



©Ministry of Presidential Affairs of UAE

► Page 2

Report



UK Labor Party slams Israeli regime for ‘apartheid’ policy towards Palestinians

By Mohammad M. Farahani

At the annual conference of the British Labor Party, members of the party acknowledged that the Israeli regime had implemented the apartheid state against the Palestinians and called for an end to the British arms trade with Israel.

The leader of the Labor Party faced a fateful day at his party conference on Monday as delegates to the party’s annual conference in Brighton came up with a bold plan for Palestine and a shadow cabinet member resigned in angry condemnation of Starmer’s leadership.

The Labor Party voted overwhelmingly at a conference calling on the party to support sanctions against Israel for its illegal actions under international law, stop the arms trade, and trade with illegal settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The vote mainly was a disgrace to Starmer, who has downplayed the Palestinian issue since he succeeded Jeremy Corbyn.

Keir Starmer’s wife comes from a Jewish family and has relatives in Tel Aviv, reported the Times of Israel last year. “I support Zionism without qualification,” insisted Starmer.

Shadow Secretary of Employment Rights Andy MacDonald wrote to Starmer in his resignation letter, “After 18 months of your leadership, our movement is more divided than ever, and the pledges you made to the membership are not being honoured.”

According to the Independent, the Labor Party representatives opposed the party’s leadership by supporting the sanctions against the Israeli regime due to the implementation of the apartheid state against the Palestinians.

“Conference condemns the ongoing Nakba in Palestine, Israel’s militarized violence attacking the Al Aqsa Mosque, the forced displacements from Sheikh Jarrah, and the deadly assault on Gaza,” said the motion. ► Page 5

From Inside



- IRGC warns it won’t tolerate militants in northern Iraq **P2**
- Iran, Russia to speed up implementation of Bushehr projects to make up for delay **P2**
- Israel has launched ‘Iranophobic campaign’ to obscure its destabilizing acts: diplomat **P2**
- Iran: Foreign forces must end their occupation of Syria **P3**
- Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan discuss trilateral co-op in Caspian Sea **P4**
- Private sectors of Iran, Italy stress expansion of economic tie **P4**
- Industry Ministry allocates 10,000 hectares of land to build industrial parks **P4**
- Resignation exposes Biden’s asylum policy failure **P5**
- THREE suicides, in TWO days, at ONE U.S. Army Division **P5**
- 11 Sacred Defense elements, properties approved as national heritage **P6**
- Archaeological survey begins on Dalma Tepe after six-decade hiatus **P6**
- Tourism projects worth \$16.6m to be inaugurated in southern Iran **P6**
- Quick-win projects aim to revive Hamoun Wetland **P7**
- Import of Pfizer not on agenda **P7**
- Relief Foundation clients launch 47 tourism business plans **P7**
- IRGC chief Ahmad Yusefi’s widow releases her memoirs ‘Autumn Arrived’ **P8**
- “African Violet” scores big win at San Francisco Iranian Film Festival **P8**
- “Saffron Based Lifestyle”, “Shoe” honored at Ukraine Happy Future Scripts Film Festival **P8**

Majestic Shah Cheragh where mirrors and glass shards cover every inch

TEHRAN – The dazzling shrine of Shah Cheragh is a major tourist destination and pilgrimage site in the ancient city of Shiraz, southern Iran.

The mausoleum is where Sayyed Mir Ahmad, one of the brothers of Imam Reza (AS), is laid to rest. Each day, it draws hundreds of faithful and sight-seers from all over the world.

It boasts architectural elements and motifs from various centuries and its courtyard and tile-work represent relatively modern embellishments from the late-Qajar period. Its blue-tiled dome is flanked by dazzling gold-tipped minarets.

Inside its great chamber of worship, giant chandeliers hang like frozen rain, smaller green lamps jut from the walls and stained-glass windows shine from on high, emitting light that sparkles off countless jewels and shards of glass.

They coat almost the entire interior of this special place, giving its dome a shimmering glow and making its elegant doorways feel like portals.

The site was improved and expanded over the centuries with religious schools and other facilities being added to the complex. In the 14th century, the site’s signature mirrorball decoration was ordered at the behest of Queen Tash Khatun who wanted the mosque to intensify any light thousand times over, the name “Shah Cheragh” roughly translating to “King of the Light” in Persian.

Despite being damaged by human hands and natural disasters over the centuries, the mosque has been maintained and repaired and shines brightly even today. The increasingly sprawling site is still an extremely important pilgrimage location for Shia Muslims, however, visitors of any faith are likely to marvel at the sheer beauty of this glassy wonder. ► Page 6

Mohammad Tabe named Iran’s chef de mission at 2022 Asian Para Games

TEHRAN – Iran’s National Paralympic Committee (NPC) secretary general Mohammad Tabe was named as the country’s chef de mission for the 2022 Asian Para Games.

In a meeting held in Paralympic committee’s headquarters Wednesday morning, the decision was made by the board of directors.

The Games will be held in Hangzhou, China from Oct. 9 to 15, 2022.

Iran made history in the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, finishing in the third place for the first time ever behind China and South Korea.

The Iranian athletes claimed 51 gold, 42 silver and 43 bronze medals in the Games.

All 44 National Paralympic Committees who are members of the Asian Paralympic Committee are expected to compete at the 2022 Asian Para Games.

Hangzhou will be the second Chinese city to host the Asian Para Games, after Guangzhou in 2010.

Interview



Lebanon needs to break monopolies and cartels: Lebanese academic

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A Lebanese political researcher says that the country must break cartels and monopolies while praising Iran’s move to send fuel tankers to Lebanon.

“Lebanon needs to complete this course and break the monopolists and cartels that have put their feet on the necks of the Lebanese people,” Tariq Aboud tells the Tehran Times.

The comments by the researcher comes as Iran’s fuel delivery to Lebanon proved as a game changer. The fuel shipment was brokered by Hezbollah. One fuel tanker after another is arriving to help ease crippling fuel shortages. This is taking place amid a dire economic crisis in the country.

“The arrival of Iranian oil was truly game-changing because it was the first time that a party confronted U.S. policies,” Aboud notes.

“Americans considered that all that Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in this regard was only bluff and not viable,” Aboud notes. ► Page 5

Tehran improves rank among world’s innovative cities

TEHRAN – Tehran has advanced by two steps among the most innovative cities in the world, according to the report of the Global Innovation Index 2021.

The capital of Iran is ranked 41, surpassing cities such as Istanbul, Vienna, Barcelona, and Berlin.

The 2021 edition of the Global Innovation Index presents the latest global innovation ranking of 132 economies, relying on 81 different indicators. While tracking the most recent global innovation trends in the new Global Innovation Tracker, this edition also focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on innovation.

Since its inception in 2007, the GII has shaped the innovation measurement agenda and become a cornerstone of economic policymaking. ► Page 7

Iraqi delegation visits Iran seeking expansion of energy ties

TEHRAN – An Iraqi delegation headed by the country’s Electricity Minister Majid Mahdi Hantoush visited Tehran on Saturday to discuss the expansion of energy ties with Iran, especially gas imports from the country, Shana reported.

The delegation met with senior Iranian officials including Oil Minister Javad Oji and the Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Majid Chegeni.

During the meeting with Chegeni, the NIGC head expressed Iran’s readiness for extending gas export deals between the two countries.

Chegeni, who is also the Deputy Oil Minister for Gas Affairs, said: “Our relationship with Iraq is strategic and apart from economic relations, we have deep cultural and religious relations that are

very important. The more our cooperation, especially in the field of energy, the deeper and more objective these relations will be.”

He underlined strong energy diplomacy as one of the major priorities of Oil Ministry, and added: “As mentioned in the meeting with the oil minister while asking the Iraqi side to adhere to current contracts and previous agreements, we are ready to consider new proposals from the Iraqi Electricity Ministry to extend the gas export contract to that country.”

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji, in his meeting with the Iraqi Minister of Electricity, stated that negotiations with various parties to increase gas exports and trade are among the priorities of President Raisi administration.



© Mehr / Mohammadamin Jafarizad

Iranian Army opens permanent war exhibit

TEHRAN – Chief of the Iranian Army Ground Force Brigadier General Kiumars Heidari (L) and Foundation for Preservation of Sacred Defense Works and Values Deputy Director Brigadier General Nabi Sohrabi unveil a bust of Hassan Abshenasan, an army commander who was martyred during the Iran-Iraq war, at the opening ceremony of a permanent war exhibition at the Defensive Science Research Center in Tehran on September 29, 2021.

IAEA access to cameras conditioned to U.S. return to JCPOA obligations: MP

TEHRAN – A legislator on Wednesday criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency for reneging its commitments toward Iran, saying as it had been agreed the IAEA can get access to its surveillance cameras at Iran’s nuclear sites only if the United States rejoins the 2015 nuclear deal and fulfill its obligation.

“But if the United States doesn’t return to the JCPOA, Iran will not give the memory cards to the Agency,” Hadi Beiginejad told the Fars news agency, using the acronym for the nuclear deal.

Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran promised to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of its economic and financial sanctions.

United Nations Security Council also adopted a resolution in July 2015 confirming the JCPOA.

Beiginejad, who sits on the Parliament Energy Committee, said the IAEA has accepted this condition with Iran but unfortunately the world’s public opinion has been manipulated in a way that Iran is the main culprit.

“This is while the United States has jettisoned the JCPOA and Europe has not fulfilled its obligations,” the MP insisted.

He added that the Western sides as the accused must not replace Iran as a plaintiff. ► Page 2

Iran, Russia to speed up implementation of Bushehr projects to make up for delay



TEHRAN — Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief Mohammad Eslami explains about the achievements of his trip to Russia, telling reporters that the AEOI and Rosatom have signed bilateral contracts, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Eslami said in his meeting on Tuesday with Alexey Likhachev, the director general of Russia's Rosatom, an initial understanding was made to carry out joint projects and plans in the field of nuclear energy with a higher speed.

He said these projects include use of radiation in medicine, building new nuclear power plants, especially development of the second and third units of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

According to Press TV, Eslami's visit to Moscow came after unconfirmed reports that the Russians had slowed down work at new projects in Iran over unpaid funds.

"It was also agreed that our financial payment obligations will be timed so that the project is not delayed anymore," Eslami underscored.

He also noted it was agreed that the 22-month delay should come to an end, and both sides need to accelerate efforts to make up for the delay in implementing the projects.

"Iran, Russia consult on development of nuclear cooperation"

Eslami and Likhachev discussed the development of peaceful nuclear cooperation on Tuesday evening, discussing issues of mutual interest in the field of nuclear energy.

"Cooperation between the two countries in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, including the construction and development of nuclear power plants, is progressing well, and this cooperation should be expanded further," Eslami said during the

meeting, Press TV reported.

The Tuesday meeting marked Eslami's second meeting with Likhachev in less than a month. Last week, the two nuclear chiefs met on the sidelines of the 65th regular session of the IAEA General Conference in Vienna.

Eslami visited Moscow on Tuesday to meet with Likhachev and some of Russia's senior officials.

Upon his arrival in Moscow, he dismissed Washington's call on Tehran to grant access to the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspectors to one of its nuclear sites.

Eslami said the "countries that did not condemn terrorist acts against Iran's nuclear site are not qualified to comment on inspections there."

At issue was an IAEA report issued on Sunday in which it said while Iran had granted access to its nuclear sites as agreed on September 12, it had prevented IAEA inspectors from visiting a workshop at the TESA Karaj complex, after it was targeted in a sabotage act in June in which one of the four IAEA cameras was destroyed.

Eslami and Kamalvandi, in addition to Iran's ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, Kazem Gharibabadi, strongly criticized the IAEA for not condemning the "terrorist attack" at the complex.

"During the discussions in Tehran and Vienna, Iran indicated that since the Tesa Karaj Complex is still under security and judicial investigations, equipment related to this complex are not included for servicing. That's why the phrase 'identified equipment' has been used in the joint statement," Gharibabadi tweeted on Monday.

Iran has blamed Israel for the attacks targeting the TESA complex as well as for another attack at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility in April.

Israel has launched 'Iranophobic campaign' to obscure its destabilizing acts: diplomat

The second secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic to the UN has categorically rejected accusations leveled by Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett against Tehran, saying Tel Aviv is actually waging an "Iranophobic campaign" to distract public attention from the regime's destabilizing activities.

Payman Ghadirkhomi made the remarks in an address to the general debate of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on Monday after Bennett claimed that Iran had crossed "all red lines" in its nuclear program and threatened to act alone if the world did not take action.

Ghadirkhomi said the Israeli premier, like his notorious predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu, has tried to disseminate disinformation about Iran and make unfounded allegations against the country.

"He (Bennett) played the victim and desperately tried to portray the Israeli regime as innocent. It is not surprising at all. Deception has always been part of their agenda," he added in a statement.

"His mischievous objective is crystal clear: to cover up all expansionist and destabilizing policies and criminal practices of the Zionist regime in the region over the past seven decades."

In his speech to the General Assembly, Bennett made no mention of Israel's decades-long conflict with the Palestinians and instead went on an anti-Iran tirade.

"Iran's nuclear program has hit a watershed moment, and so has our tolerance," he alleged. "Words do not stop centrifuges from spinning."

Ghadirkhomi warned that the occupying regime endangers peace and security in the region and beyond as it possesses all types of weapons of mass destruction, as well as the most sophisticated conventional weapons.

Israel "brazenly defies constant strong international calls to join legally binding international instruments banning weapons of mass destruction, ...seriously hampering the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East – proposed by Iran in 1974," he said.

"Yet, it desperately attempts to portray Iran's conventional weapon capabilities or its exclusively peaceful nuclear program, which is under the most robust verification of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as a challenge to regional stability."

Barbara Slavin, an American foreign policy expert, says according to the Stockholm International Peace

Research Institute "Israel has about 90 nuclear weapons."

Under its policy of nuclear ambiguity, Israel neither confirms nor denies having atomic weapons.

The Iranian diplomat also slammed Israel's hypocrisy regarding its nuclear arsenal as well as clandestine and unsafeguarded nuclear installations.

"This regime cannot deflect attention from its longstanding malign and destabilizing activities in the region by waging a widespread systematic Iranophobic campaign," he said.

Ghadirkhomi further hit out at Bennett for using "threatening language" against Iran in flagrant violation of the UN Charter.

"His regime must avoid any miscalculation and adventurist move in the region. We have demonstrated that we do not hesitate to exercise our inherent right to defend ourselves against any threat and at any time," he stressed.

"full of big lies"

Iran's permanent ambassador to the UN also on Monday blasts Bennet over his address to the UN General Assembly.

"Iran-phobia runs rampant at UN. The Israeli regime PM's speech was full of lies on Iran," Majid Takht Ravanchi tweeted.

"That regime is in no position to discuss our peaceful program when it has hundreds of nuclear warheads," the ambassador remarked.

Israel has so far refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Despite the fact that the Israel's nuclear program has been an open secret since a disgruntled technician, Mordechai Vanunu, blew the whistle on it in 1986, the official Israeli position is still never to confirm or deny its existence.

According to the Guardian, when the former speaker of the Knesset, Avraham Burg, broke the taboo in late 2013, declaring Israeli possession of both nuclear and chemical weapons and describing the official non-disclosure policy as "outdated and childish" a rightwing group formally called for a police investigation for treason.

The British newspaper said in a commentary some years ago that the list of nations that secretly sold Israel the material and expertise to make nuclear warheads, or who turned a blind eye to its theft, include today's staunchest campaigners against proliferation: the U.S., France, Germany, Britain and even Norway.

IAEA access to cameras conditioned to U.S. return to JCPOA obligations: MP

From page 1 ► The Islamic Republic's demand is that the United States and Europe act based on their obligations under the JCPOA and that Iran will not tolerate any excuse, the MP pointed out.

Beiginejad suggested that Iran should take immediate steps to prove to the world that it is the Western side that is "violation" and is not honoring its commitments.

In February, the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) reached a temporary bilateral technical understanding, under which Iran allowed cameras to record information at its nuclear sites for three months, but it retained the information exclusively. If the U.S. sanctions are lifted completely within that period, Iran will provide the footage information to the UN nuclear watchdog, otherwise it will be deleted forever.

Also in late February, former AEOI chief Ali Akbar Salehi said recordings from monitoring equipment that the IAEA has installed at Iran's nuclear sites will be deleted if the United States does not lift its unilateral sanctions within the next three months.

"Now, the IAEA does not have the right to access surveillance cameras for up to 3 months, and if the sanctions are not lifted, the information recorded by the cameras will be deleted and cameras will be uninstalled. The agency issues a report every three months, so we gave it a chance," Salehi explained.

Salehi made such warning four days after Iran stopped the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Treaty, which stipulates enhanced international access to nuclear sites and snap inspections by the IAEA.

The halt came under the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, a law passed in December 2020 by the Iranian Parliament.

Though as a goodwill gesture Iran extended the three-month period to give a chance to the Vienna nuclear talks to revive the JCPOA, the U.S. raised new conditions unrelated to the JCPOA which complicated the negotiation process.

To resume the nuclear talks under



the new administration in Iran, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi visited Iran on September 12 during which Iran and the IAEA issued a joint statement for cooperation.

According to the joint statement Iran had refused to allow the IAEA to service

cameras at sites which have suffered damages due to sabotage acts blamed on Israel. However, Grossi has launched a campaign which goes against that joint statement.

In an interview with the BBC on Wednesday, Grossi said, "The IAEA is asking Iran to respect what I agreed with them past Sunday, September 12, where we agreed that we would be able to service all our equipment –you were referring to some cameras there, that is a part of it. It's much more than that– so that we can carry on with this work (inspection)."

Prior to such a statement, in a report on Sunday Grossi said Iran had not allowed IAEA inspectors to get access to the TESA Complex in Karja, a city near Tehran.

In response, the Iranian ambassador to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi, said on Monday the TESA Complex which has been targeted in "terrorist sabotage

operations" is under "security and judicial investigations" and therefore "equipment related to this complex are not included for servicing."

Gharibabadi added, "That's why the phrase 'identified equipment' has been used in the joint statement."

Iran has blamed Israel for the attacks targeting the TESA complex as well as for another attack at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility in April.

Also on Monday afternoon, Gharibabadi reacted to the remarks by the representatives of the U.S., E3 at the IAEA regarding the TESA Complex, saying they cannot "remain silent" in the face of the Israeli regime's "terrorist operations" against the Iranian sites and fail to prevent it and then seek a continued surveillance of these sites.

E3 refers to the three European countries of Britain, France and Germany which are signatory to the JCPOA.

"When the Agency's surveillance equipment run out of service by the Zionist regime, they should not expect Iran to install them again without any cost for this regime and without any measure by the Agency and claimant countries," Gharibabadi asserted.

Gharibabadi added that the new agreement between Iran and the IAEA was "fully implemented during the specified time".

Trust Issues

TEHRAN — Jake Sullivan, the United States National Security Advisor, has started a tour of certain Middle Eastern countries. He arrived in the UAE on September 27. The American mainstream media tries to portray the agenda of the trip is focused on Iran and Yemen, but it is really the case!

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, paid an official visit to the UK on September 15.

According to The National news website, the UAE and the UK have agreed to establish a "Partnership for the Future" based on two main pillars: driving sustainable prosperity and addressing global issues.

The visit came days after the United States signed a trilateral partnership with United Kingdom and Australia, dubbed as AUKUS. The pact is aimed to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

Soon after the deal was signed, United States' allies and friends all over the world started to get worried. This came a few weeks after the scandalous U.S. exit from Afghanistan. That's when the UAE started to feel the need to distance itself from the United States. Abu Dhabi had a strong feeling of betrayal. Bin Zayed and Boris Johnson also stated that they would work closely together during the UAE's 2022-2023 term as a member of the United Nations Security Council.

The UAE is already a key partner for the UK,

with total trade between the two countries worth £18.6bn and joint investment flows of £13.4bn in 2019.

As a result of the trip, the UAE will funnel £10 billion (\$13.8bn) over five years into promising companies that operate in the clean energy, technology and infrastructure industries.

Next stop for bin Zayed was France.

After his meeting with the French President, Emmanuel Macron, Sheikh Mohamed said the two countries support values of tolerance, promote dialogue, interaction and coexistence among peoples, civilizations and cultures, reject intolerance and hatred, and work for peace, stability and development in the Middle East and the world, UAE state news agency said.

French Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian hosted his counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed at a lunch at the Quai d'Orsay ahead of a signing ceremony for two new agreements.

One agreement for enhanced cooperation in medicine, and a second agreement between the Banque Publique d'Investissement (BPI), the French state investment bank, and Mubadala for a €300 million project, with scope for an additional €700 million to invest in start-up firms promoting innovation in the health sector.

"France tends to send its best ambassadors, its best diplomats to the UAE," Karim Bitar, a Senior Fellow at the Institute for International and Strategic Affairs in Paris, told The National.

There is good reason among the Persian Gulf states to fear the repercussions of the AUKUS

IRGC warns it won't tolerate militants in northern Iraq

TEHRAN – In comments at the western Kurdish city of Sanandaj on Wednesday, a top military commander warned that Iran will not tolerate the presence of anti-Revolution groups in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, threatening to take harsh action against them.

Mohammad Pakpour, commander of the Ground Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, urged the central Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to expel anti-Iran terrorists out of northern Iraq.

Otherwise, Pakpour warned, the IRGC will annihilate the bases of such groups.

The terrorist groups stationed in northern Iraq won't be allowed to hatch any plots against Iran, the commander said.

These militants, who hide in northern Iraq, harass the local ordinary people in Iran's borders with Iraq and attack military forces whenever they find an



opportunity.

"The officials of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region must evict the elements and members of the terrorist and anti-Revolution groups from northern Iraq immediately, otherwise we will destroy their

"It's a major Arab partner."

The visits were interpreted as a sign of distrust among the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and other Persian Gulf Arab countries, as they tried to befriend EU countries instead of Washington. The behavior of the U.S. towards France, New Zealand and Canada during the signing of the AUKUS pact was interpreted as a "stab in the back" and "a breach of trust." Therefore, it is expected from regional countries to try and distance themselves from the United States.

Jake Sullivan has traveled to the UAE at a complicated time. NSC spokesperson Emily Horne released a brief statement about the trip on Tuesday morning. It didn't note the cities the American delegation would visit, how long the trip would last, officials they'd meet with, or if they'd be traveling to other countries.

A senior administration official said Sullivan had told House progressives he would go to the region to push for a resolution of the Yemen crisis, "but there is no imminent breakthrough" on the horizon. Many view this statement as a cover-up to rebuild the broken trust among the regional allies.

The embarrassing withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Afghanistan, the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA coupled with many violations of international agreements have resulted in a growing mistrust among these countries.

There is good reason among the Persian Gulf states to fear the repercussions of the AUKUS and other deals that deepen mistrust among U.S. allies, but Sullivan, Tony Blinken, and even Joe Biden, cannot restore the shattered trust of the Persian Gulf countries, let alone the EU bloc.

strongholds and bases," Tasnim quoted Pakpour as saying.

Highlighting the IRGC's preparedness to combat any threat, the general warned the enemies that the smallest wrong move will draw a harsh response from IRGC forces.

On September 9, the IRGC Ground Force launched drone and artillery attacks against the strongholds of terrorists hiding in the northern parts of Iraq.

The IRGC employed combat and suicide drones in the operation, as its smart artillery units with pinpoint accuracy targeted the positions of the terrorist groups with high precision, a statement said.

Later on September 19, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri warned that the military strikes against terrorist groups in northern Iraq will remain in place and may even expand.

Iran: Foreign forces must end their occupation of Syria

TEHRAN— Speaking on Tuesday during a Security Council meeting on the most recent political and security developments in Syria, Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations stated that the occupation of Syria by foreign forces must come to an end.

The following is the full text of Takht Ravanchi's statements:

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Madam President,

I thank Mr. Geir Pedersen, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria for his input.

Thanks to his efforts and cooperation of the Syrian Government, the next meeting of the Constitutional Committee is expected to take place soon. This is an encouraging development.

We reiterate our support for efforts of the Special Envoy and the constructive engagement of the Syrian Government in facilitating the work of the Committee.

We encourage the Committee's Co-Chairs to engage constructively and work in a spirit of flexibility and compromise.

The Committee must continue its work without any external interference or pressure. Setting any artificial deadline for its conclusion or any other conditions or requirements of such nature will negatively impact the Committee's work.

It must be ensured that it is a



truly Syrian-led, Syrian-owned, UN-facilitated political process.

Concurrent with the Committee's work, serious efforts must also be made in other areas.

First and foremost, occupation of parts of Syria by foreign forces must come to an end. Accordingly, all uninvited foreign forces must leave that country without any precondition or further delay.

Equally important, the Security Council must live up to its responsibility and compel the Israeli regime to put an immediate end to its acts of aggression against sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria. Such adventurous practices, which we condemn in the strongest terms, constitute flagrant violations of international law, threatening regional and international

peace and security.

Additionally, fighting all terrorist groups must continue unabated as their presence and criminal activities threaten security and territorial integrity of Syria as well as peace and security in the region.

We reject separatist activities or illegitimate self-rule initiatives in Syria and condemn any efforts to support them. The sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria must be fully respected by all.

Likewise, Syria's reconstruction and the return of refugees and displaced persons must go hand in hand with the political process. They are interlinked, mutually inclusive and mutually reinforcing.

This requires depoliticizing humanitarian aids and the return of

refugees and displaced persons, as their politicization only prolong both the crisis and woes of the Syrian people, who have already been suffering seriously from over 10 years of conflict.

In this context, we recall resolution 2585 through which the Security Council has called upon all Member States "to respond with practical steps to address the urgent needs of the Syrian people".

A reference to "practical steps" in this resolution is meant, inter alia, to call for the removal of unilateral sanctions. As resolution 2585 is the result of a compromise, including by main countries imposing such sanctions, we urge them to honor their promises, take their obligations under that resolution seriously, and remove, immediately and fully, all unlawful sanctions against Syria which are among major causes of the current humanitarian situation in that country.

We reiterate our principled position that the Syrian crisis must be settled peacefully and in accordance with principles of international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal or external affairs and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Finally, I reiterate the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the people and Government of Syria to restore the unity and territorial integrity of their country.

I thank you, Madam President.

Experts says prospect of improving Tehran-Riyadh relations is achievable

TEHRAN - An expert on strategic issues says Iran and Saudi Arabia can form a new structure of relations based on understanding and building trust, and this vision is quite achievable and its realization will be in the interest of both countries and the region.

In an interview with IRNA published on Monday, Sabah Zanganeh recalled the history of the Tehran-Riyadh dispute and the recent talks between the two countries.

"Iran and Saudi Arabia, as the two big countries in the region, are both affected by and can influence the interactions that take place in or around the region," Zanganeh remarked.

He added: "The presence and influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, especially after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, has created different conditions and these conditions have been less acceptable for Saudi Arabia or a number of countries. For this reason, various measures have been taken to limit this presence and influence of Iran."

The expert on international affairs referred to the differences between Tehran and Riyadh on regional issues, especially the Yemeni war, and said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran was opposed to Saudi Arabia's treatment of Yemen and from the beginning and before the military invasion of Riyadh and its allies, called for a political solution."

After the start of the offensive, Iran suggested that operations against the Yemenis be stopped so that, under better political conditions, the country's political groups could move towards reconciliation and convergence, the analyst commented.

"The great powers did not want this to happen because it was in their interest to continue the war against Yemen so that they could sell more weapons and expand their presence in the region and have the will of the two countries that invaded Yemen their own grip."

The former representative of Iran in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) stated that the tension between Tehran and Riyadh has affected the political situation in Yemen, Iraq, Syria and even Lebanon.

Iran and Saudi Arabia must acknowledge each other's power, Zanganeh suggested.

By accepting this issue, it is not possible to disregard each other and move in another direction in such a way that the power of the two countries and the countries of the region is spent on development and peace in the region, the analyst remarked.

"The rapprochement of these two countries is apparently not to the satisfaction of some powers in the region and outside the region, therefore, they try to increase this distance to prevent the proximity, cooperation and solidarity of Tehran and Riyadh," Zanganeh pointed out.

Zanganeh stressed that the formation of a kind of political rationality in the two countries could change the situation imposed on the two countries.

"Tehran and Riyadh can form a new structure of relations based on understanding and building trust, and this perspective is not far away, rather it is quite achievable, and the political will in both countries can implement this vision, and the result will be in the interest of both countries and the whole region."

At the same time, some countries, such as Iraq, favor a resolution of the conflicts between Tehran and Riyadh because the continuation of tensions has a negative impact on the political stability in Iraq.

"So they are trying to reduce tensions," Zanganah said, noting that the interests of some regional and global powers lie in the dispute between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

About Baghdad's role in mediating between Tehran



Sabah Zanganeh

Kamran Karami

and Riyadh, the former diplomat said: "Iraq has played different roles in the region in different periods, especially in the relations between Iran and the Arabs, and even in one period it has become a means to exert pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Recently Iraq has started a diplomatic campaign to play a more balanced role in the region, Zanganeh said, adding realizing such a goal depends on the will of the Iraqi people and government officials on the one hand and the will of neighboring countries and great powers such as the United States, France and Britain on the other.

The former diplomat said the Islamic Republic has shown support for Iraq's stabilizing role in the region.

Zanganeh called for redefining the existing solutions to the various challenges facing Iran's foreign policy.

He also said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran should redefine its foreign policy as soon as possible and make it clear to the world, given the regional developments and the larger developments taking place around the world."

"The Islamic Republic should think about a bigger role in the region and the world and prepare itself to play more important roles in regional and global issues," he added.

"There is a serious will to resume Tehran-Riyadh relations"

Also Kamran Karami, an expert on Middle East issues has a positive assessment on the ongoing talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying: "There is a serious will to resume Tehran-Riyadh relations and the two countries want to develop relations by reopening the consulates."

Tehran's ambassador in Baghdad said on August 31 that Iran plans to hold a fourth round of talks with regional rival Saudi Arabia in Iraq after the new Iranian government is set up.

The Associated Press recently reported about a new round of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Talking to IRNA in an interview published on Monday, Karami said, "Several variables and factors caused Saudi Arabia to move towards negotiations and de-escalation of tensions with Iran; the first variable was U.S. pressure on Saudi Arabia to decide and negotiate with Tehran."

Promises by U.S. President Joe Biden to put pressure on Riyadh for dismembering Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi, to review U.S.-Saudi relationship, suspend arms sales to the country, and withdraw Patriot systems from King Salman base have forced Riyadh to move toward de-escalation with actors such as Iran, Turkey and Qatar, the expert on Saudi affairs added.

Saudi Arabia first started de-escalating tensions with Qatar in early January 2021, then sent signals to Turkey and finally negotiated with Iran, the analyst stated.

The director of the Saudi sector at the Middle East Institute for Strategic Studies described a threat to

the Crown Prince's succession as the second variable in the Saudis' move to review their relations with the countries in the region, including Iran.

"During this time there were rumors of American support for former Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef. These pressures made the current Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman feel that tensions in the region were a threat" to his path to become the king in the not-too-distant future, and he was forced to move toward de-escalating tensions with actors and easing tensions to establish a more stable position within Saudi Arabia."

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, also called MBS, is the Saudi de facto leader.

Karami also said many of Saudi Arabia's economic and social reform plans based on the "2030 Vision" have been overshadowed by the falling oil prices and the Coronavirus pandemic and this has affected his ambitions.

"Bin Salman was welcomed in Saudi Arabia with this perspective, and the cancellation (suspension) of these projects could threaten Bin Salman's position in this situation."

The expert on Middle East issues said that the third influential variable in Riyadh's recent policies was the easing of tensivity in the region.

"The core of crisis between Iran and Saudi Arabia, such as Syria, Iraq, and to some extent Yemen, did not have much impact on creating tension in Tehran-Riyadh relations, and there seems to be a prospect for a gradual resolution of tensions between the two countries."

He pointed out that the mentioned variables played an important role in Saudi Arabia's tendency towards negotiations with Iran, and in three rounds of negotiations and consultations between the parties, and the ground for the fourth round of negotiations is being prepared.

Karami described the Yemeni crisis as one of the focal points of the Iran-Saudi Arabia dialogue. "Yemen is of great importance as one of the variables discussed at the regional level."

The Riyadh rulers expect these talks would help end the Ansar al-Allah attacks on Saudi Arabia, the expert noted.

In such a case an atmosphere based on de-escalation between Iran and Saudi Arabia can emerge which can lead to a recovery of the waning Saudi power and a kind of ceasefire can be established so that the Saudi-led coalition forces can recover inside Yemen, he commented.

"Given the complexities of the Yemeni crisis in terms of the diversity of parties involved and the level of their differences, and Saudi Arabia's unwillingness to give enough concessions to Ansar al-Allah as one of the socio-political forces inside Yemen, the prospect of resolving the Yemeni issue is currently not obvious," the expert on Saudi Arabia remarked.

According to the expert, the issues of the Arabian Peninsula are unlikely to overcome the atmosphere of tension in Yemen until a balance is struck between the parties involved.

"In the Iran-Saudi Arabia talks, there have been serious talks about Yemen, but the details of these talks are not yet clear and we cannot comment on this with certainty, but if Yemen is raised as one of the main contentions of the Iran-Saudi conflict, there is a hope that the crisis can be resolved," he opined.

IRAN IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

2022/2021 IPL draw ceremony to be held on Oct. 2

TEHRAN –The draw ceremony for the 2021/2022 season of the Iran Professional League will be held on Oct. 2.

Head of The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) Shahabeddin Azizi Khadem and the clubs' representatives will attend the ceremony.

A total of 18 teams will participate at the new season.

Persepolis are defending champions and look to win the IPL title for the sixth in a row.

Fajr Sepasi and Havadar will take part in the upcoming season as the newcomers after secured promotion to the league last season.

Machine Sazi and Saipa were also relegated from the IPL to the First Division.

Iran Professional League is the highest division of professional football in the west Asian country. It is the top-level football league in Iran since its foundation in 2001.

Since 2013, the league comprises 16 teams. The winners of IPL and Hazfi Cup automatically qualify for the AFC Champions League group stages. The runners-up and the third-place teams should participate at the AFC Champions League Play-off round.

Persepolis are the most successful club with seven titles in IPL and 14 in total.

Esteghlal complete signing of Saipa forward Sadeghi

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football club completed the signing of Saipa winger Amirali Sadeghi on Wednesday.

He is Saipa's third player who joins Esteghlal.

Esteghlal have previously completed the signing of Abolfazl Jalali and Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh.

The new season of the Iran Professional League will begin on Oct. 19.

Esteghlal are looking forward to bringing an end to their nine-year title drought in the Iran Professional League.

Rostami's silver upgraded to gold after nine years: IPC

TEHRAN – Iranian powerlifter won his first Paralympics gold medal nine years after he claimed a silver in London, paralympic.org reported.

Rostami added the Paralympic gold from Tokyo to the long list of his international success in the last couple of years.

He is the reigning world and Asian champion from Nur-Sultan 2019 and Jakarta 2018.

After the third successful lift of 234kg, Rostami returned for the power lift in an attempt to break his own world record but did not manage to raise the bar to 242kg in the men's up to 80kg category.

The 32-year-old won his first Paralympic gold nine years after getting the silver medal at London 2012.

Taremi scores as Porto suffer heavy defeat against Liverpool

TEHRAN – Iranian forward scored against Liverpool but Porto suffered a heavy 5-1 defeat in the UEFA Champions League Group B.

Tuesday night at the Estadio do Dragao, Taremi stole in ahead of Joe Gomez, one of Liverpool's five substitutes, to head Fabio Vieira's cross past Alisson Becker in the 74th minute.

Mohamed Salah was on target twice in the 18th and 60th minutes for Liverpool. Sadio Mane also scored in the 45th minute.

Roberto Firmino scored Liverpool's fourth and fifth goals in the 77th and 81st minutes.

Porto sits third in the group behind Liverpool and Milan.

Iran beaten by France at World Deaf Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran failed to book a place at the 4th World Deaf Volleyball Championship semifinals.

On Wednesday, Iran lost to France in straight sets.

France, Ukraine, Italy and Russia advanced to the semifinals.



Iran will play Bulgaria on Thursday in the 5th-8th play-offs.

Iran are headed by Mohammad Torkashvand in the competition.

The 2021 World Deaf Volleyball Championship is being held in Chianciano Terme, Italy from September 23 to October 2.

Persepolis trio miss match against Al Hilal

TEHRAN – Three Persepolis players will not be fit for the match against Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia in the 2021 AFC Champions League quarter-finals.

Persepolis will face Al Hilal on Oct. 16 in Saudi Arabia.

Kamal Kamyabinia has been added to his team's training but cannot accompany Persepolis for this match.

Mehdi Mehdi khani and Ali Shojaei will also be absent for the match since both players have undergone hand surgery.

Persepolis football team will play Sepahan in a friendly match as part of preparation for the match against Al Hilal on Oct. 8 in Tehran.

The match will be held in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Caio Pereira receives four-year ban for anti-doping rule violation

TEHRAN - The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has banned Brazilian Para athletics athlete Caio Vinicius Da Silva Pereira for a period of four years for committing an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV).

The Brazilian returned an adverse analytical finding (AAF) for a prohibited substance in a urine sample provided on 25 August 2019 after competing at the Lima 2019 Parapan American Games in Peru, Paralympic.org reported.

The substance was dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone metabolite. This is included on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 2019 Prohibited List under the class S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (AAS). The athlete also returned an AAF for an Out-of-Competition test conducted on 3 July 2019 for the same substance.

As a result of his violation, Da Silva Pereira will be ineligible for competition for four years from 30 August 2019 to 29 August 2023. He has also been stripped of the gold medal which he won in the men's shot put F12 competition in Lima, together with any points and prizes.

Each athlete is strictly liable for the substances found in his or her sample. An ADRV occurs whenever a prohibited substance (or its metabolites or markers) is found in his or her bodily specimen, whether or not the athlete intentionally or unintentionally used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

As a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code (the WADC), the IPC remains committed to a doping-free sporting environment at all levels. The IPC has established the IPC Anti-Doping Code (Code) in compliance with the general principles of the WADC, including the WADC International Standards, expecting that, in the spirit of sport, it will lead the fight against doping in sport for Athletes with an impairment.

Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan discuss trilateral co-op in Caspian Sea



TEHRAN – Moscow hosted a panel on “Trilateral Cooperation among Russia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea” on Tuesday, in which issues related to cooperation in major fields including industry, transit, and transportation corridors were discussed.

The event was attended by Russian, Azerbaijani and Iranian officials, including Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Urban Development Ministry, Anzali Free Trade Zone, and university scholars, either personally or online.

During the panel, the Iranian ambassador, diplomats, and prominent analysts of the three countries exchanged viewpoints on the expansion of industrial parks and economic free zones in port cities, increasing the capacity of the North-South

International Corridor, and increasing the cargo transportation volume through rail, sea, and roads.

Speaking in the gathering, Jalali underlined the significance of the North-South Corridor project and noted: “For Iran, too, the expansion of cooperation in land and marine transportation is important.”

He referred to the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stressing that the development of relations with the neighboring countries and expansion of the trade corridors in the region are among the most important means for broader cooperation.

He further called for more serious measures to be taken for the development of the transcontinental North-South Corridor, saying that this corridor is one of the most important transportation projects and more work should be done to develop it.

Industry Ministry allocates 10,000 hectares of land to build industrial parks

TEHRAN – The head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) announced the allocation of 10,000 hectares of land for the development and construction of industrial parks across the country, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

According to Ali Rasoulouian, new industrial parks are mainly planned to be constructed in under-developed regions of the country.

The index for development of Industrial parks in the country has increased by five percent, the official said in a ceremony for signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between ISIPO and the Industrial Engineering Basij Organization.

“To fulfill its two main tasks, which are to establish industrial parks and providing appropriate infrastructure and support for industrial and production units, ISIPO has developed various support programs and incentives to enable companies and production units to do business with ease and in proper conditions,” Rasoulouian said.

He pointed out that one of the important priorities of the ISIPO is to provide suitable land

for establishing industrial parks, adding: “The organization has prepared a plan to provide 10,000 hectares of land for this purpose.”

“Also, to supply electricity to industrial parks and zones, the required hardware and equipment, including posts and transmission lines, have been supplied and constructed in collaboration with the Energy Ministry.”

He further noted that the country's industrial parks are currently facing over 2,000 liters of water deficit, saying: “Our approach to compensate for the water shortage is to use municipal wastewater, which we have communicated with the Ministry of Energy to purchase and have started using it in some areas.”

Rasoulouian also mentioned the construction of small workshops for companies that do not have a high financial capacity and added: “Last year, 72 workshops were established in the country's industrial parks and zones, and we hope that our plan for the current year, which was the construction of 1,000 workshops, will play a significant role in creating employment in the country.”

TEDPIX climbs 11,500 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 11,574 points to 1.437 million on Wednesday.

Over 7.813 billion securities worth 67.342 trillion rials (about \$1.6 billion) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market's index rose 9,498 points, and the second market's index gained 20,192 points.

TEDPIX fell 7.3 percent in the past Iranian calendar

week (ended on Friday).

Iran's new Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ehsan Khandouzi has previously underlined the capital market as one of the major priorities of his ministry during his tenure.

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.

Over 10.8m tons of crude steel produced in 5 months

TEHRAN- Iran produced 10.882 million tons of crude steel in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), according to the data released by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

The country's five-month crude steel output indicates a 6.8-percent drop as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Iran is planning to produce 32 million tons of steel in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 2022) to register a 27.7-percent rise compared to the figure for the previous year.

Based on the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry data, Iranian steel companies managed to produce 28.374 million tons of steel in the previous Iranian calendar year.

According to the ministry's programs for the current year, the production of 23 million tons of steel products has been also put on the agenda, while last year 25 million tons of such products were manufactured.

Sponge iron production is



expected to reach 33 million tons in the current year to register a 2.5 million tons rise compared to the previous year's 30.5 million tons.

The Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's programs for the current year, which is called the year of “Production, Support and Eliminating Obstacles”, have been classified in seven main axes under which 40 plans have been defined.

Boosting domestic production, managing imports and developing the export of non-oil commodities, developing mines and mineral industries with special emphasis

on the mining roadmap, developing technology and knowledge-based products, managing market and organizing trade logistics, improving the country's business environment, and eliminating barriers ahead of the production process, as well as providing financial resources and developing investment are some of the ministry's major plans for the current year.

Iran is currently the tenth largest steelmaker in the world and is estimated to climb to seventh place by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

According to the latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA), production of crude steel in Iran reached 17.8 million tons during January-July, 2021 to register a 9.9 percent growth year on year.

The WSA's report put the crude steel output by the world's top 64 producers at 1.165 billion tons in the mentioned time span, registering an increase of

Nearly \$430m of loans paid to production units in 5 months

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade's data show that 18.032 trillion rials (over \$429.3 million) have been paid to production units as part of a program for supporting domestic production during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

The mentioned payments were made to 195 production units, IRNA reported.

Based on the Industry Ministry data, over 405 production units based in 31 different provinces had registered for bank facilities in the mentioned five months of which

195 have been paid so far.

As reported, under the framework of this program dubbed “facilities for production and employment”, bank facilities are offered to newly established production units or semi-finished industrial projects with over 60 percent of physical progress.

Based on the mentioned program, 201.299 trillion rials of facilities (about \$4.79 billion) have been planned to be paid to production units to support domestic production and maintain or create job opportunities.

Part of the said figure is provided by the National



Development Fund (NDF) and part of it is supplied by the banking system.

Over 7,830 production units have registered for bank facilities since the program started in late Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended in March 2019). The program kicked off in February 2019 by the Industry Ministry in collaboration with the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Following a major plan for developing the country's production under the frameworks of the resilient economy, the government has defined several projects with the aim of creating 1,032,962 job opportunities.

In this regard, CBI has put supporting production on the agenda as a major plan over the past two years.

Latest CBI data show that the country's banking system paid 9,007 quadrillion rials (over \$214.47 billion) of facilities to various economic sectors in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, registering a 51.3-percent rise from the same period in the previous year.

Banks had paid 5.952 quadrillion rials (about \$141.7 billion) of facilities to domestic economic sectors in the previous calendar year's first five months.

Private sectors of Iran, Italy stress expansion of economic ties

TEHRAN – Heads of the Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce have stressed the need for expansion of trade ties between the two countries' private sectors, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported.

The Iranian Chairman of the Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce Ahmad Pourfallah met with his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Zampini on Tuesday to discuss ways of expanding bilateral ties.

In this meeting, which was the first meeting of the two chairs after the election of Zampini as the President of the Italian-Iranian Chamber, the two sides, while examining ways of closer economic relations, emphasized the continuation of bilateral cooperation and decided to have more meetings and talks in the near future.

Zampini is the CEO of Ansaldo Energia, which is one of the largest companies active in the field of manufacturing gas and hybrid power plants in the world. Ansaldo Energia has built several such power plants in Iran.

Back in April, Pourfallah has said Italian companies are still eager to engage in trade with Iran and are preparing to return to the Islamic Republic market.

“Many Italian companies are preparing to re-enter Iran after the sanctions are lifted and, in this regard, we have advised the 5000 members we



Iranian Chairman of Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce Ahmad Pourfallah (L) and his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Zampini

have in the Iran-Italy Chamber of commerce to be prepared as well,” the official said.

In the previous period, unfortunately, we were not prepared and could not benefit from the opportunity created by the arrival of various business groups from Europe, especially Italy and Germany, the official regretted.

“After the lifting of the previous sanctions, we saw the largest presence of Italian businessmen in Iran. Even the first high-ranking political figure to come to Iran was the Italian Foreign Minister,

and the Italian Prime Minister also visited Iran; this shows how much Italy is interested in collaborating with Iran,”

“For many years, Italy was our first trading partner and the only European country with which our trade balance was positive,” he added.

Mentioning the potential impact of the lifting of sanctions on trade between the two countries, the official said: “It is expected that immediately after the lifting of sanctions, Italian companies and entrepreneurs will flock to the Iranian market.”

In response to a question about the number of Italian companies ready to enter the Islamic Republic, he said: “We do not have specific statistics on the number of Italian companies that have announced their readiness to pursue their activities in Iran, but all Italian and Iranian members of the joint chamber in Rome, which are more than 105 companies, are ready to resume their activities in Iran.”

Regarding Iran's blocked resources in Italy, Pourfallah said: “According to the latest official data, we do not have a large amount of money blocked in Italy and the figure is lower than Iran's frozen assets in many other countries.”

“We have never had a problem with Italy on this issue like other countries,” he stressed.

Aluminum ingot output up 30%

TEHRAN – Production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 30.6 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry indicate.

The ministry's data put the country's five-month aluminum ingot output at 222,600 tons.

As previously announced by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 61 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20), compared to the figure for the preceding year.

The country's aluminum ingot output

stood at 446,800 tons in the previous year.

Iran's major aluminum producers had managed to produce 278,318 tons of the product in the Iranian calendar year 1398.

The country's aluminum ingot production in the Iranian calendar year 1398 had declined eight percent in comparison to the figure for its preceding year.

IMIDRO data show that among the country's top producers, Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) had the best performance in the previous year producing 185,000 tons of aluminum

ingots.

Aluminum ingot production in the country reached 41,000 tons in the last month of the previous year (February 19-March 20), registering a 38 percent rise compared to the 30,000 tons in the preceding year's same period.

Annual production of the aluminum ingot in the country is planned to increase 63 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2022).

Last year, during the inauguration ceremony of Iran's biggest aluminum production complex (in the central Fars

Iran produced 446,800 tons of aluminum ingots in the past Iranian calendar year.

Housing prices rise 2.4% in Tehran City

TEHRAN- Average housing price increased 2.4 percent in Tehran City during the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (ended on September 22), compared to its previous month, according to a report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

According to the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in the capital city during the mentioned month stood at 317 million rials (about \$7,547), IRIB reported.

The number of real estate deals increased 41.6 percent in the mentioned month to reach 7,800 deals. The number of deals, however, fell eight percent in comparison to the last year's same month.

The housing market in Tehran was the second-highest returning market in Iran among the country's four major markets in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) with 85 percent annual growth.

The information obtained from Kild website (which is a major platform for housing trades) indicated that the housing price index in Tehran grew by 85 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) compared to its preceding year.

The highest monthly price increase of 12.5 percent occurred in the Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 22-August 21, 2020), while the biggest monthly price decrease occurred in Azar (November 21-December 20, 2020) with a decline of 8.1 percent.

Back in April, the head of Iran's Property Advisers Union said housing prices in the country should decrease at least 25 percent in order for people to



be able to afford to purchase.

Mostafa Gholi Khosravi stressed the need for establishing a market regulation headquarters for the housing sector to monitor the activities of dealers and real estate agencies in order to balance the prices.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past year due to various internal and external factors.

Coronavirus has been reported to be a major factor affecting the housing prices in Iran as the pandemic has stoked concerns about losing one's savings and more people entered the housing market.

“People are turning to the housing market in order to protect their savings in the face of rising inflation. No one sees housing as a short-term consumer commodity. Even real consumers view purchasing a home as a long-term investment,” Mehdi Soltan-Mohammadi, a housing expert, said.

UK Labor Party slams Israeli regime for ‘apartheid’ policy towards Palestinians

From page 1 ► The motion calls for “effective measures” against settlement building, reversing any annexation, and ending the West Bank’s occupation and the blockade of Gaza.

Accordingly, sanctions must be imposed to ensure that the Israeli regime breaks down the Barrier Wall [in the West Bank] and respects the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homes as enshrined in international law.

In March, the International Criminal Court (ICC) launched an investigation into Israeli war crimes in the Palestinian territories. In a letter to the “Conservative Friends of Israel,” –an influential pro-Zionist organization, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson strongly opposed the investigation, calling it an attack on Israel.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed the motion, saying it sends a strong message to the Israeli regime that the world no longer accepts the continuation of its occupation. Measures must eventually follow to corner, isolate and impose sanctions on the occupation state.

Abbas said that the motion is a message of hope and support for the Palestinian people, affirming that, however long the occupation may last, it is coming to an end.

The Palestinian embassy in London welcomed the British Labor Party’s vote on the motion.

In a statement, the Palestinian



ambassador to the UK Husam Zomlot called the resolution historic, “This is a historic motion and one that underlines the Labor Party’s commitment to international law and human rights.”

“The vote comes despite a vicious years-long campaign by Israel’s supporters in the UK to stifle debate on Palestine, and defame and eject supporters of Palestinian rights from the Labor Party.” By passing the motion, Labour Party members have shown they will not be intimidated into silence,” he added.

He said that the decision to

recognize the Israeli regime as a system of colonialism and racial discrimination and to support the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to resist the occupiers and colonialists is the beginning of moving in the right direction.

“The truth has triumphed, and the party members voted with an overwhelming majority to consider Israel an apartheid state and to call for economic and military sanctions,” he wrote on Facebook.

“This is a victory for our martyrs, prisoners, and wounded; the struggle of our great people and a victory for international values and morals.

Thanks to the Friends of Palestine, the British Solidarity Campaign, and the party members. Our path to freedom is long, but reaching the finish line is inevitable,” he added.

Starmer has downplayed the Palestinian issue since he succeeded Jeremy Corbyn.

Lebanon needs to break monopolies and cartels: Lebanese academic

“The arrival of Iranian oil was truly game-changing”

From page 1 ► “But when it came true, they reacted promptly as they allowed the passage of Egyptian gas to Lebanon and violate Caesar Act”

Following is the text of the interview:

Could you update us about the circumstances that led to the formation of the Lebanese government? What are the most critical challenges facing this government?

The Lebanese government was formed due to regional and international talks and consultations that made the formation of the government a must after the process had reached advanced stages.

The international community knew well that the collapse of the Lebanese government would lead to



security collapses in the region.

Do you see a remarkable harmony between the various elements in Lebanon? Is there any coordination between the government, army, and resistance front to overcome the situation?

The government composition in Lebanon is complicated and fraught with contradiction. There is significant disagreement over the urgent priorities inside the government.

Some parties want bank float to save them from collapse, some want to implement the plan of the IMF, and some refuse to adopt the “look to the East” policy for reasons related to their interests.

But the priority today is the electricity file, stabilizing the exchange rate and stopping the collapse, which requires a clear plan beyond the interests of the ruling political and economic classes.

How do you see the impact of Iran’s move in sending fuel tankers to Lebanon on the Lebanese political scene?

The arrival of Iranian oil was truly game-changing because it was the first time a party confronted U.S. policies.

Americans considered that all that Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in this regard was only bluff and not viable.

But when it came true, they reacted promptly as they allowed the passage of Egyptian gas to Lebanon and violated Caesar’s Act.

However, Lebanon needs to complete this course and break the monopolists and cartels that have put their feet on the necks of the Lebanese people.

Earlier this month, Najib Mikati and Lebanese President Michel Aoun signed a decree forming a new government in the presence of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. How do you see the relationship between Iran and Lebanon under the Ibrahim Raisi presidency and the Mikati government?

I do not think that Prime Minister Mikati can overcome the American desire to obstruct relations with Iran, so we cannot count on his government in this regard.

“Americans considered that all that Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said about fuel shipments from Iran was only bluff and not viable.”

Lengthy queues build outside gas stations in London again amid UK fuel crisis

Lengthy queues have been reportedly formed outside gas stations throughout London once again amid a fuel crisis gripping the United Kingdom.

Long queues were witnessed outside gas stations in north London as well as the capital’s busy M25 orbital motorway on Wednesday, according to Reuters journalists, along with warnings that no fuel was available at some sites.

This came despite British Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s efforts to quell public concerns after several gas stations in Britain ran dry because of panic buying and a shortage of drivers.

Johnson said the situation is starting to improve and that supplies were returning to normal, while urging people not to panic buy and to go about their business “in the normal way,” and to “fill up when you need it.”

“All we want to do is make sure that we have all the preparations necessary to get through to Christmas and beyond, not just in the supply of petrol stations, but all parts of our supply chain,” he said.

“We’ve seen the global economy really sucking in a huge amount of demand for gas, for lorry drivers

– there are shortages around the world. It’s affecting countries across the world, but we’ve got to make sure we have everything in place as the recovery continues,” he added.

Since last week, several petrol stations in Britain have closed as their ability to transport fuel from refineries was hit by an industry-wide shortage of truck drivers.

The driver shortage has also caused widespread disruption to Britain’s vital supply chains, namely the food sector.

The British oil giant BP temporarily closed some of its 1,200 petrol stations.

The British oil giant BP temporarily closed some of its 1,200 petrol stations earlier last week, triggering long queues at some stations in London and Kent as motorists rushed in an attempt to fill up.

The Petrol Retailers Association (PRA), which represents independent fuel suppliers, was at pains to confirm that as many as two-thirds of the 5,500 service stations operated by its members have run out of fuel, with the rest of them “partly dry and running out soon.”

On Tuesday, the UK army was put on standby to supply the country’s petrol stations after a shortage of truck drivers forced some to close, triggering a spate of panic buying.

Media reports suggest that 150



British army tanker drivers, which the government has put on standby, could be deployed in the next few days.

Meanwhile, pictures on social media showed some people filling up old water bottles with fuel, while fights broke out at some forecourts as drivers pushed for petrol.

Drivers have been forced to wait in line for hours at the pumps that are still open, and local media have reported instances of violence between irate customers as tensions rise.

The long lines and confusion are causing extra stress for people with disabilities.

Hundreds of forecourts have also remained closed in many regions across Britain, and motorists are still waiting in queues to fill their tanks.

There are growing fears now that the UK could be heading into a second “winter of discontent” with

shelves expected to be emptier than usual in the run-up to Christmas.

Under an emergency plan considered by Johnson’s government, up to 5,500 foreign truck drivers are set to be granted temporary work visas, while competition law is suspended in order to allow suppliers to deliver fuel to rival operators.

The post-Brexit strict national rules, along with the crisis caused by the pandemic, have left the UK facing a shortage of truck drivers as tens of thousands of EU nationals have left trucking jobs and other occupations in the UK. According to the Road Haulage Association, there is a shortage of around 100,000 truck drivers in the country, which has led to the rise of fuel prices.

(Source: Press TV)

Resignation exposes Biden’s asylum policy failure

TEHRAN – The resignation of the U.S. special envoy to Haiti in protest against the administration of President’s Joe Biden immigration policy speaks volumes about the American President’s campaign pledge to reverse his predecessor’s “cruel” policies on asylum seekers.

Following the assassination of Haiti’s President and the ensuing political unrest and violence, advocates had expected Biden to take a more “humane” approach than the previous administration towards refugees fleeing their country and seeking temporary asylum in the United States. That hope was based on President Biden’s Presidential campaign pledge to reverse what many advocacy groups described as Trump’s “cruel” crackdown on asylum seekers that saw children separated from their parents and locked up in cages.

However, the mass deportation of Haitian asylum seekers who had fled their country in search of security in the U.S. has been widely condemned among refugee rights groups. A U.S. senior official claims Foote had called on Washington to assist with reinstating law and order and that this request was rejected.

In essence, the Biden administration has failed to handle a recent surge of Haitian asylum seekers fleeing the implosion of the country’s society after the assassination in July of its President, Jovenel Moise, which triggered chaos and was followed by a powerful earthquake in August. After about 14,000 asylum seekers gathered in an impromptu camp under a bridge in Del Rio, Texas, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau started flying hundreds out on multiple flights every day, without the opportunity for asylum appeals or hearings. This practice is against international law.

Foote, who served as deputy chief of mission in Haiti and ambassador in Zambia, was appointed special envoy after Moise’s killing, which remains unsolved. In his letter to the U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, he says, “I will not be associated with the United States’ inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees and illegal immigrants to Haiti, a country where American officials are confined to secure compounds because of the danger posed by armed gangs to daily life.”

Foote adds, “our policy approach to Haiti remains deeply flawed, and my policy recommendations have been ignored and dismissed, when not edited to project a narrative different from my own... the people of Haiti, mired in poverty, hostage to the terror, kidnappings, robberies, and massacres of armed gangs and suffering under a corrupt government with gang alliances, simply cannot support the forced infusion of thousands of returned migrants lacking food, shelter, and money without additional avoidable human tragedy.”

The former special envoy argues that the deportation policy was self-defeating as it would only fuel more migration saying, “the collapsed state is unable to provide security or basic services, and more refugees will fuel further desperation and crime. Surging migration to our borders will only grow as we will add to Haiti’s unacceptable misery.”

The deportations are being carried out under a previously obscure public health law, Title 42, which was controversially used for summary expulsions by the Trump administration but has continued under his successor Biden. The head of the UN refugee agency, Filippo Grandi, has said the use of Title 42 without any due process or screening for “potential peril” faced by deportees is a possible violation of international law.

The publication of Foote’s letter comes just days after shocking and disturbing pictures were published showing U.S. border patrol agents on horseback using their whips on desperate black Haitian refugees on the U.S. southern border.

THREE suicides, in TWO days, at ONE U.S. Army Division

TEHRAN – The 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army at Fort Drum, New York, reported the suspicious death of three U.S. soldiers within 48 hours.

According to the Military News report, one of these soldiers was a member of the last U.S. troops to leave Afghanistan. Tyler Thomas, a 21-year-old Signal Support specialist from Texas, died September 16. The next day, two other soldiers also died: Angel Green, 24, of Barstow, California, and Sika Tapueluelu, 26, of Washington.

10th Mountain is still investigating the cause of death, but Lt. Col. Josh Jacques, a spokesman for the Division, said it is believed all three died of self-harm.

Angel Green, who was serving in the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, had recently returned from Afghanistan on September 6. Green and his unit were in Kabul during the last traumatic final days of the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the 10th Mountain Division said troops from the Division were present at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul and left the airport during the final days of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. This was Angel Green’s second

Both human rights groups have strongly condemned the Biden administration for the deportations and the treatment of the asylum seekers. Immigration rights organizations recently rallied in 25 cities across the United States to highlight what they describe as the President’s failure to deliver the “humane, just immigration policy” he promised. Marcela Hernandez, organizing director for Detention Watch, one of the groups behind the rallies, says, “Biden has failed to act on all of his promises.”

In addition to Biden’s continued defense of Title 42, Hernandez pointed out that detentions are up more than 60 percent since Biden assumed office, and there has been no significant reduction in funding towards the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

She says, “we thought it was going to get better, but it’s getting worse.”

In footage first broadcast by Al Jazeera, white border patrol agents on horses can be seen threatening, insulting, and even lashing at black asylum seekers with their horses’ reins, shouting at them to stay in Mexico. The images, which quickly spread across the globe, sparked significant outrage among the international community. Some mainstream U.S. media were also quick to jump to the defense of the border agents. Right-wing American media outlets, for example, were quick to point out that border patrol agents are not issued whips with their gear. Still, you don’t need to be a nuclear scientist to figure out when a horse’s rein is used as a whip; it essentially becomes a whip.

Chains, whips, horses, and bloodhounds, branding irons were some of the tools used during New World slavery to preserve white hegemony over the black American community. Most Americans know this, and analysts say they hold on to the hope that the U.S. does not return to such brutality. According to experts, every part of that miserable system of treating black people in America was degrading.

They say it was mainly degrading to the enslaved and the slaveholders, who lost more of their humanity each passing day that this barbaric system went on.

History displays America’s border hypocrisy. Yet the more significant point is that every national border is a place that offers those who pass two options: sanctuary or terror. The images are emerging from the southern American border, explicitly recalling the collective shame

of America’s past, are pointing in the wrong direction. Analysts say this explains why the White House, which has executive authority over the border patrol, was quick to condemn the footage.

The White House is also making preparations to reopen a migrant detention center at the notorious Guantanamo Bay, close to the prison camp for detainees picked up in the U.S.’ so-called “war on terror” and has already asked private contractors for contracts to supply guards who speak Creole and Spanish.

Democratic congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez labeled the plan as “utterly shameful.” White House spokeswoman, Jen Psaki, claims the Guantanamo migrant center was not intended for migrants detained on the southern border. But with this current U.S. administration in power, not much can be taken seriously. The center itself had not been operational for around four years. Speaking at a Press Conference, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki failed to clarify why a decision has been taken to reopen it.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement, says it had deported more than 1,500 asylum seekers from the southern border to Haiti and taken 3,500 others into custody.

This is not the only policy campaign that Biden has pledged or promised to rectify after taking over from Trump but failed to do so. As the criticism increases following the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, Biden’s first year in office is not looking politically good. Polls indicate his popularity is falling.

deployment to Afghanistan. He was also had been deployed to Qatar once.

The three deaths in a row have added to the military’s difficulties in reducing the death toll and suicide risk among service members and veterans. Earlier this year, a study at Brown University found that more than four times as many troops and veterans who had served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars had died by suicide as were directly killed in the conflicts.

In a release, Major general Milford Beagle urged soldiers to reach out on their own behalf if they were having troubles.

“To the soldiers of Fort Drum, the 10th Mountain Division, and our entire Army, I want you to know every life is worth living!” he wrote. “If you have problems, challenges, or issues, there is help available from this chain of command all the way down to help you get the resources you need. Do not suffer in silence.”

“10th Mountain shouldered some of the heaviest burdens of the Afghanistan War. For nearly 20 years, soldiers from the Division were either deployed there or preparing to deploy.” He added.

Inmates trained as crafters in Zanjan



TEHRAN –A total of 70 inmates have recently been trained as crafters in prisons across northwestern Zanjan province during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year 1400 (started March 21), the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

To empower the prisoners and provide job opportunities for them after their release as well as promoting handicraft fields, the kilim weaving courses were held in the province's prisons, Elnaz Khodai said on Wednesday.

In addition to enhancing handcraft production in prisons, the courses, which were held by the experienced handicrafts masters, also sought to generate income for the prisoners, the official added.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

Tourism ministry seeks to empower inmates

In October 2020, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts signed a memorandum of understanding with the Prisons, Security, and Corrective Measures Organization to create jobs and make income for prisoners.

The MOU also aimed at implementing special educational and promotional programs, identifying talented prisoners, and improving their social status.

The deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian said that handicraft products made by prisoners have been displayed in various exhibitions, and the income generated from selling these products has been returned to the prisoners and their families.

Wide-ranging handicrafts

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

From page 1 ► The mausoleum has undergone various restoration projects over time. It was registered on the National Heritage list in 1939.

There is also a modest museum in the northwestern corner of the courtyard, next to the shrine, which showcases shrine-related objects, including some ancient copies of the Holy Quran.

Non-Muslim guests will be matched up with an English-speaking guide on arrival. Women must wear a chador (open cloaks that leave the face exposed) within the whole shrine complex, available for free at the women's entrance.

Elsewhere, this former Iranian capital has gorgeous gardens and ornate palaces and pavilions. Masjed-e Nasir Al Molk (also known as the Pink Mosque) has rosy tiles and lovely stained glass that give it a dreamlike quality, especially if you visit when the sun streams through in the morning.

There are also museums and teahouses, while the famous ruins of Persepolis are only 60km away. Darius the Great's ambitious city was burnt by fire and buried by sand, but its monuments and friezes are still astounding: they speak of ambition and power, but also the careful craftsmanship of days long past.

Here is a selection of comments that visitors to Shah Cheragh have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

'A different holy place'

This holy place gave me positive energy and I did yoga there that was great. Unfortunately, I couldn't see the main part of the holy shrine because it's allowed just for Muslims but outside was enough for me to know how pretty it is. Highly recommend. (judi L)

'Love the glittery decor'

This is a must-visit in Shiraz. There

Majestic Shah Cheragh where mirrors and glass shards cover every inch



Interior of Shah Cheragh mosque in Shiraz, southern Iran

is a free guided tour and ladies will be given an overall to wear over their clothes. The interior is beautiful with all the glittering furnishings.

Unfortunately, not all areas are opened to ladies. (The Weak Knee Traveler from Singapore)

'A must-see in the night'

My first visit was in the morning but the tour guide that assisted me for a show around said that the best time to visit is after sunset to witness the lighting which is absolutely true!

beautiful lighting and the Iranian are so kind. (VSGrande from Muscat, Oman)

'An immersion into an amazing blend of ancient and contemporary Persian culture'

The shrine itself is a lovely example of contemporary Iranian religious architecture, but a visit is much more about getting an understanding of Iranian people and their way of life. There are two options for a visit: one is to visit the shrine with

Inside its great chamber of worship, giant chandeliers hang like frozen rain.

Tourism projects worth \$16.6m to be inaugurated in southern Iran

TEHRAN –A total of 16 tourism-related projects, worth 700 billion rials (\$16.6 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar), are scheduled to come on stream in the southern province of Kerman on the occasion of National Tourism Week (September 27-October 4).

The projects include hotels, travel agencies, eco-lodge units, and tourism complexes in different cities across the province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The projects are estimated to generate over 140 job opportunities upon their inauguration, Fereydoun Fa'ali said on Wednesday.

Parts of the mentioned projects have been carried out by the private sector, the official added.

Earlier in August, the official announced that despite being home to seven UNESCO World Heritage sites, Kerman province is not still a giant tourist destination.

"Extra efforts need to be made to promote the vast southern province of Kerman as a tourist destination for domestic travelers and foreign tourists," he noted.

Despite its world-famous attractions, diverse and inviting climates, and conditions, this province is not as popular as it should be, the official added.

"It is important that governmental



and private sectors participate in making Kerman a new destination and market for tourism, given its seven World Heritage sites and various capacities including UNESCO-tagged Bam Citadel."

Moreover, tourism infrastructure throughout the province needs to be upgraded, he concluded.

The UNESCO-tagged Bam and its Cultural Landscape is located on the southern edge of the Iranian high plateau, in Kerman province, close to the Pakistan border. It's highly regarded as an outstanding example of an ancient fortified settlement.

According to UNESCO, the origins of the citadel can be traced back to the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC) and even beyond. The ensemble was at crossroads of

important trade routes as well in its heyday sometime between the 7th to 11th centuries. The massive fortress and its environs were almost completely brought down to earth due to a devastating earthquake on December 26, 2003.

The big and sprawling Kerman province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

National Tourism Week, which begins on World Tourism Day on September 27 every year, aims at promoting and developing Iran's tourism capacities.

Ongoing tourism projects

Last September, the former Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said that over 2,400 tourism-related projects are currently being implemented across the country with a total estimated cost of 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion).

"This volume of investment indicates that investors recognize the growing tourism sector as a new economy in the country and have high hopes for it," he added. He also noted that ecotourism has developed rapidly and the number of eco-lodge units increased from 400 units in 2017 to over 2,000 units at the beginning of 2020.

The tourism industry of the country was growing and progressing well but unfortunately, it has faced the coronavirus outbreak, which brought the industry to a standstill, he added.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Agritourism farms come on stream in Malayer

TEHRAN – Two agritourism farms have been inaugurated in the city of Malayer, west-central Hamedan province, Malayer's tourism chief has announced.

The farms, which have been set up by the private sector, are aimed to promote tourism in the region and create jobs for the locals, Ebrahim Jalili said on Wednesday.

To build agritourism farms, farmers use light and oriented structures for growing crops without altering the farm areas, the official explained.

Since the grapes and raisins of Malayer are worldwide famous, most of the activities such farms focus on the production of grapes and raisins, and tourists are welcome to spend a few hours in such orchards and learn about the farming customs and methods, he added.

A relatively new branch of tourism

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.

In January 2020, Malayer was named a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture by the World Crafts Council - Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR).

Currently, more than 60 percent of the furniture and woodcarving products in Iran are reportedly produced in Malayer and they are sent to various Iranian cities or being exported to Central Asian countries, Persian Gulf littoral states, Turkey, and Iraq amongst some others.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations, and there's a scattering of historical curiosities.

Ecbatana was the capital of Media and was subsequently the summer residence of the Achaemenian kings and one of the residences of the Parthian kings. According to ancient Greek writers, the city was founded in about 678 BC by the semi-legendary Deices, who was the first king of the Medes. The Greek historian Herodotus described the city in the 5th century BC as being surrounded by seven concentric walls.

Archaeological survey begins on Dalma Tepe after six-decade hiatus

TEHRAN – A fresh archeological survey has been commenced on Dalma Tepe, in Naqadeh, northwestern West Azarbaijan province after a hiatus of some six decades, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Following decades of interruption in its studies, the first season of the archaeological survey of Dalma Tepe has been undertaken in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute under the supervision of the province's cultural heritage department under prehistoric studies of northwestern Iran and the Lake Urmia basin, Jalil Jabari said on Wednesday.

The prehistorical site was excavated during 1958 and 1959 for a brief period by British archaeologist Charles Allen Burney, and again by Canadian archaeologist Theodore Cuyler Young in 1961, the official explained.

Situated a short distance south of Lake Urmia, Dalama Tepe is estimated to date back to the 5th millennium BC.

The historical site, which was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2006, is located near Tepe Hasanlu, another significant Iron Age site in the region that is mostly known for a millennia-old gold bowl discovered in



1958.

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.

11 Sacred Defense elements, properties approved as national heritage

TEHRAN – A selection of eleven elements and properties involving Iran-Iraq 1980-1988 war, which is called Sacred Defense in the Islamic Republic, have recently been added to the national heritage list.

Designated from the provinces of Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, and East Azarbaijan, the new entries include a customs building, an embankment, an underground hospital, as well as war elements and evidence existing in a mosque, and in a garrison, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

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

The Sacred Defense Museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm. The complex has vast garden areas, water features, and children's play areas. Outside, a patchwork of domestically-manufactured armaments such as rockets, tanks, and artillery pieces are on show. Currently, some 15 museums related to the Sacred Defense are active across the country.

Former Iraqi President 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.



Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari registers 47,200 overnight stays in H1

TEHRAN – Vacationers made about 47,200 overnight stays in the lesser-known Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21).

"47,200 people made overnight stays during the first six months of the year at authorized accommodation centers such as hotels, traditional lodging houses, eco-lodge units, apartment hotels, guest houses, and other tourist centers," the deputy provincial tourism said on Wednesday.

"Those passengers were accepted and accommodated in 140 hotels, apartment hotels, guesthouses, eco-lodges, guest houses, and accommodation complexes in compliance with social distancing and health protocols issued by the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control," Farjam Samiei explained.

The [average] hotel occupancy rate was about 12 percent during the aforementioned period due to the COVID restrictions, he said.

Iran plans to resume tourist visas by next month after months of suspension amid strict government measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the tourism minister announced on September 27 concurrent with World Tourism Day.

Months of steep recession has taken its



toll. Many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators have faced big dilemmas such as bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

An off-the-beaten-path tourist destination, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, is the birthplace of various unique traditions and rituals relative to the 'tribal' lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majority of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are reviewing small quick-win projects aiming to facilitate Hamoun Wetland restoration.

Ahmad Reza Lahijanzadeh, deputy chief of the DOE for the marine environment, met with UNDP Representative in Iran Claudio Providas in the “Second meeting of the committee for the review and approval of effective small quick-win projects”, held online on Wednesday.

About 70 projects have been sent to the Sistan Project, which are being reviewed during expert meetings with the local community and experts from the related bodies, he stated, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

“Enhancing integrated natural resource management for the restoration of wetland ecosystems and support to alternative livelihoods development of local communities”, abbreviated as the Sistan Project is a joint project between the DOE and UNDP, and is funded by the European Union.

Launched in 2020, the project’s main objectives include efforts for integrated management of natural resources and socio-economic development of Sistan region with emphasis on supporting alternative livelihoods in line with competitive advantages.

Neda Filsafi, Sistan project manager said that these plans are specifically designed to engage actors who have a particular or distinct view of development, or represent people who have been deprived of the development process and who have the ability to come up with empirical or innovative solutions to overcome deprivation or deal with development challenges.

These plans are implemented with due consideration of the following goals and focus on “Tourism, Handicrafts and Cultural Development”,

Quick-win projects aim to revive Hamoun Wetland



Small quick-win projects seek solutions to reduce problems related to natural resources, climate change and livelihood improvement.

“Women’s Economic Empowerment”, “Agriculture and Livestock”, “Fisheries

and Aquaculture”, “Entrepreneurship and Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises”, “Soil, Water and Wetland Management” and “Trade and Commerce”.

Small quick-win projects seek solutions to reduce problems related to natural resources, climate change and livelihood improvement, and identify possible solutions to test and benchmark development challenges with an emphasis on the application of indigenous knowledge.

The Hamouns are transboundary wetlands on the Iran-Afghan border made up of three lakes: Hamoun-e Helmand, which is entirely in Iran, Hamoun-e Sabari on the border, and Hamoun-e Puzak, almost entirely in-

side Afghanistan. The three lakes are linked and fed by water from the Helmand River which starts in the Hindu Kush Mountains in Afghanistan.

In the last two decades, once fertile wetlands have drastically dried up. The Taliban government closed the sluices to the Kajaki Dam on the Helmand until 2002, which aggravated the impact of the worst drought the region has experienced in many decades, brought about partially by climate change and warming temperatures.

Disputes over transboundary water between Iran and Afghanistan date back to the 1870s when Afghanistan was under British control.

Tehran improves rank among world’s innovative cities



From page 1 ► This year, the classification of countries by region and income level is also presented, and Iran is 13th among the middle and upper-middle-income countries and the second among the countries of the Central and South Asian region, after India.

The development of urban innovation and the promotion of related indicators is one of the areas of interest in the smartest cities. In the Smart Tehran program, along with other smart cities, a special heading is dedicated to the development of the urban innovation ecosystem and the support of startups and knowledge-based companies.

Among the measures in this field is the creation of a specialized technology market for the smart city, the dissemination of 400 technological and innovative needs of the municipality, the establishment of innovation centers in different areas of Tehran, and the facilitation of innovative businesses in the city.

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.

Tehran ranked 41, surpassing cities such as Istanbul, Vienna, Barcelona, and Berlin.

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.

Between 2014 and 2017, exports of knowledge-based goods grew by a factor of five, before slumping in 2018 after the U.S. withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2015), commonly referred to as the nuclear deal, and re-imposed sanctions.

The report states that innovation in Iran has developed rapidly over the past five years, and by the end of last year, 49 accelerators and 113 innovation centers had provided services to start-ups with the participation of the private sector.



facilities are provided, for example, in the field of treatment, more than 80,000 patients of incurable diseases are currently under the Foundation’s coverage.

said, lamenting, in Iran, this sector has not been addressed as it deserves, and Iran has a share of less than 0.5 percent of the world’s tourism.

The jobs that Relief Foundation provides for the underprivileged are mostly small and home-based businesses, he noted, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation works to provide employment in deprived areas and empowers financially struggling families, other services such as building or buying housing, cultural services, medical services, and other

Import of Pfizer not on agenda

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health is not planning to import Pfizer vaccines, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

It had been previously announced that Pfizer vaccines will be imported to inoculate pregnant women against COVID-19.

However, following the recent meeting of the national COVID-19 committee, it was decided that the vaccination of pregnant women should continue with Sinopharm vaccines.

So, the import of Pfizer is not on the agenda for the time being.

To import or not to import?

Earlier in September, Seyed Heidar Mohammadi, deputy head of the Food and Drug Administration announced that two vaccines of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson are licensed for emergency use in the country and will be allowed to be imported.

So far, six vaccines including, Sputnik V, Astra-Zeneca, Sinopharm, Bharat, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson have been licensed for emergency use in Iran.

“A contract is being prepared for the import of 2 million doses of Pfizer vaccines from Belgium over the next one to two months, provided that there are no international problems with currency transfer.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, manufactured in Germany, is also awaiting the finalization of international agreements. The country of origin has promised up to 5 million doses,” he said.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on September 11 that the country is facing no red lines in importing coronavirus vaccines, even Pfizer and Moderna.

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

WHO slashes guideline limits on air pollution from fossil fuels

The World Health Organization has cut its recommended limits for air pollution and urged nations to tackle dirty air and save millions of lives.

In the first update for 16 years, the guideline limit for the most damaging pollution – tiny particles from burning fossil fuels – has been halved. The new limit for nitrogen dioxide (NO2), mainly produced by diesel engines, is now 75% lower, the Guardian reported.

The stringent new limits reflect the large body of evidence produced in recent years of the deadly harm caused to people by much lower levels of pollution than previously thought. Air pollution kills at least 7 million people a year, the WHO said, while a recent study estimated 8.7 million early deaths a year from coal, oil and gas burning – 20% of all deaths.

Pollution cuts an average of two years from the lives of the global population, and up to six years in highly polluted nations such as India, making it a bigger killer than smoking, car crashes or HIV/Aids.

Scientists stressed that even the new limits should not be considered safe, as there appears to be no level at which pollutants stop causing damage. They said reducing pollution would boost health even in nations with relatively clean air. A 2019 review concluded that air pollution may be damaging every organ in the body, causing heart and lung disease, diabetes and dementia and reducing intelligence.

Air pollution is the biggest environmental threat to human health and is a public health emergency, according to the WHO, costing trillions of dol-



Placing great emphasis on the fulfillment of duties and the implementation of decisions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, Ayatollah Khamenei said “the vaccine, whether imported or domestically produced, must be provided with double effort and in any way possible made available to all people.”

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

Vaccination up, mortality down

In July, delta variant mortality peaked and recorded over 700 daily deaths, but the increase of vaccination pace reduced the toll.

Today, more than one million doses of vaccine are injected daily in the country, and many age groups of the elderly, rare diseases patients, teachers, university professors, health professionals, veterans, etc. have been vaccinated and now the process of vaccinating students is underway.

Studies show that people who are not vaccinated are 4.5 times more likely to develop COVID-19 than those who are fully vaccinated, and 10 and 11 times more likely to be hospitalized and die, respectively.

Relief Foundation clients launch 47 tourism business plans

TEHRAN – Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has announced that 47 employment projects in the field of tourism have been so far launched by its clients.

These projects are operating in the form of eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, and catering, Alireza Ramezani, an official with the Foundation, said on Wednesday.

Clients’ eco-lodges have been set up in various provinces including Ardabil, Hormozgan, Bushehr, South Khorasan, Khuzestan, Zanjan, Yazd, Mazandaran,

and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari.

Clients working in tourism had a good income before the coronavirus epidemic, but the outbreak has reduced their income by up to 80 percent, as in other parts of the world, he lamented.

In order to prevent the clients’ losses, in addition to deferring the loans, the Foundation also provided them with free grants, Ramezani stated.

More than 10 percent of employment and GDP in the world come from tourism, which shows the importance of this industry in the world’s economy, he

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Marine species population increased in protected areas

According to the annual census, the population of marine species in habitats under the Department of Environment (DOE) supervision has increased, Ahmad Lahijanzadeh, head of marine environment affairs at the DOE has said.

The annual Census is the authoritative source of data determining the population and distribution of animal or marine species through counting them yearly.

Protecting marine habitats and listing them as protected areas are among the most important priorities of the DOE, he said, adding, all of the areas have been identified through environmental assessment and field surveys.

The reproduction time is important, and the DOE forces stand guard and constantly supervise the area during this period, he noted.

He went on to say that annual census shows that the number of species in protected areas is increasing, probably due to favorable condition and full-time control.

افزایش گونه‌های دریایی مناطق تحت حفاظت سازمان محیط زیست

لاهیجان زاده گفت: براساس سرشماری سالانه تعداد گونه‌های موجود در زیستگاه‌های دریایی تحت حفاظت رو به افزایش است.

احمد لاهیجان زاده معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، در رابطه با اهمیت حفاظت از زیستگاه‌های دریایی اظهار کرد: حفاظت از زیستگاه‌های دریایی و شناسایی این مناطق در اولویت سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست قرار دارد و تمام این زیستگاه‌ها در قالب مطالعات جامع و تعقیب میدانی شناسایی شده‌اند.

وی با بیان اینکه در بسیاری از این زیستگاه‌ها زادآوری صورت می‌گیرد، افزود: زمان این زادآوری‌ها با شناسایی زیستگاه‌ها مشخص است و سازمان محیط زیست در این بازه زمانی حفاظت فیزیکی را انجام می‌دهد.

لاهیجان زاده گفت: براساس سرشماری‌های سالانه، تعداد گونه‌های موجود در زیستگاه‌های تحت حفاظت رو به افزایش است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 29

New cases	13,271
New deaths	272
Total cases	5,572,962
Total deaths	120,160
New hospitalized patients	1,891
Patients in critical condition	6,016
Total recovered patients	5,009,973
Diagnostic tests conducted	32,087,135
Doses of vaccine injected	53,809,661

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 30, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There are many educated people who have ruined their future on account of their ignorance of religion. Their knowledge did not prove of any avail to them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:54 Evening: 18:08 Dawn: 4:36 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:59 (tomorrow)

Iranian languages and scripts: Documentation

A text written in Khotanese.

Part 4
Khotanese
The language of the kingdom of Khotan (in Khotanese Hvatana-ksira “land of Khotan,” Pers. Khotan) spoken along the western part of the Southern Silk Route, is known from a few inscriptions on jars and paintings, but mainly from a large corpus of texts, most of them written on paper, but many on wooden tablets and smaller pieces of wood.
They comprise economic and legal documents, private and official letters, and Buddhist texts, the oldest of which may be from the 6th century, and the latest from ca. 980.

The lexicon is characterized by a large number of loanwords from the Middle Indic language spoken in the area at the beginning of our era (Gandhari or Northwest Prakrit), as well as from literary Buddhist Sanskrit.

On the other hand, early Khotanese loanwords are found in the Indic (Northwest Prakrit or Gandhari) language spoken east of Khotan.

Three distinct chronological stages are attested, Old, Middle, and Late Khotanese, corresponding roughly to the 5-6th, 7-8th, and 9-10th centuries.

The Late Khotanese texts are all from Dunhuang, while the Old and Middle Khotanese texts are from Khotan and adjacent areas. In traditional descriptions, Middle and Late Khotanese are lumped together as Late Khotanese, but the main change in the language took place between the Middle and Late stages. With few exceptions, the Old Khotanese texts are translations of Buddhist texts.

Khotanese was written in the Southern Brahmi script.

Grammatical sketches and grammars include those in Konow, 1932; Dresden, 1955; Emmerick, 1968. Descriptions of Khotanese with bibliographies are found in Osnovy and in CLI.

Dictionaries and glossaries include Bailey’s Dictionary (1979, which excludes non-Iranian words), supplemented by Emmerick and Skjærvø, eds., 1980, 1987, 1997, and the glossaries in Dresden, 1955; Canevascini, 1993; Skjærvø, 2005; and in other individual text editions. Ronald E. Emmerick’s A Guide to the Literature of Khotan (1992) is an annotated bibliography.

Modern Iranian languages

The Iranian languages spoken in modern Iran and Afghanistan and adjacent areas (today also in the diaspora) can be grouped geographically and/or linguistically.

To some extent, groups of linguistically related dialects are found within limited geographic areas, but, as a result of population movements, both dialect areas and dialect groups have been split up, and the individual dialects of a group may exist in enclaves within other dialect areas (e.g., Zazaki and Gurani).

Thus, both Kurdish and Baluchi may have arrived where they are relatively recently. In southwestern Iran, Luri and Farsi dialects are geographically intermingled, and, in the southeast, Baluchi stretches into the area of the Bandari and Bahskardi dialects, and splinter groups are found in the area of Marv

(Turkmenistan).

For maps on dialect distribution, see Stilo (2004). In the East-Iranian area, closely related dialects such as Parachi and Ormulu, Yidgha and Munji are today separated. In addition, Modern Persian in many variants is spread throughout the Iranian-speaking territories.

Like the Old and Middle Iranian languages, the modern dialects and languages are commonly classified linguistically as “West-” and “East-Iranian,” but the geographic meanings of the terms are rather loose.

Thus, Ossetic in the far northwest belongs to the “East-Iranian” linguistic group, and sub-divisions such as Northwest-, Northeast-, Southwest-, and Southeast-Iranian may be more helpful. See also Lecoq (1989) on the western Iranian languages.

Non-Iranian languages are also found within the Iranian language area, with which the Iranian languages have interacted for centuries, notably

Turkic languages in the west (especially Azerbaijan), the south (Khalaj, Qashqai), along the border with Turkmenistan, and in Afghanistan (especially Uzbek); but also Arabic in the west and southwest, as well as in Afghanistan and Central Asia; neo-Aramaic (Turoyo) in the Kurmanji- and Arabic-speaking area of Tur Abdin in southeastern Turkey; Mongolian in the area of Herat; Brahui in Baluchistan; and Indic (Gypsy) languages in various areas stretching from Central Asia to the westernmost Iranian-speaking areas.

Although the areas in which modern languages and dialects are spoken correspond to a large extent to areas where we know Middle and Old Iranian languages were once spoken, close links between the various chronological stages are difficult to establish.

Only Persian can be followed from its most ancient to its modern form. The area of the Northwestern and Central dialects corresponds roughly to the area occupied by the Medes in ancient times, but since we know nothing about the morphology and lexicon of the Median language(s), correlations can only be assumed.

Similarly, the Caspian dialects occupy what was probably (Middle-) Parthian-speaking territory, but only general morphological and lexical features link the modern languages with Parthian, and some separate them from Parthian and link them with Persian.

Bactrian shares phonological features with Yidgha-Munji and Pashto, but closer relationships based on similarities in morphology have not yet been established. Finally, Yaghnobi and Wakhji are closely related to Sogdian and Khotanese, respectively, but are not the descendants of any known forms of these languages.

The Grundriss contains succinct geographic and demographic information about Iranian languages and dialects at the time excerpted from then available publications.

More recent information is found in publications on individual languages, the CLI, and various geographical and anthropological studies.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

IRGC chief Ahmad Yusefi’s widow releases her memoirs “Autumn Arrived”

TEHRAN – Fakhro-Sadat Musavi, the widow of Ahmad Yusefi, an IRGC commander who led several major reconnaissance operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, has released her memoirs “Autumn Arrived”.

The book published by Sureh-Mehr, a major publishing house affiliated with the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, was written based on interviews writer Golestan Jafarian conducted with Musavi.

Musavi and Jafarian attended a session held by the Mehr News Agency at its office in Tehran on Tuesday to introduce the book.

The aim of the book is to record a spiritual and emotional background, which will keep the widows of martyrs in contact with the ideal emotional and spiritual condition of the wartime and their marriage, Musavi said at the session.

She noted that their emotional connections with their men are not severed after organizing a memorial service and they would suffer from it all their lives.

“The war has ended, but its wounds still remain and its flames still burn in the hearts of the martyrs’ children and widows, and these feelings will remain forever,” she said.

Musavi lamented that the memories of the martyrs’ widows have not been given sufficient attention to be recorded, and added, “We could not record what happened to us in our marriage and afterwards... Nobody asked about the memories, and the widows refused to recount

IRGC commander Ahmad Yusefi’s widow Fakhro-Sadat Musavi (L) and writer Golestan Jafarian pose after a session held at MNA office in Tehran on September 28, 2021 to introduce her memoirs “Autumn Arrived”. (Mehr/Ali Haddadi-Asl)

their stories, most of which have now been consigned to oblivion.”

Speaking at the session, Jafarian said, “‘Autumn Arrived’ belongs to Fakhro-Sadat Musavi, who was hopelessly in love with her man and has still kept her love alive.”

“In our first interview, which lasted for two and a half hours, I was captivated by her fascinating accounts of her life during childhood at her paternal house... however, when she recalled her memories of

her marriage with Ahmad, everything changed; she recounted the happiest moments of their marriage with such tearful eyes that I lost my concentration,” she added.

Yusefi was martyred while leading a reconnaissance operation in the Lari Baneh Heights in western Iran on September 28, 1986.

“His martyrdom happened very fast,” Musavi has said earlier. “He came home in Zanjan on a Thursday; he along with Ali [his elder son]

attended Friday prayer next day; on Saturday, he returned to the frontline; on Sunday, he was martyred, and his remains were buried in a cemetery located in a slum area of his homeland Zanjan on Monday.”

Yusefi is also survived by his other son, Mohsen.

About the title of the book, Musavi said, “I met Ahmed for the first time in autumn and his martyrdom fell in autumn, therefore the book was entitled ‘Autumn Arrived’.”

“African Violet” scores big win at San Francisco Iranian Film Festival

TEHRAN – “African Violet” has been the big winner of the 14th edition of the Annual Iranian Film Festival – San Francisco as it garnered awards in four categories, including best screenplay and best director.

Mona Zandi-Haqiqi was selected as best director for the drama, which also won the award for best screenplay written by Hamidreza Bababeigi.

The film tells the story of a middle-aged Shokuh who finds out that her ex-husband, Fereidun, has been placed in a nursing home by their children.

She, and her second husband Reza, decide to take care of Fereidun themselves, but in their own home. In doing so, the relationship between Shokuh and Fereidun is significantly transformed. This new situation affects Reza and Shokuh’s daily life and unexpected changes take place in the lives of all three characters.

The festival was held virtually on September 18 and 19 due to the pandemic and the winners were announced during the closing day of the event.

Fatemah Motamed-Aria received the award for best actress for the portrayal of Shokuh.

The award for best actor went to Amir-Hossein Fat’hi for his role in “The Slaughterhouse” by Abbas Amini.

Mehdi Rezaei won the best cinematography award for his collaboration in “Kulbarf” directed by Milad Mansuri.

“Duchenne Boys” was named best documentary.

The documentary is a personal narrative of its director, Sohrab Kavir, as, battling survivor’s guilt after the deaths of three of his brothers, he returns to Iran from the UK. Once there, he embarks upon an epic quest to form a virtual football team made up of young sufferers of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, the same disease that took his brothers.

The award for best short was given to “Tattoo”, which also won Farhad Delaram the award for best director in the narrative short films competition.

The film is about a young woman who wants to renew her driver’s license but she is sent to the traffic police center for her tattoos.

Fatemeh Motamed-Aria and Saeid Aqakhani act in a scene from “African Violet” directed by Mona Zandi-Haqiqi.

“A Simple Examination” won the best screenplay award in the short films category.

Written and directed by Meisam Saberifard, the film follows Shabnam and Pedram, who are about to get married, however, Pedram’s behavior causes Shabnam to be skeptical about marrying him.

“Saffron Based Lifestyle”, “Shoe” honored at Ukraine Happy Future Scripts Film Festival

TEHRAN – “Saffron Based Lifestyle” and “Shoe” have won awards at the International Happy Future Scripts Film Festival “Let There Be Goodness!” in Ukraine.

“Saffron Base Lifestyle” directed by Parisa Bajelan received the award for best documentary for more than 6 minutes.

Saffron’s white bud and purple sprout comes out of the soil at night and must be picked before sunrise so that the sun doesn’t cause its aroma to fade. In this video, we have tried to show you a glimpse of this lifestyle before your eyes. This flower has a close relationship with people’s lifestyle and is a symbol of collaboration between family members.

“Shoe” won the award for the game movie up to 6 minutes. Directed by

Hossain Darabi, the film is about a boy who thinks that his friend plays football better than him due to a certain kind of shoes.

The festival is a platform for creating and promoting films in the context of a happy, healthy and

peaceful future for all, and took place from September 1 to 26 in Kyiv.

“The New Story of the Earth”, a co-production between Sweden and Russia was named best animation.

Directed by Alexandra Pivovarova, it tells the old story, which we all

A poster for the documentary “Saffron Based Lifestyle”.W

heard in childhood and read in textbooks, of a struggle where living beings compete with each other for survival, and people win all and are the pinnacle of evolution.

In the 21st century, this story brought us to the brink of disaster, and now is the time to tell another story – a story in which we are all connected to each other and are part of a whole.

The award for documentary up to 6 minutes was given to “7000 Years” by Sally Newman from Australia.

Building a community toward an all-inclusive future is the dream of many. “7000 Years” brings all abilities together to explain the strength of acceptance and courage in a world with so many challenges and imperfections. Let us all stand strong on solid ground.

“What Would Frida Do?” at Iranian bookstores

Front cover of the Persian translation of Arianna Davis’s book “What Would Frida Do?”.

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of Arianna Davis’s book “What Would Frida Do?: A Guide to Living Boldly” has been released by Iranian publisher Saleess.

The book originally published by Seal Press in 2020 has been rendered into Persian by Niaz Nojuki.

This book is a contemporary guide to life, love and happiness inspired by the extraordinary artist, Frida Kahlo.

Revered as much for her fierce spirit as she is for her art, Frida Kahlo stands today as a brazen symbol of daring creativity. She was a woman ahead of her time whose paintings have earned her generations of admirers around the globe. But perhaps her greatest work of art was her own life.

“What Would Frida Do?” explores the feminist icon’s signature style, outspoken politics, and

boldness in love and art, even in the face of pain and heartbreak.

The book celebrates her larger-than-life persona as a woman who loved passionately and lived ambitiously, refusing to remain in her husband’s shadow.

Each chapter shares intimate stories from her life, revealing how she overcame obstacles by embracing her own ideals.

In this charming read, author Davis conjures Frida’s brave spirit, encouraging women to persevere, to create fearlessly, and to stand by their own truths.

Davis is the senior director of Editorial & Strategy at Oprah Daily, Oprah Winfrey’s new digital destination with a focus on thoughtful storytelling, live streams and events. She lives in New York City.