wall they built

TEHRAN – The Biden administration vowed to revive a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers by removing the illegal sanctions imposed by the previous administration but it ended up imposing and maintaining the same sanctions it had decreed.

When former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Democrats, including those now in the Biden administration, rushed to condemn Trump's ill-advised decision to withdraw from a deal that kept Iran's nuclear program under tight control.

They portrayed the decision as an attempt driven by a strong distaste on the part of Trump for everything that constituted what came to be known as Barack Obama's presidential legacy in which the JCPOA stood out as the most important breakthrough.

Over the course of his presidency, Trump continued to pile up sanctions on Iran in complete disregard for Democratic objections. And when the 2020 U.S. election season rolled around, Democrats, including Biden himself, saw an opportunity to undermine Trump by calling into question his Iran policy. At some point, Biden even pledged to reverse Trump's Iran policy.

"I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy. If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the United States would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations. With our allies, we will work to strengthen and extend the nuclear deal's provisions, while also addressing other issues of concern," then-presidential candidate Biden wrote in a September 13, 2020 op-ed for CNN.

The promises Biden made during his election campaign frightened some Iran hawks in Washington ▶ Page 3

Interview

Risk of military confrontation between China and U.S. is growing, ex-White House official warns

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Frank Von Hippel, who he was responsible for national security issues in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy From 1993 to 1994, warns about "the danger of growing military confrontation" between China and the United States.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Hippel says he is concerned about "the possibility of war if China decides to seize Taiwan by force."

Hippel, a nuclear physicist and professor of public and international affairs at Princeton, adds, "Since the stakes are so high, such a war could turn nuclear."

Australia, the UK, and the U.S. and have announced a security pact in what is seen as an effort to counter China. It will let Australia build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time, using technology provided by the U.S. ▶ Page 5

Eslami urges U.S. to rectify wrong policies and lift Iran sanction

TEHRAN – Chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), who has visited Vienna, told NHK that the United States should lift all sanctions against his country.

Mohammad Eslami, who addressed the 65th general conference of the IAEA on Monday, stressed that the U.S. should rectify its "wrong policies".

Eslami said the U.S. has failed to implement its obligations under the legally binding 2015 nuclear pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He said it is necessary that the U.S. remove all sanctions and quickly return to the JCPOA. The new

nuclear chief added Iran will take action step by step, in accordance with what the U.S. does.

The U.S. under Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018 and re-imposed previous sanctions lifted under the JCPOA and introduced new ones under his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

The Biden administration began indirect talks with Iran in April to salvage the deal. But the negotiations have stalled due to disagreements on issues including the extent of sanctions relief.

Tehran's nuclear program topped the agenda at the general meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency that kicked off on Monday.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi called on Tehran to cooperate with the Agency's inspection of nuclear facilities in the country.

One year after the U.S. quit the JCPOA Iran said its strategic patience is over and started to gradually remove bans on its nuclear activities in accordance with paragraph 36 of the JCPOA.

Iran took this compensatory measure as the European signatories to the JCPOA failed to compensate Iran for the sanctions.

Under the nuclear agreement Iran agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. ▶ Page 2

Industrial sector grows 6% in Q1

TEHRAN – Iranian Industrial sector grew by six percent in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), Deputy Industry Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki said citing data released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

"By continuously monitoring the production status of major industrial products and accelerating the supply of raw materials required by producers, we try to continue and maintain the upward trend of growth in the industrial sector," Niaraki said.

He also pointed to the good performance of the mentioned sector in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22) and said: "In this period, due to the investments made and the inauguration of more than 2,000 production units, over 54,000 jobs were created, which compared to last year, we saw a growth of about 46 percent in creating industrial employment in the country."

Sadeghi Niaraki also reviewed the production status of 24 major industrial products, saying: "According to official data, in the first four months of this year, of the mentioned industrial products the production of 13 items increased, among which vegetable oil, washing machines, combines, refrigerators and freezers and soot were the top five products."

He called on all entities and organizations to cooperate for supporting the country's industrial sector and expressed hope that the upward trend of the mentioned sector will continue in the second half of the current fiscal year. ▶ Page 4

'Important' bas-relief carvings discovered near Persepolis

TEHRAN – Iranian archaeologists have discovered a number of "important" bas-relief carvings in mountainous areas near the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, the director of the World Heritage site has said.

"With the efforts of our country's archaeologists, several important inscriptions were discovered on Mount Rahmat near Persepolis," CHTN quoted Hamid Fadaei as saying on Tuesday.

The text of one of those inscriptions reveals that it was caved in the fourth year of the reign of [Achaemenid king] Yazdegerd in memory of a special person. And that relief is classified as burial inscriptions, the official explained.

Fadaei stated the newly-found inscriptions are classified as the most authentic historical documents.

"The center for inscriptions research in Persepolis has been activated to read [and decipher] the inscriptions."

The official, however, did not provide further details about the inscriptions.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, ▶ Page 6

- Iranian MP expresses surprise over IAEA silence over AUKUS **P2**
- Iran: Vienna talks to resume in coming weeks **P2**
- Iran can smartly use SCO membership as leverage in Vienna talks: South Alabama University professor **P2**
- Iran FM, UNHCR discuss humanitarian situation in Afghanistan **P3**
- Iran advance to World Women's Handball C'ship **P3**
- Abbas Beheshti appointed Oil Minister representative in Iraq affairs **P4**
- Over 106,000 tons of car tires produced in 5 months **P4**
- Major economic issues explored at TCCIMA board meeting **P4**
- American guards "whipping" black refugees triggers outrage **P5**
- Motor rally to mark 41st anniversary of Sacred Defense **P6**
- Sarayan caravanserai restored to former glory **P6**
- Tehran to play host to TIM 2022 **P7**
- Lake Urmia shrinks by over 1,500 km2 **P7**
- "Sun Children" crowned best at Zlin Film Festival **P8**
- Iranian puppeteers to build "The House of Bernarda Alba" at Charleville-Mézières festival **P8**

Interview

Iran volleyball need to rekindle fans' interest: coach

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Former Iran volleyball coach Naser Shahnazi says that Iran needed to win the Asian title to maintain the interest of their supporters.

Iran retained their Asian Men's Volleyball Championship title with a 3-0 (27-25, 25-22, 31-29) win over Japan in the final at Chiba Port Arena on Sunday.

Shahnazi, who has been the head coach of the Iran B team for a while and the assistant coach of the Argentinian head coach Julio Velasco in the Iran national team, shared his opinion with Tehran Times.

"Following poor results in the 2021 Nations League and also the 2020 Olympic Games, there was a negative atmosphere among the Iranian volleyball fans and experts. They were comparing the current situation with the past," Shahnazi said.

"This made the 2021 Asian Championship more crucial for us to get good results. In a normal situation, the continental games are not that important for us because Iran's level of volleyball has been much higher than the level of Asian competitions in the recent years.

"However, this time, we needed to win the trophy to make Iranian people reconcile with the national volleyball team again. I'm thrilled that Behrouz Ataei's men could win the title and congratulate all the players and coaching staff and also the volleyball fans," he added.

The head coach of Saipa volleyball team cautioned the national team staff about future events.

"We must not forget that this success was at the Asian Games and not in a world-class tournament. I've always said that a significant problem for us is that we exaggerate our victories and our failures in competitions as well," he added. ▶ Page 3

Art Bureau launches poetry congress to laud General Soleimani's valor in war

TEHRAN – The Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization has launched a poetry congress to salute Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani for his valor during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The meeting entitled "The Sarbedaran Commander Poetry Congress" will open on Thursday at Tehran's Vahdat Hall.

"The meeting also intends to collect top poems on the great valor Martyr Soleimani showed during the early days of the war," the congress president, Morteza Amiri-Esfandagheh, said in a press release on Monday.

"The poems should be as perfect as his heroism," he noted and added, "This congress would help bolster the revolution poetry."

An expert team composed of Amiri-Esfandagheh, Saeid Yusefnia and Mostafa Mohaddes Khorasani will select poems, and music composer Hossein Taqipur is acting as an advisor to the congress. ▶ Page 8



© president.ir

Iran president showers wartime veterans with praise

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has participated in a ceremony held to commemorate the services rendered by wartime veterans, noting that praising veterans prevents "ignorance".

Speaking on Tuesday at the ceremony for praising the veterans of the Iran-Iraq war, also known as the Holy Defense, Ayatollah Raisi said, "The key to the immortality of the name of martyrs and veterans of the Holy Defense" ▶ Page 3

Eslami urges U.S. to rectify wrong policies and lift Iran sanction

From page 1 ► **Eslami meets German energy minister**

Iran's nuclear chief also met on Tuesday with Andreas Fiecht, the German Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, on the sidelines of the annual IAEA conference.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based IAEA, tweeted, "Heads of Iranian and German's delegations met at the sidelines of IAEA GC. Mohammad Eslami, Head of AEOI and Andreas Fiecht, State Sec for Economic Affairs and Energy discussed bilateral relations and developments around the JCPOA."

Eslami also met Grossi on Monday to discuss technical issues and future cooperation in accordance with the IAEA rules and regulations.

Regarding his meeting with the IAEA director general, Eslami said, "The meeting with the Director General of the (International Atomic Energy) Agency was a follow-up to his visit and the talks in Tehran. We agreed with him that we should establish and define the current situation as a turning point in the IAEA-Iran relationship



in a way that is full of goodwill. Also, our technical issues and the tasks of the Agency should be used in such a way that we can expand the country's nuclear program."

He also noted that Iran has not deviated from its nuclear program.

Addressing the IAEA conference on Monday, Eslami also said, "It is necessary that the IAEA avoid politicization and maintain its independence, impartiality and professionalism."

Iran can smartly use SCO membership as leverage in Vienna talks: South Alabama University professor



TEHRAN – A professor of political science and international relations at the University of South Alabama (USA) According says Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will not in itself have a decisive impact on Tehran's relations with the West as well as the Vienna talks.

However, Nader Entessar says, Iran can use its membership in the organization as a leverage through careful planning and active foreign policy with the West and the Vienna talks.

"Most of the SCO member states have good and extensive relations with the West, and their membership in the organization has not affected their relations with the West," Entessar told IRNA in an interview published on Tuesday.

The Vienna talks are aimed at to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

After 15 years Iran was admitted as a full member of the SCO on September 17. So far Iran was an observer member. The decision to accept Iran as a member was done as the SCO leaders met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on September 16-17.

"There were two main reasons for the prolongation of Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. One reason was that there was no consensus among the members of this organization on accepting Iran as a permanent member. The second reason was related to Iran itself. The Iranian administrations did not show as much interest in the country's permanent membership as they should," Entessar stated.

On the dimensions, position and importance of the SCO, the professor said it is a newly established and relatively young institution and has not yet reached its potential.

"Therefore, it still does not have a high position in the world compared to some old organizations," Entessar highlighted. However, he said, with the passage of time and reaching political maturity, it can become one of the most valuable global organizations.

"The main goal of the SCO is to fight extremism"

The expert does not consider the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as an anti-Western regional group, stating that the main and strategic goal of the organization is to fight extremism, es-

pecially Salafi extremism, terrorism and separatist movements.

Most of the members of the organization have very good relations with the West, Entessar noted.

Regarding the benefits of Iran's permanent membership in the SCO, he noted: "The number of citizens of the member states of the organization is almost half of the world's population, and the gross domestic product of these countries is a quarter of the world."

"Being a member of the Shanghai pact or any other organization does not in itself bring benefits to member states," said the professor of political science and international relations at the University of South Alabama.

In order to gain its benefits and interests, Iran must formulate an intelligent, active and changeable foreign policy in line with the conditions of the region and the world, and implement the main foreign policy priority on the protection of the country's national interests, the expert underscored.

"Permanent admission to SCO an important step towards orientalism"

Referring to some internal conflicts among the members of the SCO, Entessar said: "The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a young institution and has not yet reached full political maturity, so some internal conflicts among the official members of this organization are not unexpected at this time."

He added that NATO, which is much older and more cohesive than the SCO, has not yet been able to resolve some internal conflicts among its members.

There is no and there will be no organization in the world that there is no conflict or disagreement among its members.

Asked to what extent Tehran's permanent admission to the SCO could be effective in balancing Iran's foreign relations, the foreign policy analyst said: "The president of Iran has said that the focus of Iran's foreign policy is on cooperation with its neighbor and the countries of the region. And Iran's vision will be more orientalist and Asian."

He added Tehran's admission to the SCO will be an important step in this direction, Entessar went on to say.

Entessar also said it is incorrect to call the SCO as "Eastern NATO", saying the dimensions of military and security cooperation of the members of the SCO is in no way comparable to the extensive military and security cooperation that exists between NATO countries.

The NATO Charter obliges member states to take action in the event of a military attack on a member to defend the country that has been attacked, he said.

The SCO charter does not address the issue of collective security as defined in NATO and this means that if a member state is attacked, other members have no obligation to provide military assistance, Entessar elaborated.

and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Khatibzadeh said that no such meeting has ever been on the Iranian delegation's agenda.

However, he noted that the Iranian foreign minister will meet EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and hold bilateral talks with P4+1 foreign ministers who are in New York.

The diplomat underlined, "The agenda for the meeting of the Iranian and P4+1 foreign ministers has not been set in advance, and to our knowledge, not all the P4+1 foreign ministers are present in New York."

Iranian MP expresses surprise over IAEA silence over AUKUS

MP says IAEA inspectors are CIA and Mossad agents

TEHRAN — Alireza Salimi, a member of the presiding board of the Iranian parliament, has strongly criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency for being silent on a military deal between Australia, the UK and US for building nuclear submarines.

The trilateral partnership, dubbed AUKUS, was signed on September 15. It was meant to provide Australia with nuclear-propulsion technology for submarines.

Some world leaders and nuclear physicists have warned that the nuclear fuel may be diverted to nuclear weapons.

Frank Von Hippel, who he was responsible for national security issues in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy from 1993 to 1994, tells the Tehran Times that "U.S. and UK reactors are fueled with weapon-grade (93.5%-U-235) uranium."

Hippel, a nuclear physicist, says, "I have argued for almost 30 years that this is a terrible example for the U.S. to set for the world."

MP Salimi questioned the UN nuclear watchdog's silence over this sensitive deal, asking, "Why are they silent about the deal?"

He asked why IAEA director Rafael Grossi, who becomes too sensitive over Iran's peaceful nuclear program when some controversial people publish a few reports about Iran's nuclear program, is watching the issue of the nuclear submarines in "total silence and has become a spectator?"

What does this silence mean? he said in an interview with the Fars news agency.

"Are there still 'awakened conscience' in the world and a vigilant and independent media that would cry out against the apparent proliferation of nuclear weapons?" he added.



He also questioned the sincerity of the people watching the AUKUS pact in utter silence.

France's foreign minister expressed "total incomprehension" at the move, while the EU foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, complained that Europe had not been consulted.

France will lose a nearly \$100 billion deal to build diesel submarines for Australia under the terms of the initiative, which will see the U.S. and Britain help Canberra construct nuclear-powered ones.

The pact created a huge controversy all around the world, from China to the EU and the United Arab Emirates.

The senior Iranian MP went on to say that the IAEA is silent in the face of the Zionist regime's nuclear weapons program.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Israel has 90 nuclear weapons.

He added, "The IAEA is silent on the unconventional laboratories of some other countries, such as France, Britain, the United States,

and some of their satellite states, but it is quick to take action against the countries opposed to the U.S.

Salimi said that the IAEA should get out of its current position and rebuild itself.

"Other international institutions should fly and reach the peak of independence, and they need to get out of this horrible mindset they have created for themselves, which is only the thoughts of the CIA dictated to them," the parliamentarian said.

He added that unfortunately the IAEA has behaved in a way that it is seen in the world as an agent of the CIA and Mossad.

The senior parliamentarian underscored, "Nuclear spies in the form of the IAEA inspectors come to Iran regularly and have taken our information and left us nothing secret. Why should the IAEA become a spy agent, while the world's public opinion of spies is a hateful one?"

He added that independent agencies strongly despise the IAEA's espionage behavior.

Winning public trust strengthens people's participation in politico-social affairs: analyst

TEHRAN – Nasser Imani, a principlist political activist, told IRNA on Sunday that "attracting public trust will strengthen people's participation in various social and political affairs and will lead to people's cooperation with officials."

People's trust and hope in the administration is one of the most important issues in governance, which causes the social capital of administrations to increase, and with the support of this social capital, decisions are made in the international arena.

Therefore, the trust and hope of the people towards the administration is very important, but the problem is that this trust in Iran has decreased to some extent in recent years, and this is a source of concern. The issue led IRNA to have an interview with Imani.

"Public trust depends on efficiency of political system"

Imani considers public trust as one of the great social issues, saying: "Public trust means how competent people consider the administration of the country."

That is, Imani said, the people have enough confidence in the efficiency of the political system, the state, and the administration in running the country.

In such a situation the people confide the administration that decides about their future, is economically prosperous, provide security in all aspects of their life, and have created a culturally and politically developed system, the analyst opined.

"Public confidence in administration has declined in recent years"

Regarding the public trust in Iran in recent years, the political activist said: "People's public trust in the administration and other state institutions, especially the executive branch, has reached its lowest level in recent years, mostly due to the poor performance of the previous administration."

Of course, some issues, such as sanctions, and more recently the issue of the corona, have had their own effects, Imani noted.

The decline in public confidence is mainly due to the people's economic problems, such as rising prices, declining purchasing power, depreciation of national currency, unemployment, 50% inflation rate, and despair about their future and those of their children, he stated.

"The decline in public confidence was mainly due to their economic problems, which, with rising prices and declining purchasing power of the people, the devaluation of the national currency, the problem of unemployment, and rising prices... and people feel that they are suffering from a kind of 'statelessness'. That is, there is no one who can run the country," he explained.

"Increasing public trust will maximize common language between people, administration"

"Decreasing public confidence in the political system or the executive branch does not make much difference, whichever it is, it is ultimately a reference to the political system of the country and makes first of all people have less participation in the plans of the administration," he opined.

Second, the analyst noted, is that the "common language" between the people and the administration reaches its lowest point.

That is, in fact, the things that the administration wants to convey to the public opinion, the people do not accept them, and the situation develops in a way that is ready for any crisis, Imani notes.

"That is, with the smallest issue that may occur in a city or our province, this will become



a major security and political problem in the country. As in the case of water shortage in Khuzestan, people felt that they were suffering from water shortage and that no one was paying attention to their problems, and this is one of the consequences of reducing the administration's relations with the people. Thus, society becomes ready and prone to various crises."

"Lack of emotional connection between people and administration harms social capital"

Regarding the harms resulting from public distrust, Imani stated that lack of "emotional connection" between the administration and the people will undermine social capital and, in fact, causes the emotional connection towards the administration and the state to reach its lowest level.

Because when people wake up in the morning and see that the price of gasoline has risen without the administration informing them in advance and decision are being taken behind closed doors, people naturally feel "alienated", he commented.

Therefore, people's problem with the issue of gasoline was not just why its price has multiplied, rather the main problem was that the administration had behaved in a way that the people felt they are not trustful, and with these behaviors, the gap between the people and the administration will definitely increase, the analyst remarked.

"Public trust is the main asset for administrations"

"Administrations have nothing but the people and winning their trust, which has greatly diminished in recent years and the relationship between the administration and the people has been severely damaged," the principled political activist said.

The people will cooperate as much as possible when the administration consults with them and informs them about the difficulties in advance, he said.

The result of such a situation is that people react, Imani added.

For example, he said, when it is announced that the people must observe the health protocols, some people do not pay attention, or when it is said that the number of deaths due to corona is so high, few people accept it.

"So, because of this disconnection..., the people do not consider what is being said is true, and this means that the people do not trust and the social trust between them and the administration is affected."

"People will cooperate if public confidence restored"

Regarding restoring public confidence in administrations, he said: "If administrations restore public confidence, people will still cooperate, no matter how much they have problems and have a hard time living."

The question is, how does public trust

is gained? the analyst asked, stating that administrations should not make decisions behind "closed doors" and they should understand the needs of the people.

People have a thorough understanding of many issues in the country, including issues such as foreign policy, which is a specialized field, let alone domestic issues, he argued.

He went to say that is a general understanding on the part of the people about cultural, economic, social issues.

Regarding the relationship between the administration and the people in order to gain public trust, Imani said: "The administration must be among the people. Being among the people does not necessarily mean that someone in charge be present in the subway and among the people."

Administrations can actually understand in different ways how different walks of life think about different issues and what they want, the political activist noted.

Administrations may not be able to understand what the people want, at least in the short term, so they need to consult with the people to understand what is needed to solve the problems, he pointed out.

"Administrations' measures to increase public trust"

The political activist also stated: "Administrations must take a number of steps to increase public trust, including honesty in the words. It means that people understand the honesty in the behavior and remarks of officials well. This is a psychological feeling."

Also, if the people realize that the administrations talk to them honestly and share opinion about national issues and problems with them, they will definitely do the necessary cooperation, he insisted.

"So the honesty of the administrations is very important for the people."

"Corruption undermines and public trust"

Regarding the issue of corruption and public trust, Imani noted: "In recent years, people, while living in difficult conditions, are noticing news of financial abuses... by some officials in the country. Creating (an environment for) corruption means incompetence and inefficiency of the government, especially the executive branch."

It is not a secret to the people that corruption has increased and people think that high-ranking officials themselves are involved and benefit from corruption, the political activist regretted.

"If we follow the conversations of people everywhere, in streets, markets, taxis, buses, subways, and anywhere else, we find that they often speak logically and correctly about the same subject (corruption). When people believe that some elements of the administration are involved in corruption, there is no other way but to show in practice that the administration is against corruption."

Imani added: "If the administrations are against corruption... and the people feel that corruption is strongly opposed, there will be more empathy and the lost trust will be restored."

This does not mean that there is no more corruption at all, he said.

Corruption eventually occurs, but reducing it greatly the public opinion concludes that the administration is strongly opposed to corruption and will take it seriously, even if some officials were involved in it, he underlined.

If this feeling is transmitted to the people, those effects of suspicion will no longer continue, so the first step to increase public trust is a serious fight against corruption, the analyst concluded.

Iran: Vienna talks to resume in coming weeks

Amir Abdollahian will not meet P4+1 counterparts

TEHRAN — In an interview with IRNA correspondent in New York, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has said that talks to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will resume in Vienna in the coming weeks, and the other sides have been notified about this.

However, he noted that the new Iranian government's foreign policy team needs to make its final conclusion on the talks.

In response to a question about the possibility of a meeting between P4+1 foreign ministers within the JCPOA Joint Commission

Another Brick in the Wall

Biden follows in footsteps of his predecessors, hitting a wall they built

From Page 1 ► who feared that Biden would deliver on his promises. In an effort to block any U.S. return to the JCPOA, these hawks even advised the Trump administration in its waning days to build a wall of sanctions.

The main purpose of this wall was to perpetuate sanctions on Iran and prevent a successor administration from lifting the sanctions. To this end, Trump's administration changed the logic of sanctions and, in some cases, reimposed previously imposed sanctions under non-nuclear-related authorities, including the U.S.'s counterterrorism sanctions authority.

All this went up in smoke as the Biden administration had no intention of substantially removing the Trump-era sanctions right from the start. Biden did quite the opposite. He even imposed new sanctions on Iran and keeps threatening Iran with stricter implementation of oil sanctions.

Biden followed in the footsteps of Trump. And this was noticed by leading American commentators. Farid Zakaria, a Washington Post columnist, has recently expressed surprise at Biden normalizing Trump's foreign policy in many areas, including the JCPOA.



"After almost eight months of watching policies, rhetoric and crises, many foreign observers have been surprised — even shocked — to discover that, in area after area, Biden's foreign policy is a faithful continuation of Donald Trump's and a repudiation of Barack Obama's," Zakaria wrote in an opinion piece for the Washington Post.

Zakaria were understandably surprised at the continuation of Trump's policies by Biden. "Another striking example of Biden's surprisingly

Trumpian foreign policy is the Iran deal, one of the landmark accomplishments of the Obama administration. Throughout his election campaign, Biden argued that Trump's withdrawal from that agreement had been a cardinal error and that, as president, he would rejoin it as long as Iran would also move into compliance. His national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, described Trump's reimposing of secondary sanctions against Tehran despite opposition from U.S. allies as 'predatory unilateralism,'" he noted, adding, "But since he took

office, Biden has failed to return to the deal and has even extended some sanctions. Having long argued against trying to renegotiate the deal, Biden officials now want to 'lengthen and strengthen' it. So far, this Trump-Biden strategy has not worked."

Zakaria's being caught by surprise with Biden's Trumpian policy emanates from his belief that Biden is different from Trump. But this is not the case. For Iran, there is no difference between Biden and Trump. Both are a chip off the old American block. When Biden assumed office in January, Iran was among the first to warn that Biden would replicate Trump's policy.

Despite having followed in the footsteps of Trump, Biden is expecting different results in terms of dealing with Iran. For example, Biden has kept Trump's sanctions in place. But at the same time calls on Iran to resume compliance with JCPOA while Iran's remedial measures in suspending some nuclear commitments were essentially in response to U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018. Biden is empty-handed. The sanctions option is exhausted. He used everything in his toolbox to coerce Iran into making concessions with no success.

Iran FM, UNHCR discuss humanitarian situation in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi have met to discuss the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Kabul.

The Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement that the two sides highlighted the importance of holding closed consultations between the two sides and discussed different dimensions of bilateral ties.

In the meeting, the top Iranian diplomat underscored the necessity of ameliorating the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

"Unfortunately, we are seeing Afghan people being forced from their homes inside the country and [seeing] their exodus to neighboring countries," said Abdollahian.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has hosted its Afghan brothers and sisters for four decades now, and has tried to be a good host throughout all these years despite sanctions and economic pressure, and recently the coronavirus pandemic," he added.

"But it is essential that international organizations more actively discharge their responsibilities with regards to the humanitarian situation in this country in order to prevent more noble Afghan people from being displaced," said the Iranian foreign minister.

The top UN official, in turn, expressed his gratitude to Iran for generously hosting Afghan migrants.

He elaborated on the latest humanitarian situation and challenges in Afghanistan and presented a report on his trip to the country.

He expounded on the UNHCR's programs and reaffirmed its commitment to refugees, namely Afghan migrants.

Iran has called on the Taliban to form an inclusive government after they toppled the previous government in Kabul. Iran, which hosts about 4 million Afghan refugees, underlined that forming an inclusive government is the only way to bring about peace and stability in the war-torn country.

Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has discussed the situation in Afghanistan during his recent visit to Tajikistan where he took part in a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

On the sidelines of this summit, Ayatollah Raisi met with many foreign leaders. The Afghanistan issue was on the agenda.

Ayatollah Raisi and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan underlined the need for the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan during a meeting on the fringes of the SCO summit on Thursday afternoon.

"We should help form a government in Afghanistan that includes all ethnic groups, and groups that arise from the will of the people of this country. The key to solving Afghanistan's problems is to form an inclusive government and prevent foreign interference in the country's affairs," the Iranian president said.

The meeting between the two senior officials took place as Raisi accepted a request by Prime Minister Khan to hold a joint meeting on the developments in

Afghanistan.

Pakistan's leader also said a safe and secure Afghanistan will benefit all countries in the region and the world at large.

Khan warned if an inclusive government is not formed in Afghanistan, the problems in the country would exacerbate, and Pakistan and Iran would suffer more than any other country. The meeting took place at the residence of the Iranian president.

"Iran and Pakistan must work closely and interact with each other for Afghanistan to successfully pass the stage of state-building and formation of an inclusive government," Imran Khan noted.

At the meeting, President Raisi stressed that the U.S. presence in Afghanistan resulted in nothing but destruction and displacement of the Afghan people.

"The 20-year history of U.S. and Western forces in Afghanistan has had no benefit other than destruction, displacement and killing of more than 35,000 Afghan children and thousands of men and women," Raisi lamented.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Raisi also described the relationship between the two countries goes beyond neighborliness due to historical and cultural commonalities.

"We should not allow the sedition and mischief of foreigners to affect these good relations," the Iranian president emphasized.

The Iranian president reiterated the same message during a meeting with Shaukati Mirzayev on the sidelines of the SCO meeting.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all groups and ethnic groups in Afghanistan, which will lead to the restoration of peace and stability in this country," Raisi insisted.

Both Iran and Tajikistan share common borders with Afghanistan which has come under the renewed control of the Taliban after 20 years.

Iran has called for a unanimous position on the formation of an all-inclusive government in Afghanistan. The Iranian foreign minister reiterated this message in a speech at a foreign ministerial meeting of Afghanistan's neighboring countries.

In the virtual meeting held on September 10, the top Iranian diplomat made comments about the latest developments in Afghanistan.

At the beginning, the foreign minister expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to hold consultations with his counterparts on Afghanistan, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously and closely watching the course of events in Afghanistan.

He expressed hope that the meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors will send a strong and unanimous message to establish an all-inclusive government which brings together representatives from all Afghan groups, fight terrorism, combat drug smuggling and sends humanitarian aid, thus rekindling hope among Afghan people.



"By reaching agreement with the respected foreign ministers, I hope we will be able to leave open border crossings with neighboring countries for trade and sending humanitarian aid," said Abdollahian.

The top diplomat said Tehran stands ready to host the next meeting of Afghanistan's neighboring countries in person, too.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran keeps pursuing the establishment of a broad-based government with the presence of all Afghan groups, and we hope the Taliban will make good on their commitments," he noted.

"Experience shows that the formation of a non-inclusive government has not helped improve stability, tranquility and the situation in Afghanistan through history; so, we expected the foreign ministers to announce, with one voice, the significance of the establishment of an all-inclusive government which brings together all groups," the top Iranian diplomat said.

Abdollahian stressed that Iran's top priority is to see peace, stability and tranquility established following the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

"The United States is the root cause of the anarchy in Afghanistan over the past two decades," he said.

"They (the U.S.) should be held accountable to Afghan people, the region and the world public opinion as to why the smuggling and exports of narcotics multiplied during their presence in, and occupation of Afghanistan, why terrorism grew in Afghanistan, why the Americans had no success in establishing new structures and building a government, why the presence of the Americans, who claim to have spent \$ 2.6 trillion, had no result other than poverty, anarchy and insecurity in Afghanistan? Of course, this wrong U.S. policy had adverse consequences for neighboring countries as well," he noted.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that war should be superseded by dialogue in Afghanistan, and that using military means rather than dialogue would arouse concern among Afghan people," Abdollahian explained.

He said Iran is hosting some 4-million 'Afghan brothers and sisters' and has prioritized their vaccination against COVID-19 despite Washington's cruel sanctions and will spare no support for Afghan people," he said.

The top diplomat said the outcome of the present foreign ministerial meeting should be a strong message for Afghan people, who have endured pain and suffering.

resources on the world. By praising martyrs, we can remove the mask from the face of this modern ignorance."

He also took part in the national exhibition of "In Military Uniform", a documentary narrated by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

President Raisi also issued a message congratulating the appointment of Brigadier General Pilot Hamid Vahedi as commander of the Air Force of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a separate message, Ayatollah Raisi also congratulated the appointment of Brigadier General Pilot Aziz Nasirzadeh as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

IRAN IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

We will not underestimate Uzbekistan: Nazemosharia

TEHRAN – Iran futsal coach Mohammad Nazemoshahria says that they will have a difficult task against Uzbekistan in Round of 16 of the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Iran qualified for the Round of 16 Monday night as the second team after two wins against Serbia and the U.S. and a loss against Argentina.

"We are happy for booking a place in the Round of 16. We rested two players for the match against Argentina because they were slightly injured. They will be fit for Uzbekistan match," Nazemosharia said.

"Uzbekistan are a strong team because they are competing in the FIFA World Cup. The best teams in the world have participated in the competition and we will not underestimate any team," he added.

"We played Uzbekistan in the Continental Futsal Championship Thailand in July but the team are very different with that time and we will have a difficult task ahead of us," Iran coach added.

"Uzbekistan played Spain after the Thailand tournament and they have played 18 matches with the best futsal teams in the world over the past three years.

Under leadership of Nazemoshahried, Iran made history in the 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Colombia and won the bronze medal for the first time.

"We will do our best against Uzbekistan since we want to make our people happy, that's why we are here," Nazemosharia concluded.

Iran advance to World Women's Handball C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran women's handball team made history in the 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship after advancing to the competition's semifinals.

Iran defeated Syria 38-19 at the Princess Sumaya Hall on Tuesday and sealed their ticket to the world championship.

Iran will meet South Korea on Thursday in the semifinals round.

The Persians started the campaign with a loss against Japan but earned four consecutive wins against Kuwait, Palestine, Jordan and Syria.

Group A consists of South Korea, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Hong Kong.

The 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship is being held from Sept. 15 to 25 in Amman, Jordan under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

It is the third time in history that the championship is organized by the Jordan Handball Federation.

It also acts as the qualification tournament for the 2021 World Women's Handball Championship, with the top six teams from the championship directly qualifying for the event to be held in Spain.

Luciano Gonzalez hails the U.S progression against Iran futsal

TEHRAN – American futsal player Luciano Gonzalez says that his team showed progress and kept its nerve against Iran at the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

The U.S. lost to Iran in Group F 2-1, after the team suffered a heavy 11-0 against defending champion Argentina.

"Against Iran, we may have lost but played the right way. We kept our nerve, showed progress and came off the court with no regrets. We've got nothing to lose," Gonzalez said in an interview with FIFA.com.

"We came here to gain experience, looking to the future, and defeats against the best teams in the world is the path we have to go down," the player pointed out, before looking ahead with a degree of optimism.

"I'm 26 and I can still learn things, improve and continue to bring something to the team as we make progress over the coming years. We want to make it back and get better every time." He added.

"We've faced big teams, sending out young players who don't have any futsal experience, and despite all that, we've put in some good

performances. It fills us with pride and hope and gives us the motivation to carry on working towards the future," Gonzalez stated.

"I've tried to set an example and I was lucky enough to score, which makes me very proud, but we all played a good match," said the man who plies his trade at club level with Citta di Massa.

"We all tried to play, construct our moves and implement what we'd worked on, and we came close to pulling off quite a result. If we have discipline, willingness and heart, we can hold our own against the big teams. And in any case we came out of it a lot better than we did in the match against Argentina. That was tough to come to terms with. They had possession for 38 minutes, and we simply didn't get to play."

Fariborz Asgari remains Iran taekwondo coach

TEHRAN – Fariborz Asgari will continue his job as coach of Iran taekwondo national team.

Following poor results of Iranian taekwondo athletes in the 2020 Olympic Games, it was expected the taekwondo federation to change the coaching staff.

In the session held in the federation's headquarters on Tuesday, Asgari extended his contract for one more year.

Armin Hadipour and Mirhashem Hosseini represented Iran at the 2020 Olympics but failed to win the medal.

Iran ready for AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualification, coach says

TEHRAN – Iran women's football team coach Somayyeh Shahbazi says that they are ready for the match against Bangladesh in the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup qualification.

Iran will meet Bangladesh in Group G on Wednesday.

Bangladesh was originally chosen to host the competition but the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has named Uzbekistan as hosts.

Iran, Jordan and Bangladesh are in Group G.

"We will start the competition with a match against Bangladesh and we are well-prepared for the match. The team has lost against Jordan and will play us with the aim of winning the match," Shahbazi said in an interview with website of Iran football federation.

"We have analyzed Bangladesh well and know their weakness points. We are ready to beat them on tomorrow," she added.

The 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup qualification will be the qualification tournament for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup.

A total of 12 teams will qualify to play in the final tournament in India. The hosts and the top three teams of the previous tournament in 2018 will qualify automatically, while the other eight teams will be decided by qualification, with the matches scheduled to be played from Sept. 13 to 25 in centralized venues.

This tournament will also serve as the first stage of Asian qualification for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, where five teams from the Women's Asian Cup qualify directly for the World Cup (plus co-hosts Australia), and two teams qualify for a 10-team playoff tournament.

Iran volleyball need to rekindle fans' interest: coach

From Page 1 ► "Positive results are important because they help the team's developing process. But there is no reason to be ultra optimistic. Let's stay calm. The fans also need to be balanced in understanding that the team are experiencing a process and need time to be better," said the volleyball expert.

Defending champions Iran won the title for the fourth time. Iran and Japan will represent Asia at the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship in Russia.

"We are the 10th team in FIVB World Ranking; it means that Iran are a great team. So, We have to start planning for the next three years and the next Olympics right now," he emphasized.

Iran president showers wartime veterans with praise

From Page 1 ► and Shrine Defenders and those who defend the principles of the Islamic Revolution is the fact that these dear ones went to the Heavens themselves," according to a readout published by the Iranian presidency.

Underlining the need to discern which wars in history were holy, the president noted, "The system of the Islamic Republic has become holy because it is based on religion, teachings of religion, the Book and Traditions."

He added, "In addition, the deeds of all individuals and sections must be holy in this system, and therefore everyone in his position must serve sincerely so that his deeds are also holy."

The president said, "The permanence



of our martyrs was due to the fact that they sacrificed everything for God, and that is why our late Imam Khomeini (RA), with that great personality, when came across them, said, 'I feel inferior and I envy your position.'"

Ayatollah Raisi said, "Everything that becomes holy becomes immortal, and therefore the way, message and method of the martyrs have forever immortalized in history."

Ayatollah Raisi added, "It has to become clear to the society that this country is managed by a jurist who does not tell the people to go towards a destination, but he has reached the destination himself and calls others to the destination."

Raisi stated, "Today we are facing modern ignorance which is equipped with a lot of science, technology, weapons and financial power and can impose the ugliest deeds as a value on society and in fact imposes its

Industrial sector grows 6% in Q1

From page 1 ► CBI, in its latest report, put the growth of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year at 6.2 percent. According to the mentioned data, the figure was 4.7 percent with oil excluded.

The country's GDP stood at 3.477 quadrillion rials (about \$82.7 billion) with oil, while the figure excluding oil was 3.148 quadrillion rials (about \$74.95 billion).

During the said period, with the exception of the agricultural sector which experienced negative growth of 0.9 percent due to the drought and reduced crop production, other economic sectors, including oil, industries, and mining and services experienced growth.



Abbas Beheshti appointed Oil Minister representative in Iraq affairs



TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji, in a decree on Monday, appointed Seyyed Abbas Beheshti as his representative in Iraq affairs in a move aimed at strengthening bilateral energy ties.

Identifying opportunities for cooperation with Iraq in various energy fields, identifying new opportunities for the presence of the Iranian private sector in Iraq's energy market, facilitating the attraction of investment in the country's oil and gas projects, and following up on the settlement of Iraq's energy debts to Iran has been noted as the main duties of the new position.

Beheshti will also be responsible for pursuing an oil-for-goods deal with Iraq, similar to a scheme it has used previously to

sell crude to countries such as Russia and India.

And in the upstream sector, he will oversee the exchange of information on the development of oil and gas fields on the Iran-Iraq border including Azadegan and Azar fields in the West Karun region.

Iraq is one of several neighboring countries that Iran continued to supply oil products to after U.S. sanctions were reimposed in 2018.

Iran's Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Product Exporters' Union said in April that more than 50 percent of the gasoline that Iran exports to its neighbors goes to Iraq.

One of the most critical duties in Beheshti's new role will be to expedite the settlement of Iraq's ballooning debt to Iran for gas and electricity supplies. Iraq has been importing Iranian gas under two supply agreements signed in 2013 and 2015.

These supplies from Iran are conditional on Iraq securing sanctions waivers from the U.S. And although Washington has regularly granted the waivers, it has done so on the condition that Iraq pledges to do its utmost to reduce its reliance on Iranian imports in the future. The most recent waiver was granted for a 120-day period through to 27 November.

Annual date export can reach \$1b

TEHRAN- As stated by the head of National Association of Iranian Dates (NAID), there is the capacity for the export of \$1 billion of dates from the country in a year.

Rashid Farokhi said that despite the drought and low rainfall, the annual date production is anticipated to reach 1.2 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2022).

Every year, 30 percent of the product is exported and the rest is consumed in the domestic market, he added.

Iran has exported over 60,000 tons of date to 52 countries during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi put the value of the four-month export at \$53.051 million, and mentioned Sweden, the Netherlands, Russia, Turkey, Qatar, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Britain, Iraq, India,



Pakistan, Kazakhstan, China, and Hungary as some of the export destinations of Iranian date, IRIB reported.

The official said that through importing \$9.729 million worth of date, Iraq was the major importer of the Iranian product, while Pakistan and Kazakhstan came next, importing \$7.647 million, and \$5.91 million worth of the product, respectively.

Every year, up to 1.2 million tons of various types of dates are produced in 203,763 hectares of land in Iran, making the country the second largest producer in terms of production and area under cultivation and the fifth largest exporter.

The acting head of Agriculture Ministry's Economic Affairs

Department Shahrokh Shajari has put Iran's exports of the agricultural and foodstuff products at about 7.104 million tons worth \$5.8 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

In the previous year, over 6.941 million tons of the mentioned products worth \$6.392 billion were also imported into the country, according to Shajari.

Watermelons, apples, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and shallots were the top five exported products in the previous year in terms of weight, while in terms of value, pistachios, apples, tomatoes, pistachio kernels, and watermelons were the five major export products, the official said.

Shajari further pointed to the major imported items in terms of weight, saying, corn, barley, soybean meal, soybean, and untreated sugar were the top five imported items, while in

terms of value livestock corn, rice, barley, and soybeans were the top imported products.

Also, the head of Tehran Fruit and Vegetable Traders Union has said his union is planning to export over two million tons of fruits in the current Iranian calendar year.

"This year, our total production will be 4.5 million tons, of which

Sweden, Russia, Turkey, Qatar, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, and Britain are some of the export destinations of Iranian dates.

2.5 million tons will be consumed domestically, and another two million is intended for export, and we are planning to export to Russia, Iraq, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan," Mostafa Daraei-Nejad said.

Referring to the situation of the fruit and vegetable market, the official said: "There are about 67 items of fruits and vegetables in the market, none of which we lack. We have only 2.5 million tons of fruit production in Mazandaran province."



economic growth.

The status of the parallel markets such as forex, housing, and gold markets has also made stock market a more attractive place for the people to invest in.

Meanwhile, the government's policy of lowering the interest rate of the bank deposits has redirected a huge amount of people's investment to the stock market.

In a recent interview, a director in Iran Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has announced

Iran to open trade centers in Uganda, UAE

TEHRAN - Following new strategies to expand trade markets, Iran is planning to open trade centers in Uganda and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Farzad Piltan, the director-general of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries announced.

"Based on the policies of the organization in facilitating the presence of Iranian companies, goods and services in target markets and based on the instructions for issuing licenses for establishing trade centers abroad, TPO has licensed the private sector to open trade centers in Uganda and the United Arab Emirates," Piltan said.

Noting that these centers will be established and operate under the supervision of the Trade Promotion Organization, he added: "According to the existing instructions, the trustees of these centers will have one year to provide the necessary



facilities and infrastructure for establishing the centers and obtain the necessary licenses from this organization."

According to the official, the mentioned trade centers are aimed to provide various services to Iranian companies and businesses such as consulting, marketing, legal

services, registering the brand and logo of companies, advertising services, allocating exhibition and office space and holding business events, allocating warehouse, advising on banking services, assisting in concluding commercial contracts, transportation logistics services, insurance, and accommodation.

Iran has been pursuing a new strategy for expanding trade activities in new destination markets and also in the country's major trade partners, and opening trade centers in such markets has been the main step in this regard.

Last week, Piltan had announced the opening of a trade center in Iraqi Kurdistan's Sulaymaniyah region.

"The trade center and permanent exhibition of Iranian products and services will be opened and put into operation in the city of Sulaymaniyah in the Iraqi Kurdistan region in the near future, in line with the plans of the Trade Promotion Organization to facilitate the entry of Iranian companies and goods into the Iraqi market," he said.

"This center has been established by the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran in collaboration with the Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF)," the official added.

Over 106,000 tons of car tires produced in 5 months



determined to strengthen its domestic production to achieve self-reliance.

Selecting the motto of "Pickup in Production" for the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and the slogan of "Surge in Production" for the year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021) indicates the Islamic Republic's determination to achieve this goal.

To this end, the Iranian ministries besides the private sector outlined their programs for the surge in production in the past year and pursued the set objectives seriously in this due.

It is clear that among different ministries, the

Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade was one with a somehow heavier responsibility to materialize the motto of the year.

The ministry managed to fulfill its duty as the production of some major industrial products was noticeably increased in the previous year.

One of the sectors, which achieved outstanding output growth, was the tire production industry.

The country's tire industry, despite the continuation of sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic conditions, as well as some domestic restrictions, has had a thriving and successful year overall; a year that was accompanied by record-breaking production and entry into some new fields.

In this regard, the breaking of production records in the production of various types of tires was witnessed, and for the first time, the annual output surpassed 24 million tires.

In addition to the successes achieved in terms of the output amount, the tire manufacturers entered new areas including production of the wide base tires and the tires of SUVs.

Wide base tires, which are a new generation of heavy vehicles' tires, were produced for the first time in West Asia by Iranian producers.

Major economic issues explored at TCCIMA board meeting



TEHRAN- The 26th meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Board of Representatives was held on Tuesday in which major economic issues were discussed.

As reported by the TCCIMA portal, barriers to the activity of startups, the benefits of joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, review of macroeconomic indicators of the country and monitoring the performance of TCCIMA, and the issues of the private sector enterprises with the Iran National Standard Organization (INSO) were among the major issues explored at the said meeting.

The meeting was attended by the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and the INSO Head Gholamreza Shariati, as well as the members of the chamber's board of representatives.

Speaking in the meeting Khansari mentioned a report published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) based on which Iran's industrial sectors have grown by 8.4 percent and 6.1 percent in the first and second quarters of 2021, respectively.

He also referred to the growth of the country's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21) and said: "Reports recently published by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the Statistics Center of Iran (SCI) indicate that economic growth, including oil, in the first quarter of this year was 6.2 percent,

according to the CBI, or 7.6 percent, according to the SCI, and if this trend continues, we hope economic conditions will get better."

Khansari went on to discuss the statistics of liquidity growth and monetary base and explained: "Liquidity growth is still on the rise; the liquidity figure in [the Iranian calendar month of] Mordad (July 22-August 22) reached 39.21 quadrillion rials (about \$933.5 billion), which is a very high figure and has experienced huge growth."

"The main reason for this increase in liquidity is the budget deficit. According to the latest reports, the country's revenues and expenditures do not match at all, and perhaps less than 50 percent of the country's expected revenues have been realized in the last five months, and the government has to use the central bank's resources to cover its expenses, which increases the monetary base," he added.

TEDPIX falls 36,500 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 36,553 points to 1.391 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 6.631 billion securities worth 53.9 trillion rials (about \$1.283 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 32,020 points, and the second market's index dropped 57,330 points.

After several days of drops, TEDPIX climbed 7,279 points to 1.427 million on Monday.

Over 6.251 billion securities worth 43.734 trillion rials (about \$1.041 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index rose 5,688 points and the second market's index gained 13,556 points.

TEDPIX lost 38,000 points, or 2.5 percent, to 1.488 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of State Retirement Fund, Social Security Investment Company, Sepid Makian Company, Behsaz Kashaneh Tehran Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical

Group were the most widely followed indices.

It's over two years that stock market in Iran has been playing an outstanding role in the attraction of the people's investment.

Iranian people, who used to invest their money in some traditional ways such as buying gold, or deposit money in the banks, have taken a new approach for investment over the past two years, as they have been investing more and more in the stock market.

The rising number of new shareholders in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, is an indication of this new approach.

Different factors have created such condition, among them it could be referred to the efforts made by the stock market to attract people's more investment through laying the proper ground, for example via introducing new financial instruments, and also by making people more acquainted with this market.

The other factor is the government's policy and new approach toward the stock market, and putting emphasis on this market's role in funding and

Affairs Ehsan Khandouzi has previously underlined the capital market as one of the major priorities of his ministry during his tenure.

Increasing the role of the capital market in financing production companies and projects, diversifying financial instruments in the capital market, eliminating unnecessary regulations and barriers, facilitating the entry of companies into the stock market, reducing the cost of issuing bonds by facilitating relevant regulations, canceling monopolies and facilitating licensing for stock market-related services such as portfolio management, marketing, and brokerage, reforming corporate governance to manage conflict of interest between major and minor stakeholders and finally providing incentives for people to invest indirectly in the capital market have been mentioned as the major programs that the economy ministry is going to pursue in order to improve the capital market.

According to Khandouzi, the stock market is one of the most important pillars of the economy as it will play a significant role in financing government projects and supporting economic growth.

Risk of military confrontation between China and U.S. is growing, ex-White House official warns

From page 1 ► The AUKUS pact, which will also cover AI and other technologies, is one of the countries' biggest defense partnerships in decades, analysts say.

China has condemned the agreement as "extremely irresponsible". China has also told the U.S., the UK and Australia to abandon their "cold war" mentality or risk harming their own interests.

Besides China, France is also furious at the new U.S. security alliance with Australia, Britain.

"France had a \$66 billion deal to sell Australia conventionally powered submarines. Naturally, it is angry that Australia canceled that deal in favor of the new deal with the U.S. and UK," Hippel adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you see Biden's submarine accord with Australia? What are its messages to China and the world?

I have two principal concerns:

i) The dangers of the growing military confrontation between China and the U.S. I worry especially about the possibility of war if China decides to seize Taiwan by force. Since the stakes are so high, such a war could turn nuclear.

ii) The fact that U.S. and UK reactors are fueled with weapon-grade (93.5%-U-235) uranium. I have argued for almost 30 years that this is a terrible example for the U.S. to set for the world. Iran has given this as a rationale for enriching to 60%. France uses 6%



enriched uranium to fuel the reactors of its latest generation attack submarine. That is a much better example.

The U.S. is trying to restrict Iran's civilian nuclear program but it is going to provide nuclear-powered submarines to Australia. Add to it Israel's nuclear weapon arsenals. Isn't it an example of double standard?

I agree that it is a double standard. However, before 2003 at least, Iran had an interest in acquiring nuclear weapons and is suspected of preserving that option (editor's note: Iran has declared production, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass de-

structions, including nuclear arms, as religiously forbidden). There is no reason at this time to suspect Australia of interest in nuclear weapons.

Another example is Brazil, which has for decades pursued both enrichment and a nuclear submarine. During the 1980s, while Brazil had a military government and was also interested in acquiring nuclear weapons, the U.S. applied a lot of pressure to try to stop its enrichment program.

Since Brazil renounced nuclear weapons, made transparency arrangements with Argentina, and joined the NPT, the U.S. has been much more re-

"It could be a good thing if Europe developed its own military capabilities."

laxed about Brazil's enrichment and nuclear submarine programs. Brazil currently is focused on using low-enriched uranium (less than 20% U-235) in its submarine reactor.

On Friday, France recalled its ambassador to the U.S. in a response to AUKUS. What is your comment on France's anger?

France had a \$66 billion deal to sell Australia conventionally powered submarines. Naturally, it is angry that Australia canceled that deal in favor of the new deal with the U.S. and UK.

Given the recent developments, don't you think that the EU needs an independent military force? For example, a European NATO?

It could be a good thing if Europe developed its own military capabilities and was less dependent on the United States for defense but, at the moment, I don't see that as likely to happen.

What would be China's response to this provocative move in your view? Do you think that accepting Iran's full membership in Shanghai Cooperation is a part of China's reaction?

I do see China as trying to develop its own sphere of influence in order to compete with the U.S. on the global level. The Shanghai Cooperation may be more focused on developing a common market but, in some countries where China is interested in having naval bases, may develop a military dimension as well. I don't know whether that has come up with Iran.

INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

5

Mikati's government: far from "Hezbollah backed"

By Julia M.K.

Since the aftermath of the August 4, 2020 port blast that saw the resignation of the interim cabinet of former Prime Minister Hassan Diab one week later, France and America have sought to extend their hand into the new government formation, with the Americans joining in on the pressure to restore a western-friendly administration amidst both powers' declining influence in the country.

The main concern of the Lebanese cabinet to them has been not just in its relationship with Hezbollah, but in the impending threat of an economic orientation eastward, which, represented by the previous Diab administration, would have signaled a waning of the U.S. and French economic stronghold on the country.

According to Beirut-based journalist Mohammad Kleit, the appointment of Mikati to Prime Minister assures the United States that "Lebanon would not be a starting point to rebuild Syria, at least not unsupervised by the Americans and definitely not in favor of the Chinese."

Kleit added that France will "benefit a lot" from the new Prime Minister "since he's close to them and has supported the election of Mostafa Adebbe previously for PM, who was also close to Macron." He added that the economic proximity between Mikati and France would facilitate French investments as well.

Mikati stated at an addressal at the Baabda palace in June that he intends to "form a government based on the French initiative," referring to a commitment to a purely technocratic government over a technocratic-political one.

The new 24-person cabinet is composed of bankers and technocrats, many professionally trained or educated in the West or enmeshed in international financial institutions and liberal internationalist organizations.

France is also tied between wanting to maintain its relationship with the Lebanese presidency and civil institutions while backing a hardline stance against Hezbollah, the political ally of Lebanese President Aoun. This played itself out in France's distinction between Hezbollah's military wing, which it has been compliant in its designation of such as a "terrorist organization," and its political wing.

Two of the picks by Hezbollah and Amal in the new ministry - Public Works and Transport Minister Ali Hamieh and Abbas Haj Hassan of the Agricultural Ministry - also have French citizenship and have worked and studied in France.

Youssef Khalil, a known participant in the financial engineering of 2016 and former director of Financial Operations of the Central Bank during that time, was appointed to Finance Ministry. President Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement, who had objected to this nomination for purely partisan reasons, has been in a bind with both the previous PM Hariri and Speaker of the Parliament for more representation in the government's ministries, especially amidst Gibril Bassil's aspirations to the future presidency.

Kleit added that Khalil, who signed a contract with the New York financial audit with Alvarez and Marsal last Friday, is a convenient pick for Berri to continue protecting his record of corruption.

Likewise, the interior ministry, given to Hariri appointee Bassam Mawlawi, was a convenient cover-up pick for elites of the Future party, a March-14 aligned party headed by Hariri.

Though Mikati was referred to as 'a Hezbollah-backed billionaire', in one Zionist daily, he and his cabinet are far from being a Hezbollah hand-pick. Hezbollah has repeatedly opposed the IMF austerity measures technocrats and tycoons like Mikati are stewards of, such as regressive taxes or strict conditionalities for aid. Furthermore, Mikati said that Hezbollah's siege-breaking fuel imports were a "violation" of Lebanese sovereignty, and there is little question that the West sees Mikati as a pick still economically as well as politically aligned with them.

Yet the March 8 bloc, which includes Hezbollah and its parliamentary allies, views Mikati as a more "pragmatic choice" than previous prime ministers, according to Syrian journalist Leith Abou Fadel. Mikati's party, the Azm Movement, also falls under the March 8 bloc.

Unlike Hariri, who "was greatly influenced by foreign nations and refused to compromise on key issues," Abou Fadel says that Mikati shows a "strong desire for compromise."

For Hezbollah, the stakes in the new government are diplomatic, aimed at preventing internal discord instead of partisan rent-seeking. Hezbollah Secretary General Sayed Hassan Nasrallah stressed in his last speech that the party has "always rejected vacuums," opposing previous government resignations.

In the interim, Hezbollah still views the formation of government in Lebanon as a prerequisite to internal stability. A government is needed to appoint elected officials, implement economic reforms, and come to decisions on major policy-oriented decisions.



Nonetheless, Hezbollah is well prepared with what the US calls its "parallel institutions," organizational programs that have developed outside Lebanon's crumbling structure that cast a wide safety net for many Lebanese, many whose programs, services and resources are being offered to those struggling regardless of political or sectarian affiliation. This includes the Sajjad grocery card, available to any poverty-stricken Lebanese that applies for it, reduced-price al-Nour supermarket in addition to the imports of fuel from Iran that are made free to struggling institutions and communities. Hezbollah recognizes the new cabinet as a diplomatic step forward, but the continuation of neoliberal economics and corruption that the cabinet represents will do little to affect or thwart its resilient social-welfare infrastructure.

The Prime Minister also did not spare worries of sanctions on Lebanon due to the fuel imports occurring "outside of current government institutions." The group, operating outside of the government to defend the country against invasions and attacks from the Zionist entity, ISIS, and other extremist groups and threats in the past, likewise will maneuver around an institutional framework proven useless to the needs of the Lebanese people for decades to expand its economic support to a population that has witnessed a fast descent into poverty and crisis.

Abou Fadel says that while he doesn't "expect much from the cabinet or its officials" in terms of economic recovery, Hezbollah's breaking of the economic siege in the importation of Iranian fuel earlier this month is "unprecedented and has forced western nations that previously dictated the terms of aid to abandon their policies of holding Lebanon hostage through threats of sanctions and the withdrawal of military assistance."

Aside from two ministers appointed by Hariri and backed by his Future Movement, which include new Health Minister Firass Abaid and Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi, and Walid Jumblatt appointee Abbas Halabi to Education Ministry, candidates supported by explicitly anti-Hezbollah parties are largely absent from government, such as Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, or Samy Gemayel's Kataeb.

This signals that Hezbollah will likely be at least dealt with from a position and standpoint of relative sovereignty and pragmatic national interest, and that foreign powers such as Saudi Arabia and the U.S. have lost their hold on the Lebanese administrative and political apparatus to the extent that they have in the past. The Zionist entity, Saudi Arabia, and the United States realize there is little can do anything about Hezbollah's interventions, and the Lebanese government is even in less of a position, and willingness, to oppose them.

(Source: Press TV)

American guards "whipping" black refugees triggers outrage

The White House has been mired in controversy after footage circulated online showing U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback whipping black Haitian asylum seekers attempting to cross the American-Mexico border

Advocacy groups and social media users strongly condemned the images of fleeing black men being chased by white officers on horseback with ropes as a stark reminder of the injustices suffered by Black people in the United States both historically and till this day.

Democratic-Republican, Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota, says "these are human rights abuses, plain and simple. Cruel, inhumane, and a violation of domestic and international law". She added, "This needs a course correction and the issuance of a clear directive on how to humanely process asylum seekers at our border."

Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York echoed those sentiments saying "this is a stain on our country. It doesn't matter if a Democrat or Republican is President, our immigration system is designed for cruelty towards and dehumanization of immigrants, Immigration should not be a crime, and its criminalization is a relatively recent invention."

Media witnesses saw mounted officers wearing cowboy hats blocking the paths of migrants, and one officer unfurling a cord resembling a lariat, which he swung near a migrant's face. A video also showing a border guard apparently threatening migrants with the cords was shared on social media.

Reports say one mounted agent yelled at the asylum seekers "Get out now! Back to Mexico!" The agent then swung his rope at the asylum seekers, as one man fell and others tried to shield themselves.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki admitted to reporters "I don't think anyone seeing that footage would think it was acceptable or appropriate". She also says "I don't have the full context. I can't imagine what context would make that appropriate".

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, claims the long reins are used by mounted officials to "ensure control of the horse." "But we are going to investigate the facts," he added during a news conference.

The whipping incident was just one desperate moment in a few hours of such scenes along the Rio Grande over the past day or two. In another incident, the same officer grabbed the back of the shirt of a migrant trying to run up the bank with bags of food.

The mostly Haitian refugees have in recent days been crossing back and forth between Ciudad Acuna in Mexico and the sprawling camp across the border in Del Rio to buy food and water that was in short supply on the U.S. side.

The refugees say their squalid encampment under

a bridge on the U.S. side of the river was short of supplies. U.S. officials over the last few days had let asylum seekers cross back and forth at a shallow point of the river. On Sunday, however, they told the asylum seekers they will not be allowed back to the U.S. side if they ventured into Mexico.

More than 12,000 migrants, identified by officials as mostly Haitian, have been gathering under the bridge in recent days, awaiting their asylum processing. Instead, U.S. officials began removing several thousand people from the camp over the weekend, including some who were later seen arriving back in Haiti.

The Biden administration is relying on very contested Trump-era policy as it goes ahead with deporting thousands of Haitian refugees along the U.S.-Mexico border, without processing their asylum claims.

Much to the dismay of refugee advocates, the Department of Homeland Security is invoking a public health law, citing possible covid cases, to quickly take Haitians into custody and fly them back to their troubled homeland.

In essence, the White House is violating international law by denying them an opportunity to make a claim to stay in the U.S. to seek asylum. Experts say covid tests can be conducted at the border.

That has left Human rights advocates also enraged at the Biden administration for resuming repatriation flights to Haiti, despite the country's ongoing political, economic, and environmental disasters. Haiti, already racked by instability, is struggling to recover from an earthquake in August and the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in July has left many fearing for their lives.

Refugee and asylum rights groups have urging U.S. Customs and Border Protection to "Stop this Discrimination", slapping the Biden White House for choosing to shut the door on Haitians seeking protection.

The camp under the bridge spanning the Rio Grande has become the latest flashpoint for U.S. authorities seeking to stop asylum-seekers fleeing violence and political unrest in their home countries.

By Monday, hundreds of asylum seekers had returned to the Mexico side amid uncertainty about whether they would be deported back to Haiti on flights organized by U.S. authorities.

The first flights carrying the asylum seekers landed in Port-au-Prince on Sunday from the Del Rio camp arrived in Haiti on Sunday, with at least three more due to make the journey on Monday, according to flight-tracking website Flightaware.

"They can't send us back to Haiti because everyone knows what Haiti is like right now," says Haitian refugee Wildly Jeanmary, on the Mexican side of the

nounce (their names) here," he added.

'Work at hand on reopening girls' schools'

The Taliban spokesman also said Afghan girls will be allowed to return to school "as soon as possible"; after the movement faced criticism over their effective exclusion of women and girls from education and work.

The Taliban, who ruled the country before the 2001 US invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, had limited women's activities and participation in societal affairs and governmental employment.

"And in the case of schools (female students), the Ministry of Education is working hard to lay the groundwork for the education of high school girls (6th to 12th grade) as soon as possible. Work is underway on the procedure," Mujahid announced speaking in the Pashto language spoken by the Pashtun people.

He insisted that a "safe learning environment" needed to be established before females returned to schools.

During the weekend, all male teachers and students were summoned back to secondary school.

Looking forward to international recognition

Mujahid also noted that the Taliban were looking forward to resuming diplomatic ties with the international community in the near future.

Italic ===== "The issue of recognizing our government is related to the international community. The United Nations is a credible institution in the world, and it is their duty to recognize our government. We also expect other countries such as European countries, countries in the region, near and far, and Islamic countries to strengthen their diplomatic relations with us and recognize our government. If they have been delaying

in this regard so far, it's up to them, but we are waiting, and we hope to see these developments in the near future."

'There is no Daesh in Afghanistan'

Mujahid also condemned the recent Daesh-affiliated attacks in eastern Afghanistan, but insisted the Takfiri terrorist group did not have a in the war-torn country.

The terrorist group "that exists in Iraq and Syria does not exist here," he insisted, noting however that some Afghans may have adopted the group's "mentality."

He said, "The people do not support [Daesh]. A phenomenon that does not have the support of the people cannot cause us trouble."

He pointed out that the terrorists had no physical presence anywhere in Afghanistan and only invisibly carried out some cowardly attacks.



Mujahid added that security forces were ready "and will stop them seriously" from launching terrorist attacks and abductions in Kabul and other areas.

Before the United States invaded the country under the pretext of fighting terrorism following the 9/11 attacks, the Taliban were running Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

‘Important’ bas-relief carvings discovered near Persepolis



From page 1 ► whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy) is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

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. Persepolis was the seat of the government of the Achaemenid Empire, though it was designed primarily to be a showplace and spectacular center for the receptions and festivals of the kings and their empire.

Motor rally to mark 41st anniversary of Sacred Defense

TEHRAN – Tens of motorcyclists have scheduled to stage a rally today to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the Sacred Defense.

Organized by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the rally will be starting from the ministry's headquarters towards the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini in southern Tehran, according to organizers.

At this time of the year, Iranians hold special ceremonies to honor the fallen soldiers and to cherish the strength and resistance of the people during "the Sacred Defense week", starting on Shahrivar 31 (September 22 this year) when Iraqi armed forces invaded the Iranian soil.

Saddam Hussein ordered the attack nearly 19 months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, setting the stage for an eight year-war.

It drew to a close in August 1988 and the United Nations declared Saddam as the initiator of the conflict.

For those interested to visit an epitome of frontlines elsewhere from the former battlefields, Tehran embraces several destinations; the Sacred Defense Museum, Tehran Peace Museum, and Behesht-e Zahra—a graveyard where many of the martyrs are buried. The epic-scale Sacred Defense Museum does bargain something different in modern Iranian history where you can delve into wreckages



of rockets, tanks, rifles, vessels, mortars, radars, air defense systems, grounded jets, military supplies, and artillery pieces amongst others.

80 aging monuments being restored in West Azarbaijan

TEHRAN – A total of 80 historical buildings and aging structures, scattered across the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan has undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

As a part of the project, the historical monuments of the 22nd Bahman School and Dizaj Siavosh mansion are being restored in collaboration with the private sector, Jalil Jabari said on Tuesday.

Both structures are planned to turn into museums after being fully restored, the official added.

Several other buildings need urgent restoration, he noted.

Around 1,700 properties have been registered as national heritage across the province, that their

annual maintenance and care requires 200 billion rials (\$4.7 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar), he explained.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Tepe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

to the judicial system for further investigation and trial.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad is home to many nomadic tribes which make a source of charm for the lesser-known province. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Police bust gang of illegal excavators in southwest Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian police have recently busted a gang of illegal diggers in Khanmirza county, southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Three illegal excavators, who were digging in a historical site in the county, were detained in this regard, Mehrdad Javadi said, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

He also noted that the culprits were surrendered

Sarayan caravanserai restored to former glory

TEHRAN – The centuries-old Sarayan caravanserai, which is located in a barren landscape in eastern Iran, has gained its former state after years of restoration.

Adjacent to the caravanserai is a public bathhouse, a mudbrick cistern, and a vaulted bazaar, all of which are being prepared for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list, a local official said on Monday.

Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2003, the caravanserai, which is situated in South Khorasan province, is home to a museum of anthropology.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining "caravan" with "Sara". The former stands for a group of travelers and Sara means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.



Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC).

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a wide experience as they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

Caravanserais were usually constructed outside the walls of a town or village. The structure is quadrangular in form

and is enclosed by a massive wall that has small windows near the top and only a few narrow air holes near the bottom. Inside, the ground floor consists of a central court surrounded by a cloister-like arcade, which is in turn surrounded by cellular storerooms.

The ground floor is connected by broad, open, stone stairways to a second story that is ringed by a somewhat lighter arcade, which gives access to many small

In their heyday, caravanserais were always kept open for all arrivals from early dawn until late in the evening.

New agritourism farms to be launched in northern Iran

TEHRAN – A total of six agritourism farms are planned to be set up in Azadshahr, northern Golestan province, Azadshahr's tourism chief has said.

Six farms are being launched in the rural areas of the region in collaboration with the private sector, Mohammad Taha Asgari announced on Tuesday.

The development of such farms could result in the growth of villages and their economic well-being, the official added.

"Tourism farms allow farmers not only to cultivate and produce but also to host tourists for several hours to observe the various stages of production and to use the farm's recreation areas, generating additional revenue."

Earlier in August, a memorandum of understanding was signed at the provincial level to help develop agritourism across the lush green Golestan.

The MOU also aimed to facilitate issuing agritourism permits to selected farms, identifying and developing tourism capacities in the agriculture industry, monitoring the performance of certified farms, and forming advisory committees, and work as a team that will assist the agricultural sector in attracting domestic and foreign tourists.

Back in July, provincial tourism chief Ahmad Tajari announced that agritourism is being developed in the northern province of Golestan by launching new tourist farms.

"The province has issued seven agritourism permits in less than a year, which is expected to attract more tourists."

Bushehr to set up digital database of ancient potteries

TEHRAN – A digital database of ancient potteries, clay tablets, and their fragments will be established in Bushehr province, southwestern Iran.

The pottery database will be containing collections of movable archaeological finds that are worth studying, a local official in charge of cultural heritage said on Monday, CHTN reported.

The digital bank will also include information about the identification, chronology, location of discovery, technical design, and photo of the pieces, which have been collected from archaeological projects implemented in the province since the 1970s, Farhad Zakavatzahe explained.

"The database would be of great importance because it brings together potteries discovered from

various parts of the province and the Persian Gulf."

Bushehr province is home to various archaeological mounds including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion.

It lies near the head of the Persian Gulf at the northern end of a flat and narrow peninsula that is connected with the mainland by tidal marshes. It embraces significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras.

Siraf in Bushehr province was the most important Iranian port during the Sassanid period bearing plentiful evidence of Persian mastery and genius in seafaring, international relations, and interaction with



other near and far cultures and civilizations.

various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that Gonbad-e Qabus bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Agritourism

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Experts believe that in addition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services.

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, or outfitter services), and on-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

Agritourism is a subset of a larger industry called rural tourism that includes resorts, off-site farmers' markets, non-profit agricultural tours, and other leisure and hospitality businesses that attract visitors to the countryside.

Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf, which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf that played a leading role in the network of maritime trade that supplied Western Asia with the products of India, the Far East, and Eastern Africa between 800 CE and 1050.

Siraf had a population of about 300,000 during the early Islamic era and this fact shows that it was a large city. However, today, just about 7,000 people live in Siraf in a small area. The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

COVID causes \$4.7m damages to Tabas tourism

TEHRAN – The tourism sector of Tabas county in South Khorasan province has been damaged to the tune of 200 billion rials (\$4.7 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

During the last two years, the pandemic has negatively impacted the tourism sector of the region, Tabas' tourism chief has announced.

However, there is hope that part of these losses will be compensated with the end of the crisis and the increase in trips and the number of domestic and foreign tourists, Kazem Nejatian said on Tuesday.

The county's tourism and handicrafts sectors are working hard to get prepared for the post-corona era, the official added.

The many capacities and capabilities of Tabas, its rail and air infrastructure, strategic and suitable location, and the pristine deserts,

as well as the appropriate services and facilities, make it a viable target for private investment, he noted.

More than one trillion rials (\$23.8 million) has been invested in the tourism sector of the county, some of them on infrastructure development, he explained.

Back in January, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced that Iran's tourism industry had suffered a loss of over 140 trillion rials (about \$3.33 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Although the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 has brought the whole world to a standstill, the tourism industry has been the worst affected of all economic sectors. However, efforts are being made by the government to help the tourism sector flourish again with continuous support and injecting



supportive packages."

Government's care and support packages

In October 2020, the tourism ministry proclaimed that a new support package was

approved to pay loans to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Depending on the type and activity of the businesses, they could benefit from at least 160 million rials (\$3,800 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to nine billion rials (\$214,000) of bank loans with a 12-percent interest rate.

The loans were allocated to tourist guides, travel agencies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers.

Tourism industry in a critical situation

The former tourism minister, Ali-Asghar Mounesan, in October 2020 warned that Iran's cultural heritage and tourism would be in a critical situation if the crises caused by the

outbreak of the coronavirus continue.

He also noted that the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. "Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning."

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

The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019).

Lake Urmia shrinks by over 1,500 km²

TEHRAN – Lake Urmia's surface area has decreased by 1,546 square kilometers compared to the same date last year, Yaser Rahbardin, CEO of West Azarbaijan Province's Regional Water Company, has stated.

The Lake's surface was 3,538 square kilometers this time last year, he further said.

The current level of Lake Urmia is 1270.66 meters, which shows a decrease of 62 cm year on year, he added, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Pointing out that 2.760 billion cubic meters of water are currently in the Lake, Rahbardin noted that statistics show that the volume of water com-



pared to the same period last year shows a decrease of 2.2 billion cubic meters.

Lake Urmia condition

Shared between West Azarbaijan and East Azarbaijan provinces in northwestern Iran, Lake Urmia, was once the largest salt-water lake in

West Asia. It was home to many migratory and indigenous animals including flamingos, pelicans, egrets, and ducks, and attracted hundreds of tourists every year who had bathed in the water to take advantage of the therapeutic properties of the lake.

However, decades of long-stand-

ing drought spells and elevated hot summer temperatures that speed up evaporation as well as increased water demands in the agriculture sector shrank the lake drastically. In 1999 the volume of water which was at 30 billion cubic meters drastically decreased to half a billion cubic meters in 2013. Moreover, the lake surface area of 5,000 square kilometers in 1997 shrunk to one-tenth of that to 500 square kilometers in 2013.

Lake's surface area has reached up to 2,917 square kilometers, indicating 1,582 square kilometers increase in comparison to 2013 when the Lake Urmia Restoration Program began.

The level of Lake Urmia has reached 1,271 meters, which indicates an increase of over 1.39 meters compared to the lowest volume recorded. However, it still needs 9.5 billion cubic meters of water to reach its ecological level.

The above normal levels of rain came to help conservation measures to preserve Lake Urmia, but, this year, the drought and low rainfall are threatening the lake again.

Fauna of Iran

(Part 7)

The Persian fauna is greatly enriched owing to the country's position on the principal annual migration routes of birds. Eighty-six species of winter visitors have their breeding grounds in northern and Central Asia; many are waterfowl (including important game species) and birds of prey. In spring and autumn 24 species migrate between northern breeding grounds and southwestern or southeastern wintering grounds. An additional 57 species have been recorded as vagrants and rare stragglers (for details and examples, see Scott, 1989).

Hollam and his colleagues (1988) have published maps of breeding distribution for Middle Eastern species, and C. J. O. Harrison has included summer, winter, and resident ranges in his maps of Western Palearctic birds. He has discussed distribution patterns of Western Palearctic species with respect to climatic and vegetation zones and has attempted to interpret them in the context of Pleistocene events.

He has also divided the Western Palearctic into faunal areas, two of which include portions of Persia: the Caspian and Mediterranean area, a potential refuge for a number of species during the climatic changes of the Pleistocene, and the Middle East, which he believes was a speciation center for some birds, with possible refuges along the Tigris and Euphrates valleys and around the Persian Gulf.

In his analysis of the mammals, de Misonne (in Camb. Hist. Iran) defined the Persian fauna as a composite, in which autochthonous elements are combined with elements of more general Palearctic character and with others of African or Indian origin.

He found that endemic species were concentrated in Khorasan, extending into Baluchistan and western Afghanistan (characterized by high-altitude and semidesert adaptations), and in Kurdistan, a more enclosed region with more severe winters.

Harrington listed 152 Persian mammalian species in the following orders: Insectivora, 14; Chiroptera, 38; Carnivora, 28; Pinnipedia, 1; Perissodactyla, 1; Artiodactyla, 13; Lagomorpha, 2; Rodentia, 47; and Cetacea, 8.

The large mammals have received the most public attention, as they include both game species and predators on game species and domestic livestock. They are also the most vulnerable to changes in human land use and to overhunting. Extensive efforts have been made by the Department of the Environment to preserve their habitats and to protect game and other species by setting aside reserves and national parks.



Several populations of mountain sheep (*Ovis ammon*) survive in the rugged mountain ranges, as does the Persian ibex (*Capra hircus aegagrus*), progenitor of the domestic goat. The genus *Gazella* is represented by three species, which are favored game in the southern provinces and the steppes of the central plateau. The Persian fallow deer, once distributed generally throughout the southwest, had dwindled to a small population along the Karā, a River but, thanks to efforts at preservation and captive breeding, has been making a comeback.

Herds of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) live in the forest meadows of the Caspian region, whereas the much smaller, more solitary roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) is found in the forested areas of Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Gilan, and Mazandaran; both are widely distributed Euro-Siberian species (see DEER). The wild boar (q.v.), *Sus scrofa*, a species distributed throughout both the Palearctic and Oriental regions, is found in a variety of habitats in Persia, wherever permanent water supplies exist.

The Persian wild ass, or onager (*Equus hemionus*), which once roamed many steppe and desert regions, now survives mainly in national parks and wildlife refuges in Khorasan, Kerman, and Fars. It is a Palearctic species that ranged from the Mediterranean to Mongolia within historical times.

Large and medium-sized carnivores include the wolf, jackal, fox (three species), brown bear, Baluchistan black bear, striped hyena, small cat (four species), lynx, and caracal. The leopard occurs throughout Persia, wherever large game species are present.

The cheetah was once common throughout the drier steppe regions of southwestern Asia but has been driven to near extinction with the reduction of rangelands and declining populations of its prey, primarily gazelles. In Persia it has made a significant comeback in the northeast, with the establishment of protected areas and increased abundance of gazelles.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

Tehran to play host to TIM 2022

TEHRAN – The 4th Technology Investment Meeting (TIM 2022) of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation will be held on February 21-22 in Tehran.

Pardis Technology Park will host the event both virtually and in person, aiming to address the investment potentials in Islamic developing countries in order to open up an opportunity for foreign and domestic investors.

D-8 includes major Muslim developing countries namely, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Creating the capacity to use the pristine markets of the D8 countries for domestic investors is another important goal of this event.

The TIM 2022 focuses on raising capital from D8 member countries, during which foreign investors, along with domestic investors, will discuss cooperation and joint ventures on startups.

Good opportunities, such as abundant manpower alongside cheap knowledge-based and



technological products, have attracted foreign investors, despite unilateral sanctions, to consider the Iranian knowledge-based ecosystem.

Iranian knowledge-based firms

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund affiliated with the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology has earmarked a sum of 170 trillion rials (nearly \$4 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to support knowledge-based companies over the past 4 years.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

The TIM 2022 focuses on raising capital from D8 member countries.

Iran advances in Global Innovation Index 2021

From page 1 ► said the report by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Among Asian economies, South Korea jumped to the fifth position, up from 10 in the last years.

Iran is ranked 13th among the middle and upper-middle-income countries.

China was in the 12th position.

Five Asian countries are among the top 15, including South Korea, Singapore, China, Japan, and Hong Kong.

Innovation in Iran developed rapidly in 5 years

Knowledge-based companies and creative startups have grown over the past five years, and Iran has risen 45 places in the Global Innovation Index.

The GII in Iran from 2015 to 2019 has risen from 106 to 61 with continuous improvement, showing 45 steps growth.



The development of accelerators and innovation centers over the last five years has led to a rapid increase in startups and knowledge-based companies.

Rich countries not providing poor with pledged climate finance, analysis says

Rich countries will continue to miss a longstanding pledge to provide poor countries with \$100bn a year in climate finance for the next four years, new analysis suggests on the eve of a crunch meeting of world leaders at the UN on Monday.

The promised cash is seen as essential to gaining support from developing countries for a global climate deal to fulfil the 2015 Paris agreement, with only six weeks go before vital UN climate talks, called Cop26, to be hosted in Glasgow this November.

However, current pledges and announced plans from developed country governments will amount to only about \$93bn to \$95bn

a year in climate finance by 2025, according to Oxfam.

More than 30 world leaders have been invited to a vital meeting on Monday on the sidelines of the UN general assembly in New York. Co-hosted by António Guterres, the UN secretary-general, and Boris Johnson, the UK prime minister, the meeting will focus on climate finance.

A Whitehall source told the Guardian the aim of the meeting was to bring together the leaders of big economies with the leaders of poor countries that are likely to suffer most from the climate crisis. Some of the world's poorest countries will have the

chance at the meeting to demonstrate how vital it is both for more funding to be made available, and for large economies – including China – to cut their greenhouse gas emissions faster.

Poor countries need climate finance to help them cut greenhouse gas emissions and cope with the impacts of extreme weather. They were promised in 2009 that \$100bn a year would be provided, from public and private sources, from 2020 to 2025.

Data from the OECD on Friday showed that climate finance reached only \$80bn in 2019, falling \$20bn below the 2020 target. Oxfam's projections, which build on the

OECD data, show that recent pledges to increase those amounts in the next four years are still inadequate.

Alok Sharma, the UK cabinet minister who will preside over the Cop26 talks, said: "There is no excuse: delivering on the \$100bn goal is a matter of trust. Climate finance is key to unlocking emissions reductions and action to adapt to climate change across the developing world.

"We have seen little progress and the OECD report shows clearly how much further there is to go. Achieving the \$100bn goal is one of my biggest priorities and ahead of the UN General Assembly I am re-

peating my call for developed countries to step up their climate finance pledges."

Nafkote Dabi, global climate policy lead at Oxfam International, said: "The pandemic has shown that countries can swiftly mobilise trillions of dollars to respond to an emergency – it is clearly a question of political will. We are in a climate emergency [that] is wreaking havoc across the globe and requires the same decisiveness and urgency. Wealthy nations must live up to the promise made 12 years ago and put their money where their mouths are."

As well as trying to wring higher pledges of cash from donor countries, the UK and the

UN will also hope to persuade some of the world's biggest emitters at the meeting to strengthen their pledges on cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the next decade.

It is not yet known whether Xi Jinping, president of China, will attend Monday's meeting, which will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual. China – the world's biggest emitter, responsible for more than a quarter of global carbon output – is now the focus of frantic diplomacy from the UK and the US, as the country has yet to submit formal plans to the UN on emissions cuts ahead of Cop26.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iranian students snatch 4 medals at IOI 2018

Iranian students secured 4 colorful medals at the 30th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2018) which was held in Tsukuba, Japan, on September 1 to 8.

Iran's team finished in eleventh place claiming one gold medal, two silver medals, and one bronze medal, Mehdi Safamejad, head of the Iranian delegation said.

This year, 341 students from 87 countries participated in the event.

Mohammad Mahdavi grabbed the gold medal, Keivan Rezaei and Mehrdad Saberi were the silver medal winners, and Seyed Mahdi Sadegh Shobeiri claimed the bronze medal, Fars reported on Saturday.

Iran first participated the IOI in 1992, and have claimed some 22 gold medals, 54 silver medals and 25 bronze medals, over the past 26 years.

کسب ۴ مدال توسط تیم دانش‌آموزی ایران در المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر

به گزارش خبرگزاری فارس، تیم چهار نفره دانش‌آموزان ایران موفق به کسب چهار مدال رنگارنگ در سی‌امین المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر در ژاپن شد.

مهدی صفرنژاد سرپرست تیم اعزامی دانش‌آموزان المپیاد کشورمان به ژاپن، با اعلام این مطلب، افزود: تیم ایران از نظر کسب مدال، رتبه یازدهم این دوره از المپیاد را با کسب یک مدال طلا، ۲ نقره و یک برنز، تصاحب کرد.

در این مسابقات که از دهم شهریور ماه با حضور ۳۴۱ شرکت‌کننده از ۸۷ کشور در شهر سوکوبای ژاپن برگزار شد، محمدمهدی به مدال طلا، کیوان رضایی نقره، مهرداد صابری نقره و سیدمهدی صادق شبیری به مدال برنز این مسابقات دست یافتند.

به گزارش فارس، تاریخچه حضور ایران در این مسابقات به سال ۱۹۹۲ برمی‌گردد و طی سال‌های گذشته در مجموع، ۲۲ مدال طلا، ۵۴ مدال نقره و ۲۵ مدال برنز حاصل تلاش کاروان ایران بوده‌است؛ ایران امسال برای بیست و پنجمین بار در این مسابقات حضور یافت.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 21

New cases	17,564
New deaths	379
Total cases	5,459,796
Total deaths	117,905
New hospitalized patients	2,581
Patients in critical condition	6,661
Total recovered patients	4,819,223
Diagnostic tests conducted	31,223,048
Doses of vaccine injected	45,775,336

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**
Editor-in-Chief: **Ali A.Jenabzadeh**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:11:57 Evening: 18:21 Dawn: 4:29 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:53 (tomorrow)

Iranian languages and scripts: Earliest evidence

King Darius mentions a certain Mede called Kashtariti in the Bisotun inscription.

Part 2

Subsequent kings, Shamsi-Adad V (823-811) and Adad-Nirari III (810-783) also campaigned against them; in the annals of Shamsi-Adad for the year 821, a civil war is mentioned in a land stretching from Bit Bunaki to Parsumash (with -m- used to spell -w-).

Tiglath-Pileser III (744-727), who campaigned as far as Mount Bikni (= Mount Alvand. q.v.), refers to the Medes as the “mighty Medes” or the “distant Medes.” From Sargon II’s reign (721-705) we have the mention of a nephew of King Dalta of the Ellipi by the name Aspabara, which can hardly be other than Iranian aspabara “rider, knight,” but his uncle’s name is un-Iranian.

At the battle of Halule on the Tigris in 691, Sennacherib (704-681 BCE) faced an army of troops from Elam, Parsumash, Anzan (Anshan, q.v.), and others. In the Vassal Treaties of Esarhaddon (680-69 BCE) and elsewhere, “kings” of the Medes are mentioned.

Although doubt as to the actual identity of the Parsuwash may persist, linguistically the word matches Old Persian parsā, which can come directly from older parcwa. This word has, occasionally, been derived from parcu- “rib” (cf. Pers. pahlū “side”) and supposed to denote a “marginal” people, a people from across the borders. That might seem to imply that the term was invented by an Iranian-speaking people to denote other Iranians.

Adad-Nirari III conducted several campaigns against the Manneans and the Medes from 809 to 788. The name of his mother, Sammuramat, is probably identical with that of Queen Semiramis of the Classical authors; according to later legends, she is said to have campaigned as far as Bactria.

This story was reported by Diodorus Siculus on the authority of Ctesias (ca. 400 BCE; q.v.), according to whom Semiramis’ Bactrian adversary was called Oxyartes (q.v.). In still later traditions, the king of Bactria was said to have been Zoroaster, who, in this way, was connected with Semiramis and Babylon. This “Bactrian connection” was to play an important role in the study of Iranian languages.

The only other source for the early history of the Medes and Persians is Herodotus (q.v.), who describes them in some detail in his Histories (ca. 470 BCE). Although what he describes happened several centuries earlier and he can only have relied on obviously unreliable oral accounts, his description can be correlated to some degree with the Assyrian and Babylonian sources.

Thus, while his account of the first two Median kings cannot be verified, the last two Median kings he names are also mentioned in the Mesopotamian texts.

According to Herodotus’s account, the Medes were united under a king, Deioces, who reigned for 53 years. No Median king by such a name is known from the Assyrian sources, although attempts have been made to connect him with a certain Kashtariti, a son of Cyaxares. No Median king by such a name is known from the Assyrian sources, although attempts have been made to connect him with a certain Kashtariti, a son of Cyaxares. No Median king by such a name is known from the Assyrian sources, although attempts have been made to connect him with a certain Kashtariti, a son of Cyaxares.

According to Herodotus, Deioces was succeeded by his son Phraortes, who subjected the Persians, conquered Asia, ruled for 22 years, and lost his life in battle against the Assyrians.

Phraortes has an Iranian name. Darius names a certain Fravarti, a Mede, who called himself Kashtariti, son of Cyaxares. No Median king by such a name is known from the Assyrian sources, although attempts have been made to connect him with a certain Kashtariti, a son of Cyaxares.

Phraortes’ son Cyaxares ruled for 40 years, reorganized the Median army, and led it in alliance with Babylonia against Assyria, which he defeated in a battle. He was laying siege to Niniveh when he was interrupted by an incursion of Scythians under their king Madyes, son of Protothyes. The name of Madyes can, conceivably, be Iranian, for instance, madya “he who seeks intoxication,” but his father’s name is less obviously Iranian.

Having recovered his power, Cyaxares went on to conquer Niniveh and the rest of Assyria except Babylonia before he died. The Babylonian Chronicle confirms both Herodotus’s account and his name, which it writes Umakishtar.

Darius, in column 4 of the Bisotun inscription, mentions a certain Mede called Kashtariti, of the family of Uvaxshtra, which must be the same name as Cyaxares. If the name is to be analyzed as hwa-xshtra- “he who has his own command,” it must be relatively old, with -xshtra- an old compositional form of kshatra, the preform of Median Kshatra Vairya.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Art Bureau launches poetry congress to laud General Soleimani’s valor in war

This file photo shows a young Qassem Soleimani leading the troops on the front line during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

From Page 1 ► The congress plans to publish the poems selected in a book. Amiri-Esfandaqeh said that the team has been told to do its job without any lenience and laxity and added, “With respect to the emotions and feelings of all poets participating in this meeting, we will do our best to prevent any superficial poem from being selected

“Sun Children” crowned best at Zlin Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian drama “Sun Children” directed by Majid Majidi has won the Golden Slipper for best feature film in the junior category of the 61st edition of the Zlin Film Festival in Czech.

In a statement published on September 17, the jury called the film “a truly powerful, energetic and heartfelt story which engages all of us through its masterful filmmaking.”

They also described the child labor drama as “another excellent example of Majid Majidi’s great love and care for the underprivileged children in Iran and around the world.”

The acclaimed movie follows 12-year-old Ali and his three friends. Together they work hard to survive and support their families, doing small jobs in a garage and committing petty crimes to make fast money. In a turn of events that seems miraculous, Ali is entrusted to find a hidden treasure underground. He recruits his gang, but first, to gain access to the tunnel, the children must enroll at the Sun School, a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids and child laborers, close to where the treasure is located.

Niklas Teng was the president of the jury in the feature

films in the junior and youth category. Andrea Metcalfe and Tian Tsering were other members of the jury.

The Golden Slipper for best feature film in the youth category went to “Valentina” directed by Cássio Pereira dos Santos from Brazil.

“The Crossing”, a co-production of France, Czech and Germany directed by Florence Mialhe, received the special jury prize in a feature film in the junior and youth category.

“Sisters: The Summer We Found Our Superpowers” by Norwegian directors Arild Ostin Ommundsen and Silje Salomonsen was awarded the Golden Slipper for best feature film in the children’s category.

The Karel Zeman Award – Special Recognition for Best Visual Concept in the children’s category was given to “Wolfwalkers”, a co-production between Ireland and the U.S. by Ross Stewart and Tomm Moore.

“Even Mice Belong to Heaven”, a co-production of Czech, France, Poland and Slovakia directed by Denisa Grimmova and Jan Bubenicek, and “Kids Are Fine” by Korean director Ji Won Lee won special mentions in this category.

“Sounds between the Crowns” by Czech director Filip

Iranian puppeteers to build “The House of Bernarda Alba” at Charleville-Mézières festival

TEHRAN – Yase Tamam, an Iranian puppetry group, will perform Garcia Lorca’s 1936 tragedy “The House of Bernarda Alba” at the 26th edition of the World Puppet Theatre Festival in the French city of Charleville-Mézières.

Four performances have been arranged for the play, the first of which will be on Friday, the organizers have announced.

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA on Tuesday, director Zahra Sabri said that her group has been kept in quarantine since their arrival in France for ten days, because some members have not received the COVID-19 vaccine yet.

She expressed her thanks to the organizers for their help to the group to obtain visas for France.

Roxana Bahram, Neda Hengami and

Mehdi Shahpiri are the puppeteers of the group, while Mehrrush Balmeh works as an assistant director and costume designer.

Lighting engineer Ali Kouzehgar and puppet maker Fatemeh Abbasi also

collaborated with Yase Tamam.

The play tells the story of a repressive and domineering widow who forces her five unmarried daughters to remain in mourning for their father, sequestered with her on the family estate, for

This file photo shows Yase Tamam performing “The House of Bernarda Alba”.

for the collection.”

A member of General Soleimani’s family and a group of literati have been invited to attend the opening ceremony of the congress, during which some musicians and literati will be honored for their creations on the commander.

Top 21 poems will be awarded during the closing ceremony of the congress, which will be on a date during the last week of November.

The expert team also plans to collect all poems ever composed on General Soleimani to select the best for publication in a book under the title of “First Poetry Collection of the Resistance Literature for Hajji Qassem Soleimani”.

Numerous poets focused on General Soleimani in their compositions following the assassination of the commander of the Quds Force, the overseas arm of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, in a U.S. air raid in Baghdad on January 3, 2020.

A collection of the poems in a book named “The Phoenix of Quds”, which was published by the Khate Moqaddam Publishing House in June 2020. The book features poems by Alireza Qazveh, Mohammadreza Tahmasbi, Ali Davudi, Mehdi Jandar and dozens of other Iranian poets.

An anthology of elegies for the martyrdom of General Soleimani was also published in the book “Man of the Field”.

Poet Milad Erfanpur collected the elegies for the book published by Maktabe Hajji Qassem Publications in Tehran in March.

Afshin Ala’s long versified story on Soleimani was also published in a book entitled “Sarbaznameh” (“Book of Soldiers”) earlier in January.

The poetry attracted the praise of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Shamila Shirzad and Ruhollah Zamani act in a scene from the Iranian drama “Sun Children” by Majid Majidi.

Diviak won the Golden Slipper for best short animation for children.

The Golden Apple – Zlin audience award for best feature film in the children’s, junior and youth category – was awarded to “Martin and the Magical Forest” directed by Petr Oukropec. This film is a co-production of Czech, Germany and Slovakia.

eight years. Frustrated and angry, the women respond in their individual ways to their mother’s cruelty, and the play ends in violence.

Yase Tamam also performed “The Dust and the Crown” written by Iranian playwright Giti Safaraz at the World Puppet Theater Festival in Charleville-Mézières in 2019.

The troupe also was in France in March 2018 to stage their acclaimed play “Count to One” in three cities of the country, including Frouard.

“Count to One” was performed at several international events, including the 16th International Festival of Puppets and Animated Forms in Lisbon in 2016 and at the 30th International Theatrical Festival Valise in Lomza, Poland in 2017.

It brought Sabri the award for best director at the Polish festival.

“Writing the Talking Cure” appears in Persian

A poster for the Persian translation of Jeffrey Berman’s book “Writing the Talking Cure”.

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of American scholar Jeffrey Berman’s book “Writing the Talking Cure: Irvin D. Yalom and the Literature of Psychotherapy” has come to the Iranian bookstores.

Published by Qoqnus, the book has been translated into Persian by Nazi Akbari.

A distinguished psychiatrist and psychotherapist, Irvin D. Yalom is also the United States’ most well-known author of psychotherapy tales.

His first volume of essays, “Love’s Executioner”, became an immediate bestseller, and his first novel, “When Nietzsche Wept”, continues to enjoy critical and popular success.

Yalom has created a subgenre of literature, the “therapy story,” where the therapist learns as much as, if not more than, the patient; where therapy never proceeds as expected; and where the therapist’s apparent failure proves ultimately to be a success.

“Writing the Talking Cure” is the first book to explore all of Yalom’s major writings. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, Berman comments on Yalom’s profound contributions to psychotherapy and literature and emphasizes the recurrent ideas that unify his writings: the importance of the therapeutic relationship, therapist transparency, here-and-now therapy, the prevalence of death anxiety, reciprocal healing, and the idea of the wounded healer.

Throughout, Berman discusses what Yalom can teach therapists in particular and the common (and uncommon) reader in general.

Berman is a distinguished teaching professor of English at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

His previous books include “Writing Widowhood: The Landscapes of Bereavement”, “Death in the Classroom: Writing about Love and Loss” and “Dying to Teach: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and Learning”, all published by SUNY Press.