

Eslami: Major difference between Safeguards cameras and those of JCPOA

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Interview



French frigates have given Greece naval supremacy over Turkey, defense analyst says

By Ali A. Jenabzadeh

TEHRAN – A defense analyst says the Greek-French pact is a game-changer in the Eastern Mediterranean as French frigates have given Greece naval supremacy over Turkey.

“The FDI frigate is the 5th generation of combat ship for naval supremacy and crisis management,” Andreas Mountzouroulis tells the Tehran Times.

Mountzouroulis adds, “This warship is designed for navies looking for a compact frigate able to perform a large range of missions stand-alone or within a task force either.”

Greek lawmakers ratified on Thursday a new defense agreement with France that will allow them to come to each other’s aid in the event of an external threat. The move has stirred further tensions with Turkey.

The strategic military and defense cooperation pact between the two NATO allies was clinched last month and included an order for three French frigates worth about 3 billion euros. Athens had already ordered some 24 Dassault-made Rafale fighter jets this year.

“The military and defense pact signed between Greece and France seems to be the most telling as it provides the immediate military assistance of France to Greece and vice versa, if there is an attack from a third country, even if it is within the framework of their alliances (e.g., Turkey, a NATO member),” Mountzouroulis argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

Could you update us about the new defense agreement between Greece and France and its implications for the region, especially Turkey?

Turkey is expressing its displeasure at the Franco-Greek defense agreement with pointed remarks that it is supposedly harmful to NATO, as well as repeated violations of Greece’s air space. ▶ Page 5

Report



Who ran in Iraq’s crucial election?

Iraqi voters (of whom 25 million are eligible to vote) have cast their ballots distributed among 83 electoral districts and more than 8,200 polling stations across the country.

For the first time, the country is using biometric electoral cards under the new electronic voting system. However, reports have emerged from some polling stations of problems with voters being turned back because their fingerprints showed an error with the new system. All polling stations closed at 6 pm with no time added as the system was designed to shut down at this time. That could have affected the turnout.

The demonstrations in 2019 wanted reforms among a host of other demands. At the top of these demands was a higher employment rate among the youth.

According to statistics by the United Nations, Iraq’s population is 40.2 million, 60 percent of whom are under the age of 25.

According to the new election law, these elections, which were set for the year 2022 (will be held for the first time) with new multiple electoral districts that will be voting for only one candidate at each electoral district.

This will supposedly limit the dominance of the bigger parties and allow more independent candidates on the political scene.

There are 21 alliances running and more than 3200 candidates contending.

This time Iraqi expats living outside the country will not be allowed to vote. On October 8, a special vote was held for members of the security forces, the displaced, and the prisoners. ▶ Page 5

IRISL fleet shipping up 43% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) Mohammadreza Modares Khiabani has said maritime transportation conducted by IRISL fleet in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) has increased by 43 percent compared to the previous year’s same period.

“During the first five months of the current year, the revenue from foreign maritime transportation reached about \$431 million to register a 100-percent growth compared to the same period of the previous year,” Modares Khiabani said at the IRISL’s

annual general assembly on Saturday.

The official stated that sanctions restrictions along with the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic had a negative impact on the country’s shipping performance during the previous Iranian calendar year.

He described the sanctions as a debilitating factor in the way of IRISL activities, saying that “sanctions have made it difficult for us to supply parts for the vessels and also have significantly increased insurance costs.”

Over 2000 beds to be added to hospitality sector of West Azarbaijan

TEHRAN – A total of 2007 beds is expected to be added to the hospitality sector of West Azarbaijan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Currently, 41 tourism-related projects including hotels, apartment hotels, eco-lodges, and tourist complexes are underway across the northwestern province, Jalil Jabbari announced on Sunday.

The province will increase its accommodation capacity by 974 rooms and 2007 beds through the opening of the mentioned ongoing projects, the official added.

So far, the projects have progressed by 42 percent, he noted.

Back in April, the official announced that tourism-related projects generated 1,767 job opportunities across the province during the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (ends March 21).

“The largest number of jobs is related to the issuance of licenses for handicraft producers, which has led to the employment of 549 persons,” he noted.

Iran considers reopening borders to foreign vacationers as its new tourism minister has said the government will soon scrap visa restrictions.

Though international tourism has revealed signs of a rebound as some destinations eased travel restrictions over the past couple of months, the lack of international coordi-

nation and slow vaccination rates in several countries and regions suggest it may need a longer time to bounce back.

According to the official, the share of IRISL in the country’s total maritime transportation was 18 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year. ▶ Page 4

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Director of Seattle filmfest Elizabeth Shepherd congratulates children’s week in Iran

TEHRAN – Elizabeth Shepherd, the director of Children’s Film Festival Seattle in the United States of America, has congratulated the National Children’s Week in Iran.

The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA, also known as Kanoon) and several other Iranian children’s cultural centers celebrate the week every year in October. This year’s festival is being organized from October 8 to 14.

In a message sent to the Kanoon, Shepherd said, “I am in Seattle right now, wishing everyone a beautiful festival and I want to send my deepest congratulations to the film department of Kanoon.

“I want to say hello to all the children who are there today. I hope the films you see bring you so much happiness and so many beautiful colors of life.

“I’ve had a supreme pleasure for many years of working with the film department of Kanoon... And I know the works that have been created in Iran are so beautiful.”

Shepherd also expressed her thanks to the institute for sending films to the Seattle festival so many times and said, “You have brightened so many children’s lives here with so many beautiful films from Iran. ▶ Page 8

Supporting Lebanon is a ‘moral duty’: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said it is a “moral duty” to help the Lebanese and the Islamic Republic will leave no stone unturned to do this.

“Supporting and providing assistance to this resistant and brotherly country is a moral duty that we will spare no effort to do it,” Abdollahian tweeted in Arabic language on Saturday

The foreign minister added, “I greatly thank the people and government of Lebanon for their

warm welcoming.”

Addressing the Lebanese people, the chief diplomat said, “You have lived in a dignified way.”

The chief diplomat was indirectly referring to the Lebanese resistance against the Zionist regime.

In the summer of 2006, the heroic resistance of the Hezbollah movement against the invading Israeli army caused an earthquake in Tel Aviv. ▶ Page 2

783 nanoproducts developed in 6 months

TEHRAN – A total of 783 nanoproducts and equipment have been developed in the country and received nanoscale certificates over the first six months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-September 21), according to the Nanotechnology Initiative Council.

One of the goals of the Nanotechnology Innovation Council is to increase the welfare and wealth of society with the help of Nanotechnology, which mostly occurs through developing new products and improving the quality of previous products.

By the end of the summer, 783 products and equipment had been launched in the country and nanoscale certificates had been issued for them. However, 750 pieces of equipment and products were developed over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020– March 2021).

Out of 783 products, 566 were related to na-

no-products and 217 to nano-equipment, both of which have experienced a growing trend over the past years; In the meantime, however, nano-products have grown more significantly.

A total of 306 companies have developed these products, 246 of which are active in product development and 60 others in equipment production in the nanotechnology sector. The field of “civil engineering and construction” with 20 percent had the largest share among nano products and devices, followed by “medicine, health” and “industrial services and supplies” each with 14 percent share.

Over the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year, 294 knowledge-based companies in the country have developed 772 nanoproducts and have received nanotechnology certificates, according to the Nanotechnology Innovation Council. ▶ Page 7



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Archaeologists to unearth watermill in Hamedan

TEHRAN – A team of archaeologists has commenced work to unearth an ancient watermill in Hamedan, west-central Iran.

Iranian watermills were typically featured dome-shaped roofs with high-enough vestibules to allow camels or other livestock to move back and forth with ease to convey grains or flour.

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. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Diplomatic atmosphere has changed in favor of Syria: Amir Abdollahian



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Saturday that the situation has changed in favor of Syria, citing the atmosphere in the recent UN General Assembly meeting as a proof for his comment.

“The diplomatic atmosphere in the recent meetings of the United Nations General Assembly indicated that conditions have changed in favor of Syria,” Abdollahian said in a meeting with Syria President Bashar al-Assad, according to Press TV.

Abdollahian also hailed close contacts between Iranian and Syrian officials as a sign of deep-rooted relations between the two countries and extended his congratulations to the Syrian president over the Arab country's victories in the political and international arenas.

The top Iranian diplomat also outlined Tehran's stance on developments in Afghanistan, saying, “We are in contact with all sides in Afghanistan, including the Taliban and invite them to form an inclusive government.”

He also said that the new Iranian administration is seeking to achieve sustainable economic development even if the cruel foreign sanctions against the country remain in place.

Abdollahian also said Iran will soon return to the Vienna talks intended to revitalize the 2015 nuclear deal it clinched with world powers with a plan to receive the necessary guarantees of verifiable implementation of obligations by the Western parties.

“If the [Vienna] talks yield results, we will take advantage of it to accelerate the implementation of our country's development plan. But, we will not halt the advancement of our plans because of the talks,” he pointed out.

The U.S., under former president Donald Trump, unilaterally quit the multilateral nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and reinstated crippling sanctions on the Islamic Republic, although the country had been fully compliant with the agreement. Trump jettisoned the JCPOA with the illusion of forcing Iran to give in to a rewriting of the JCPOA text.

In early April, Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA began to hold talks in Vienna after the U.S. administration of Joe Biden voiced willingness to rejoin the nuclear agreement and lift the draconian sanctions his predecessor had slapped on Iran.

Since the beginning of the Vienna talks, Tehran has argued that the U.S.—as the first party that violated the JCPOA—needs to take the first step by returning to full compliance with the agreement. Tehran also says it will resume all of its nuclear commitments under the deal only after the U.S. removes all the sanctions in practice.

“U.S. refuses to shoulder responsibility for its record in Afghanistan

For his part the Syrian president said the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan shows the decline and collapse of Western powers, Press TV reported.

Assad said regional countries and Afghanistan's neighbors know that the U.S. refrains from

shouldering responsibility for its actions and policies in the country.

The U.S. hasty and scandalous exit from Afghanistan after two decades of fruitless war has made Washington look an unreliable partner in the eyes of its allies in Europe, West Asia, and East Asia.

“U.S. seeking to pit Afghanistan's neighbors against each other”

The Syrian leader added that Iran has the capacity and needs to enter into negotiations with its neighbors and other key players in order to help improve the situation in Afghanistan because the Americans are seeking to pit Afghanistan's neighbors against each other.

American forces occupied the country for about two decades under the pretext of fighting against the Taliban which had given sanctuary to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who was considered responsible for the September 11 attacks. But while the U.S. had not still completed its exit from the Central Asian country, the Taliban stormed into Kabul and the Afghan government collapsed and President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

The Taliban group has pledged to allow the formation of a broad-based and representative government. Concerns, however, remain given its drawn-out history of violence.

“Syria FM to visit Iran in near future”

The Iranian foreign minister also called Syria as “strategic ally” of Iran.

Abdollahian made the remarks after talks with his Syrian counterpart, Faisal Mekdad.

Iran's chief diplomat said Tehran has proven that it would never leave alone its friends in difficult times.

Abdollahian also said the Syrian foreign minister would make a visit to Tehran within the next days.

He added, “We seek to implement the agreements we have made in recent weeks in telephone conversations between the two presidents at various political, security and economic levels.”

The senior diplomat expressed hope that Tehran and Damascus would improve relations in tourism, trade and joint venture.

Pointing to the latest regional developments, the top Iranian diplomat said, “There are concerns about various issues in the region. We are still witnessing the presence of terrorism and Zionism in the Caucasus region while an inclusive government with participation of all ethnic groups has not been formed in Afghanistan.”

Abdollahian visited Damascus on Saturday to hold talks with Syrian officials. He was welcomed by his Syrian counterpart at Damascus International Airport.

Syria was the third destination of the Iranian foreign minister after visits to Russia and Lebanon.

It was also his second visit to Syria since assuming the post of foreign minister. On August 29, he met with the Syrian president in Damascus.

Officials follow up on Andika earthquake

TEHRAN — In separate telephone conversations with the provincial governor of Khuzestan and the local governor of Andika on Sunday, President Ebrahim Raisi followed up on the situation of the earthquake victims and issued orders to expedite relief and reconstruction efforts.

In the phone calls, Raisi pointed to the approaching winter and the impassability of the roads in the area, emphasizing the need to shelter victims and accelerate the reconstruction of damaged houses.

He also emphasized that the reconstruction process must be done quickly.

The president also ordered the Housing Foundation to follow the issue and rebuild the houses that have suffered damages.

Two rather strong earthquakes happened within an interval of five days. According to Tasnim, the first one happened in border between Khuzestan and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari provinces on October 4. The second one happened October 9.

The October 4 earthquake measured 5.7 on the Richter scale. It happened on 6:9 AM local time. The October 9 quake happened at 2:46 AM with a magnitude 5. It shook the city and villages of Qala-e-Khajeh near the city of Andika, destroying some houses, president.ir reported.

Qalibaf tasks Parliament Civil Committee to take necessary measures

Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also on Sunday called for an urgent action to rebuild houses damaged in the villages of between Khuzestan and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari provinces.

“I need to mention the two recent earthquakes in the Koohrang city of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province and Andika in Khuzestan province. The quake caused significant damage, with about 800 homes in Bazaft severely damaged and 400 nomadic families facing commute problems, according to a report by the representatives.”

Qalibaf added: “130 villages in Andika have been damaged and the percentage of destruction in 30 villages is high, considering that the people of these deprived areas were facing more living problems and these incidents have aggravated the problems and paying attention to the upcoming winter season is necessary for the administration to address the people's problems and provide them with the necessary necessities and to compensate the damage to houses, schools, health centers, and livestock.”

The speaker tasked the Civil Committee of the parliament to take necessary measures for the rapid reconstruction of the quake-hit villages and the full opening of transportation routes and solving the problems of the nomads.

Diplomat elaborates on Amir Abdollahian's visit to Moscow

From page 1 ► Haghhighian underlined that in the field of regional cooperation, current developments in Afghanistan, South Caucasus, Syria and the situation in Yemen were discussed.

He added, “The two sides held talks on how to start the Vienna talks and Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.”

Emphasizing that Russia as a powerful global power has an important place in the foreign policy of Iran, the Foreign Ministry official said that Russia along with Iran as regional power, share many common views and interests on regional and international issues.

And the two countries have

great potential for mutual cooperation in many areas, especially politics, economy, trade, defense, science and technology, he pointed out.

Developing and strengthening cooperation between the two countries is being supported and given special attention to by the leaders and high-ranking officials of the two countries.

Fortunately, the diplomat added, the process of cooperation between the two countries is expanding.

Haghhighian also stressed that parliamentary cooperation is also of great importance, which plays an important role in strengthening relations between the two countries

“In this regard, the



establishment of a joint high parliamentary committee chaired by the speakers of the parliaments of the two countries and the participation of specialized and relevant parliamentary committees were discussed,” he explained.

In response to a question about the latest status of the strategic document between Iran and Russia and the latest negotiations in this regard, the diplomat said currently there is a document of the basic agreement on mutual relations and principles of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation.

“Cooperation is ongoing based on this document,” he underscored.

Haghhighian pointed out that this document was signed by the parties about 20 years ago and then approved by the parliaments of the two countries. The document is automatically renewed every five years if both parties agree on this.

At the same time, he noted, “Despite the existence of this document, given the conditions governing relations between the two countries and the need to expand these relations, as well as current developments in the region and the world, the need to update the document and the will of the two leaders, both countries are pursuing the preparation and compilation of a comprehensive document of cooperation, and currently a draft is being prepared.”

Supporting Lebanon is a ‘moral duty’: Iran FM

From page 1 ► **Amir-Abdollahian says Iran will keep backing Lebanese resistance against Israel**

Foreign Minister Abdollahian has also said Iran will keep up its support for the Lebanese resistance in the face of the potential threats posed by the Israeli regime.

“We have defended the Lebanese resistance in the face of the threats [that have been] posed to Lebanon's sovereignty,

security, independence, and territorial integrity as well as in the face of the Zionist regime, and our support for the Lebanese resistance in the face of the Zionist regime's potential threats is going to continue,” Abdollahian said, according to Press TV.

The senior diplomat was speaking to Lebanon's al-Manar television network from the Lebanese capital Beirut, where he was staying on the second leg of a tour that initially took him to Russia, the

network reported on Saturday.

“Despite the existing economic pressures and the United States' oppressive sanctions, Iran is [still] a great country and [one that] is prepared to assist Lebanon,” the chief diplomat added.

The foreign minister went on to detail a meeting he had had during his stay with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement.

Amir Abdollahian says the Hezbollah chief is “Lebanon's greatest national personality”.

Abdollahian hailed the meeting as fruitful, calling Nasrallah “Lebanon's greatest national personality,” and noting that “the Islamic Republic draws benefit from Sayyed Nasrallah's opinions about the regional issues.”

According to the foreign minister, Nasrallah had voiced gratitude towards Iran over the fuel shipments that the Islamic Republic has delivered to Lebanon amid the latter's economic and fuel crises and

despite the American sanctions facing both the countries.

Iran's fuel shipments to Lebanon, which is under the U.S. economic sanctions, made the Islamic Republic look much stronger in the eyes of the world.

Abdollahian said Nasrallah had acknowledged during the meeting that Iran came to help Lebanon's resistance at a time when itself was facing tough circumstances.

During the meeting with Abdollahian, the Hezbollah secretary general said, “Iran has proven that it is a sincere and loyal ally, and it does to leave alone its friends at difficult times.”

Abdollahian's plane touched down at the Beirut International Airport on Thursday.

During his stay, he also sat down with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, and Prime Minister Najib Mikati as well as his own Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bou Habib.

After concluding his trip to Beirut, the foreign minister traveled to Damascus.

Russia hopes for early resumption of Iran nuclear deal talks

Lavrov says Russia opposes attempts to link Iran nuclear deal to other issues

TEHRAN - Moscow sees the fundamental determination of parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for the Iranian nuclear program to devise the means to breathe new life into this agreement, and hopes another round of the Vienna talks on restoring the deal will begin in the near future, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

“We have taken note of the fact that all parties concerned are focused on faster coordination of a procedure for breathing a new life into the JCPOA. We hope that another round may take place in the near future,” Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, the TASS news agency reported.

Zakharova believes that all previous achievements will serve “as a point of departure and a reliable basis for coming close to agreements”, which Moscow hopes “will materialize in the foreseeable future.”

“We presume that the shortest way to relaunching the JCPOA to full capacity - and we hope

that it will happen this way - lies through strict compliance with its provisions by all sides based on the originally verified balance of interests without any exemptions or additions,” Zakharova stated.

She refrained from speculating as to how long and frequent the future rounds of negotiations might be.

“Making such forecasts is not a very rewarding task. There is a great amount of work to be handled. It must be focused on bringing approaches closer,” Zakharova added.

Vienna talks

Negotiations have been underway in Vienna since April by Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA (Russia, Britain, Germany, China and France) on restoring the nuclear deal to its original form. The sides have been discussing the issue of terminating U.S. sanctions against Iran, Tehran's compliance with its commitments in the nuclear deal and the United States' return to the JCPOA.

Representatives from the

countries that are parties to the agreement have also been holding separate consultations with U.S. emissaries without Iran's participation. Originally the delegates had hoped to be through with this work by the end of May, and then at the beginning of June. On September 21, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the talks on restoring the nuclear deal to the full extent would begin in Vienna within a few weeks.

The comments by Zakharova comes as Moscow and Tehran have agreed that negotiations on the Iran nuclear deal in the Vienna format should resume as soon as possible, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday.

Russia opposes attempts of some countries to link the preservation of the Iran nuclear deal with Tehran's concessions on other issues, Lavrov said during a joint press conference with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian following their talks in Moscow.

Lavrov said that the international

community is still waiting for the United States to return to the nuclear deal and lift “illegal restrictions” on Iran and its economic partners.

According to Xinhua, Amir Abdollahian said that he had received signals from the U.S. administration that the White House intends to return to the nuclear deal and take into account the rights and interests of the Iranian people.

While discussing Afghanistan, both officials called on the new authorities to fight terrorism and illegal arms and drug trafficking so that the country would stop being a source of regional and global instability.

Lavrov and Amir Abdollahian agreed to arrange a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in the foreseeable future.

They also agreed to launch the production of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine in Iran as soon as possible.

President: Advancement in nuclear energy will lead to progress in other technologies

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says the Islamic Republic will never abandon its “main and categorical policy” of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Speaking in the southern province of Bushehr on Friday, Raisi said Iran needs “wise and purposeful” planning for the sustainable development of the nuclear industry based on the latest international standards in order to stand at the top economic, scientific and technological position in the region.

He added that the necessary mechanism has been developed in this regard and provided to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Press TV reported.

“Nuclear knowledge in the future will determine the remarkable scientific development and progress of countries, and we should not lag behind the world's



scientific movement,” the Iranian president stated.

He noted that the advancement of nuclear knowledge would lead to the development of other technologies.

Raisi further said the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is currently operating at its nominal capacity

and producing over 1,000 megawatts of electricity, but the figure would be tripled in its development phases.

He added, “One of the important missions of the Atomic Energy Organization [of Iran] is to increase the country's electricity generation capacity to up to 10,000 megawatts which will be materialized within the next three years.”

In an exclusive interview with Sputnik Iran published on Sunday, Iran's Vice President and Head of the AEOI Mohammad Esلمي said Tehran would continue the development of its peaceful nuclear program to meet its acute need for electricity and produce radiopharmaceuticals to be used in medicine, industry, agriculture, and the environment.

“Iran is now facing an acute need for electricity. Therefore, we

have set a goal to meet 50 percent of the country's demand for 10,000-16,000 MW of electricity by building new [nuclear] power plants with a combined capacity of 8,000 MW. This is currently the principal objective of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran,” Iran's nuclear chief said.

The Buser power plant started operating in 2011 and reached full capacity the following year, but Iran and Russia agreed to expand it.

They signed a number of documents in November 2014 for the construction of up to eight new nuclear power plants at the site and expand cooperation in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy.

In November 2017, Iran began building two more nuclear reactors in a joint project with Russia's Rosatom energy firm in Bushehr.

Eslami: Major difference between Safeguards cameras and those of JCPOA

TEHRAN – Mohammad Eslami, Vice President and Chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Saturday night that there is a great difference between the IAEA camera monitoring Iran's nuclear activities under the safeguard agreement with those installed under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Eslami said IAEA inspectors examine the monitoring cameras at the site in a specified time and install new card memories.

The old memory cards are cut into pieces and put in a stamped pocket and given to the AEOI for storing. He said nobody can have access to these pieces.

However, the issue is different with regard to cameras related to the JCPOA in a way that IAEA inspectors remove the old memory cards and stamp them and they are kept by the AEOI in a safe place and are not reviewed by anybody, Eslami explained. The nuclear chief added nobody is given access to the old cards and they are just replaced by new ones.

Eslami also said in order to prevent more inconveniences the AEOI agreed with the UN nuclear watchdog about the replacement of memory cards.

"However, it does not mean that any would have access to these cards."

He also said the cameras in the TESA site in Karaj suffered damages in the sabotage terrorist act and the IAEA wanted to install new camera there but "we told them that this is not necessary because the JCPOA is an agreement between Iran and the 5+1 group and since the Europeans and Americans did not live up to their obligations there is no reason to install cameras."

IAEA tasked to support nuclear energy for civilian uses

Elsewhere in his remarks, Eslami said that the IAEA should encourage, support and assist countries for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The IAEA is tasked to provide technical assistance to countries which have signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"So the path chosen is very clear and the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken steps for its peaceful purposes in nuclear energy," Eslami said in a live TV program on Saturday night.

The new nuclear chief said all countries are obliged to commit themselves for peaceful uses of nuclear technology based on the rules and regulations set by the UN nuclear watchdog's International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Peaceful nuclear activities along with a ban on nuclear (weapons) proliferation are among the items that are a joint commitment of countries and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and governments are obliged to observe it."

The vice president stated that Iran's parliament before and after the 1979 revolution, had ratified international treaties obliging Iran to observe these rules including the NPT.

The AEOI chief noted that the key point is that now at the top of the power pyramid is access to advanced technologies, and nuclear technology is one of the most decisive, facilitators and accelerators of progress in terms public welfare, economy and public health and other fields.

He also stated that the enemies forbade



Iran to access advanced technologies and were restricting the education of Iranian students in such fields.

"Space, nuclear, IT and nanotechnology and biotechnology are defined as high-level areas of power and the product of this scientific and technological power is economic and military power that can facilitate and support progress and empower nations."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Eslami said arrogant countries have monopolized these technologies and they are by no means interested to see a country like Iran to use the opportunity to tap these technologies.

Therefore, he said, these countries are limiting other states to master these technologies.

Referring to the statute of the IAEA, Salami said: "According to this statute, the Agency should encourage, support and assist countries for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy so that they can gain access to peaceful nuclear energy, but unfortunately for numerous reasons, and because they see superiority only for themselves, they have limited (access to) science and technology, and they are trying to limit us, and they increase our costs."

Therefore, the path chosen is very clear and Iran has taken steps for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the top official stressed.

Eslami praised the efforts made by those involved in the nuclear industry in Iran and said: "Through research, development and hard work of the youth of our country and despite the disturbances and hostilities, we were able to achieve nuclear technology."

Noting that a plan to produce 10,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity has been communicated to the Atomic Energy Organization, the vice president added "The effects of nuclear energy and the use of related technologies on the lives of our people, including in the fields of agriculture, medicine and water and soil are very extensive."

When asked what are the advantages of nuclear energy despite all financial costs, sanctions and assassination of nuclear experts, Eslami classified the benefits of

nuclear into four categories and said:

First, it will enable the country to produce nuclear fuel, that is, to be able to extract and process uranium from mines and convert it into fuel, and to use that fuel in various reactors for research applications and to generate electricity.

Second, it helps produce radiation that the output of which has been radiopharmaceuticals, and now the Atomic Energy Organization provides radiopharmaceuticals for almost all medical centers.

Third, in more advanced steps, it could be used in the fields of agriculture, environment, water, soil and health of food consumption.

Fourth, it is applicable in research and development with the aim of mastering the best technologies in this field, and now this is being done by universities and research centers with the support of the Atomic Energy Organization.

Plans to produce more nuclear electricity

The head of the Iran's nuclear energy body pointed out that one of the most important needs of the country with regard to nuclear energy has been producing electricity

"According to agreement with the Germans before the revolution, it was supposed to produce 2,600 megawatts in Bushehr and 900 megawatts in Darkhovin in Khuzestan, but they did not cooperate."

The Germans had taken more than 80% of the money for the projects, Eslami said, but they left the work half-finished and returned the money to Iran, which caused the projects to be stopped for more than 20 years.

However, in a contract with the Russian, the Bushehr project was completed in 2015 and now it is generating electricity.

The vice president went on to say that construction of two new power plants had begun under a contract with Russia, each of which would generate about 1,000 megawatts of electricity, adding that the project is about 70 percent behind schedule due to various reasons.

Eslami stated that based on the measures taken by the administration and an insistence by the president and

consultations and negotiations with the relevant company in Russia (Rosatom), Iran has crafted plans to end these delays and "we could make up for some of the backlog and provide and allocate the necessary resources."

The nuclear chief added: "According to the goals and notification of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the production of 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power has been notified to the Atomic Energy Organization and therefore we try to turn this goal into practical action and use all opportunities by activating the domestic manufacturing capacities and knowledge capacity of the Atomic Energy Organization and knowledge-based companies, to take a great step forward and maximize nuclear power generation."

The vice president also referred to his recent visit to Russia, saying: "Rosatom is one of the most reputable nuclear companies in the world and operates in different countries. We needed to negotiate to strengthen a good relationship with the company to move the project forward more quickly, and we agreed on a set of financing models to open our project on time."

"We negotiated for the certification of the fuel produced in our country for use in reactors so that we can use these valid fuels in the target areas, especially in the power plant sector."

Elsewhere, the top official also spoke about the relations of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran with the IAEA and noted: "The enemies are exerting a lot of pressure on the Agency (IAEA), and the Mujahedin Khalq Organization by expanding their efforts with the Zionists, regularly feed deceptive information to the Agency and always incite it against our country and produce information for it and the Agency checks it and we respond regularly."

Eslami went on to say that Iran has asked the IAEA to set a limit for politically motivated allegations by Zionists and the counter-revolutionary current, because this method cannot be continued, but the IAEA did not respond.

Noting that there is heavy influence on international organizations, the nuclear chief said: "Many independent countries also complain about the influence of arrogant countries in these organizations and international circles."

Eslami added: "We must be able to pursue our issues within the legal framework and within the scope of the Agency's duties and try to deal with the flow of infiltration and destruction."

SPORTS

Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammadreza Geraei grabs Iran's fourth gold at worlds

TEHRAN – Mohammadreza Geraei won Iran's fourth gold medal in the 2021 World Wrestling Championships on Sunday.

The Greco-Roman wrestler defeated Nazir Abdullaev from Russian Wrestling Federation 5-2 in the final bout of 67kg.

Geraei had won a gold medal in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Kazakhstan's Almat Kebispayev and Georgian Ramaz Zoidze also won bronze medal in the weight class.

Mohammadhadi Saravi in the 97kg, Aliakbar Yousefi in the 130kg and Meysam Dalkhani in the 63kg had previously won three gold medals in the competition.

The 2021 World Wrestling Championships are being held from Oct. 2 to 10 in Oslo, Norway.



Iran, S. Korea match behind closed doors

TEHRAN – Iran will host South Korea football team behind closed doors on Tuesday.

Iran will host the Taegeuk Warriors in Tehran's Azadi Stadium in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3 in Group A.

The Iranian football federation had previously announced that up to 10,000 fans would be allowed to enter the stadium.

Alireza Raisi, spokesman for the Iranian national headquarters fighting COVID-19, had said that it would require proof of vaccination for anyone entering the stadium.

A year-long ban has been in force on all fans entering stadiums in Iran because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It could be a big blow to the Iranian team playing with Asian heavyweights South Korea in the empty stadium.

Dragan Skocic's team have won three matches out of three in the group and a win against the Korean team could pave their way for advancing to the FIFA World Cup for the third time in a row.

Rouzbeh Cheshmi returns to Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Rouzbeh Cheshmi rejoined Esteghlal football team on Tuesday.

The 28-year-old defender penned a two-year contract with the Iranian team.

Cheshmi left Esteghlal in the last season to join Qatar side Umm Salal.

He represented Iran national football team in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Dalkhani wins gold at world championships

TEHRAN – Iran's Meysam Delkhani won a gold medal at the 2021 World Wrestling Championships on Sunday.

The Greco-Roman wrestler defeated Georgian Leri Abuladze 5-4 in the final bout of 63kg.

Japanese Kensuke Shimizu and Ukraine's Lenur Temirov won bronze medals.

Mohammadhadi Saravi in the 97kg and Aliakbar Yousefi in the 130kg had previously won two gold medals in the competition.

The 2021 World Wrestling Championships are being held from Oct. 2 to 10 in Oslo, Norway.

Foolad beat AGMK at Asian Club Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Foolad Sirjan of Iran defeated Uzbekistan's AGMK 3-1 (26-2, 25-1, 24-2, 25-10) in the 2021 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

Foolad will play Qatar side Al Arabi and Thailand's Diamond Food on the following days.

Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima QminC, Sri Lanka's CEB, Kazakhstan's Burevestnic Almaty, Kuwait's Kazma and South Gas of Iraq are in Pool A.

The 2021 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship is the eleventh edition of the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, an annual international volleyball club tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA).

The winners of this tournament will be qualified to 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

Iran's Choochan finishes third at 2021 Mr. Olympia

TEHRAN – Hadi Choochan of Iran finished in third place at the 2021 Mr. Olympia.

This year's Mr. Olympia took place in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, United States early on Sunday.

Egyptian Big Ramy defeated the 2019 Mr. Olympia champion Brandon Curry of America and Choochan to snatch the 2021 title.

Big Ramy made eight appearances in the Mr. Olympia competition as he finished in the runner-up place four years ago.

After winning last year's title, the Egyptian bodybuilding star became the first non-American to win the title since British champion Dorian Yates in 1997 to prove himself as the best bodybuilder in the world.

The 2021 Mr. Olympia top five:

1. Big Ramy (Egypt) \$400,000
2. Brandon Curry (USA) \$150,000
3. Hadi Choochan (Iran) \$100,000
4. Hunter Labrada (USA) \$40,000
5. Nick Walker (USA) \$35,000

Parliament speaker: Provoking ethnic, religious sedition a new project of Afghanistan's enemies

Qalibaf says 'Afghan authorities have a duty to ensure the security of the people'

TEHRAN – The speaker of the Iranian Parliament on Saturday condemned the brutal crime of Takfiri terrorists in a mosque in Afghanistan, warning that ethnic and religious sedition is a new security project by the enemies of the Afghan people.

The remarks by Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf followed after at least 50 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a terrorist suicide bomb attack on a mosque in the Afghan city of Kunduz on Friday. It was the deadliest assault since U.S. forces left the country.

Bodies were seen scattered inside the Said Abad mosque, used by the minority Shia Muslim community.

The Islamic State group said it was behind the attack.

IS-K, the Afghan regional affiliate of the IS group that is violently opposed to the governing Taliban, has carried out several bombings recently, largely in the east of the country.

"Unfortunately, the martyrdom of a large number of defenseless and innocent people of Afghanistan in the Said Abad Mosque in Kunduz hurt the hearts of all free people of the world. I offer my condolences to the Afghan brothers and sisters for this tragic loss, and I ask God

Almighty for patience and reward for the survivors of the martyrs of this incident," Qalibaf told an open session of the parliament.

The top lawmaker said the current rulers in Afghanistan are duty bound to provide security for citizens.

"Afghan authorities have a duty to ensure the security of the people of that country, and in addition to punishing the perpetrators of this unfortunate incident, must take the necessary measures to prevent a recurrence of such incidents," Qalibaf stressed.

He added, "Orchestration ethnic and religious sedition is a new security project of the enemies of the Afghan nation, which is being carried out by terrorist groups with the support of the Americans."

The top legislator said leaders of Islamic countries must reinforce unity between Muslims to prevent continued evil acts by takfiri groups and ensure unity and security throughout the region.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Saturday that the "heinous crime" in Kunduz has "saddened" him.

"Authorities in neighboring and brotherly country of Afghanistan are seriously expected to punish the bloodthirsty perpetrators of the heinous crime and take the necessary measures to prevent a recurrence of such tragedies," the Leader stated in his message.

Also, in a message of condolences on Saturday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi strongly condemned the killing and injury of worshippers in Kunduz.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh late on Friday strongly condemned the suicide bomb attack on the mosque and sympathized with the bereaved families and prayed for the recovery of the injured.

Khatibzadeh said terrorist acts in any form by anybody are deplorable.

"I offer my condolences to the Afghan brothers and sisters for this tragic loss."



Tehran to host intl. textile industry expo this week

IRISL shipping operations up 43% in 5 months yr/yr

From page 1 ► He further referred to the situation of the IRISL shipping fleet and noted that IRISL currently has 150 active vessels, of which 32 are bulk carriers, 30 are container vessels, 22 are cargo carriers of general goods, 18 are service and passenger vessels, two are Roll-on/roll-off and three barges.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line Group, commonly known by its business name IRISL Group, is a shipping line based in and owned by Iran.

The vessels owned by the group are manned by 6,000 personnel who work under the Iranian flag in the Caspian Sea, Persian



Gulf, international waters and various ports of the world.

Iran's foreign debt falls 3.3%: CBI



TEHRAN – The latest data released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) show that the country's foreign debt stood at \$8.84 billion at the end of the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (August 22), down 3.3 percent from \$9.142 billion at the end of the previous year, IRIB reported.

From the total foreign debt, \$6.36 billion was mid-term and long-term debts while \$2.48 billion was short-term debts, the data indicated.

Iran's external debts stood at \$8.744 billion at the end of the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (June 20), down 4.35 percent from \$9.142 billion at the end of the previous year, IRIB reported.

Some \$6.733 billion of the total foreign debt in the mentioned period was mid-term

and long-term debts while \$2.011 billion was short-term debts.

External debt is the portion of a country's debt that is borrowed from foreign lenders including commercial banks, governments, or international financial institutions. These loans, including interest, must usually be paid in the currency in which the loan was made.

Foreign debt as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the ratio between the debt a country owes to non-resident creditors and its nominal GDP.

Back in January, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi had said the country's foreign debts were very insignificant.

"Currently, the volume of Iran's foreign debt is extremely small due to the existing restrictions," said.

The official noted that using foreign debts could be a positive opportunity, meaning that the government can borrow from abroad and invest inside the country.

According to Dehnavi most of the government's debts are internal. Having external debts is important globally, but it is not currently important for Iran since the country has almost no foreign debts.

Iran's external debt has been falling in recent years following a downward trend.

Over 190 exhibitors attending Iran's intl. industry exhibition

TEHRAN – The 21st International Industry Exhibition of Iran kicked off on Sunday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRNA reported.

As reported, over 190 domestic and foreign exhibitors from China, Turkey, and Germany are showcasing their latest industrial products and services in this four-day exhibition.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by the head of Iran International

Exhibitions Company, several parliament members and the Chairman of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Industry committee.

The exhibition covers a variety of areas including machinery and production lines, industrial and workshop equipment, tools, advanced industries, industrial automation, technical services, engineering and consulting, safety and health equipment, sales and after-sales services, etc.

TEHRAN – The International Trade Fair for Clothing, Fashion, Accessories, Design, and Affiliated Industries (Tehran Modex) is scheduled to be held at Shahr-e-Aftab International Exhibition Center during October 12-15, IRNA reported.

According to the Chairman of Iran's Union of Garments Manufacturers and Sellers Abolqasem Shirazi, over 100 production units active in the textile and clothing industry are going to participate in the mentioned exhibition.

"By holding this exhibition, the export capacities and potentials of medium-sized units will also be introduced in order to support domestic producers," the official said.

Shirazi noted that in recent years, with the ban on the import of clothing and the battle against the smuggling of such products, domestic manufacturers in this industry had a good presence in both domestic and export markets.

According to him the complete chain of the textile industry including design, production, and raw materials are present in this



exhibition.

"This exhibition can be a platform to introduce designers and manufacturers to each other to cooperated for producing cloths with Iranian identity," he added.

He emphasized that the government can organize and promote the clothing exports in the near future, adding: "The exports of Iranian garments to the world

markets are scattered which can become more focused and expand rapidly to more markets in the future."

Referring to the export of some clothing products to European countries, including Germany, he said: "Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan and Armenia as neighboring countries are other buyers of Iranian clothing."

Shirazi stressed the fact that

Iran-Turkey 6-month trade rises by 2.5 folds

TEHRAN- The value of trade between Iran and Turkey rose by 2.5 folds in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a board member of Tabriz Chamber of Commerce announced.

Reza Kami put the six-month trade between the two neighbors at \$4.7 billion, while the figure for the same time span of the past year was nearly \$2 billion.

The amount of trade between Iran and Turkey is increasing, even the amount of trade between the two countries in the first six months of this year is almost equal to the total trade last year, he underlined.

He said Iran exported commodities worth \$2.3 billion to Turkey and imported products valued at \$2.4 billion from the country in the first half of this year, while the figures were \$581 million and \$1.12 billion in the same time span of the previous year.

The head of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce has stated that the value of bilateral trade between the two countries is forecast to reach \$10 billion in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2020).

"Official Turkish statistics show that Iran-Turkey trade has been declining sharply since the second quarter of 2019, and the downward trend in trade with this country has continued until the second quarter of 2020. But since then, it has been on the rise and has increased in the first quarter of 2021 for the third consecutive season; In a way, we have witnessed a 53-percent growth in trade value between the two countries", Mehrdad Sa'adat stated.

He mentioned gas and petrochemicals, raw



materials and agricultural products as the major goods traded between the two sides.

The value of trade between Iran and Turkey rose by 53 percent in the first quarter of 2021 from the first quarter of 2020, Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) reported, based on the official statistics released by Turkey.

The report put the worth of the two countries' bilateral trade at \$986 million in the first three months of this year.

Of the mentioned figure about \$505 million was related to Iran's exports to Turkey and about \$481 million was related to Iran's imports from this country. Meanwhile, in the first quarter of 2020, Iran's main trade with Turkey was related to Iran's imports from this country, while during the first quarter of 2021, Iran's trade balance with Turkey was positive.

During the first quarter of 2021, Iran's imports from Turkey increased by about 29 percent compared to the same period last year, and during the same period, Iran's exports to this country increased by 87 percent, which caused Iran's trade balance with Turkey from minus \$104 million in the first quarter of 2020 reach a positive \$24.4 million in the first

quarter of 2021.

As previously reported by the head of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce, Iran has exported \$2 billion of commodities to Turkey in 2020.

Putting Iran's imports from Turkey at \$2.254 billion in 2020, Sa'adat said, "Iran-Turkey trade declined highly in 2020, while we had experienced an annual bilateral trade of \$15 billion, and meanwhile our target is to reach \$30 billion".

Different factors led to decline in trade between the two neighbors in the previous year, among them the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic were the most outstanding ones, he noted.

Saying that Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce is looking for a roadmap to improve trade transactions between the two sides, Sa'adat said, "In this regard, last year, the issue of trade ethics between the two countries was addressed and some indicators were selected in this field, because if we want to improve the volume of trade and achieve the goals, we must take action to solve the root problems."

"Preliminary studies have shown that many problems arise from business ethics that need to be addressed in order to alleviate the problems that traders are struggling with, and this issue was addressed last year, and we hope for a favorable outcome", he added.

During the 27th meeting of Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee, which was held in Ankara in mid-September last year, the two sides investigated different ways of reaching the targeted \$30-billion bilateral trade and reiterated that reaching this figure is possible despite the pressures of the U.S. sanctions.

'Next year's budget bill will not face any deficits'

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) has said the national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (starts in March 2022) has been prepared in a way that it will not face any deficits, IRIB reported.

According to Masoud Mirkazemi, the circular of the bill has been finalized and is ready to be sent to the president's office for reviewing.

"Experts and decision-makers in preparing and drafting the [Iranian calendar year] 1401 budget bill have tried to have a macro view and to make sure that the decisions made by them will have positive effects for the entire nation and not just a certain group," Mirkazemi said in the 14th meeting of the budget bill preparation headquarters on Saturday.

Monthly non-oil trade increases 98%

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's non-oil trade increased 98 percent during the sixth Iranian calendar month Shahrivar (August 23-September 22), as compared to the fifth month, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi put Iran's non-oil trade at 19.841 million tons worth \$10.635 billion in the sixth month, also indicating 135 percent growth in terms of weight as compared to the fifth month.

He said 14.522 million tons of commodities worth \$4.145 billion were exported in the sixth month, with 25 percent and 103 percent growth from its previous month.

The official put the monthly non-oil imports at 5.319 million tons worth \$6.49 billion in Shahrivar, with 216 percent rise in value, and 306 percent growth in weight.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 47 percent during the first

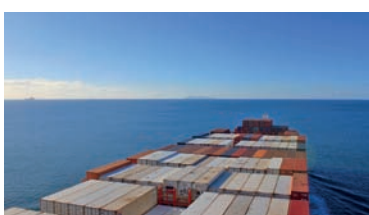
half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded 79.1 million tons of non-oil products worth \$45 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

The official put the six-month non-oil exports at 60 million tons valued at \$21.8 billion, with a 61-percent rise in value and a 30-percent growth in weight.

The IRICA head mentioned liquefied natural gas, methanol, polyethylene, semi-finished iron products, iron ingots, propane, urea, gasoline, iron rods and cathodes as the main exported products in the said time span.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 14.8 million tons worth \$6.5 billion, Iraq with 13.9 million tons worth \$3.8 billion, Turkey with 7.2 million tons worth \$2.3 billion,



the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 5.8 million tons worth \$2.2 billion, and Afghanistan with 2.5 million tons worth \$1.0 billion.

The official further announced that Iran has imported 19.1 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$23.1 billion in the first six months of the present year, with a 37-percent growth in value and a 15-percent rise in weight year on year.

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

The United Arab Emirates with 5.9 million tons of goods worth \$7.3

Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.488 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Bandar Abbas Refinery, Iran Khodro Company, Sepid Makian Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 10,420 points to 1.455 million on Sunday.

Over 4.889 billion securities worth 44.181 trillion rials (about \$1.051 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 8,282 points and the second market's index dropped 18,967 points.

TEDPIX rose 3.5 percent in the past

A capital market analyst has said the trades at the Tehran Stock Exchange are going to follow an upward trend in the remaining months of the current Iranian calendar year (ends in March 2022).

"Based on the forecasts, it seems that the stock market trading will experience a positive trend and be upward by the end of this year due to the current inflation in the country's economy," Soheil Kolahchi

has told IRNA.

And another capital market analyst says the Iranian stock market is expected to be stable in the third quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (September 23-December 21), IRNA reported.

"We expect to see a steady trend in market transactions in [the Iranian calendar months of] Aban and Azar (autumn months), and I suggest

shareholders invest in leading industries," Salman Nasirzadeh said.

He pointed to the current risks of the stock exchange and added: "The stock market in the current situation, along with its positive movements, is associated with risks, now the most important risk that may be imposed on the market is possible macroeconomic decisions."

TEDPIX drops 10,400 points on Sunday

French frigates have given Greece naval supremacy over Turkey, defense analyst says

From page 1 ► France and Greece announced a defense and security deal, including the Greek purchase of three advanced French frigates and additional Rafale fighter jets. Moreover, they committed to coming to each other's military aid.

Greek-French pact is a game-changer in the Eastern Mediterranean – Article 2 provides for mutual military support.

The military and defense pact signed between Greece and France by Greek PM Mitsitakis and French President Macron seems to be the most telling as it provides the immediate military assistance of France to Greece and vice versa, if there is an attack from a third country, even if it is within the framework of their alliances (e.g., Turkey, a NATO member).

As the pact states, the two countries agreed to provide each other with military support using “all the means at their disposal, including, if needed, armed violence” in the event of an invasion on their soils, according to a copy of the document.

The FDI frigate is the 5th generation of combat ships for naval supremacy and crisis management. This warship is designed for navies looking for a compact frigate able to perform a large range of missions stand-alone or within a task force either. The FDI frigate features high-level capabilities in anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine, and asymmetric warfare domains, taking into account the French Navy operational legacy acquired in a wartime situation. As the first digital frigate, the FDI frigate integrates the latest-generation systems around naval digital distributed cloud architecture, natively cyber-secured and compatible with the new Information Technologies developments and evolutions, and provides sailors with adapted services. Different versions are available to embrace the specific needs of each navy.

Does Greece expect a military clash with Turkey as a NATO member? In that case, where will the European states stand?

Turkey is a member of NATO and challenges Greece every day.

Interestingly, airspace violations have been a near-constant flashpoint between Turkey and another NATO member, Greece, for years. This is due to a dispute over the sovereignty of islands in the Aegean and other factors such as the delimitation of territorial waters and national airspace. The latter has resulted in frequent confrontations between the air forces of both countries. These have been known to turn aggressive, resulting in casualties on both sides.

While the East Mediterranean crisis reached a peak this

year, Greece has been on the receiving end of daily Turkish violations for decades. Ankara has systematically violated international law, continuously threatening Athens while testing its air readiness.

Perhaps the single most menacing change in Ankara's strategy vs. Greece has been the increase in the number of overflights of Turkey's aircraft — often armed — above Greece's mainland and islands. There have been 368 overflights in 2020 YTD – 10x the annual average of the past decade!

There is no excuse for Ankara continuing these provocations and international law violations. Equally, there is no excuse for EU/NATO to remain silent in the face of such brazenly illegal and threatening behavior. EU/NATO inaction only breeds Erdogan's further illegal actions.

Turkey does not want a war with Greece because it is afraid of us. They have a phobic syndrome and do not believe in what they are doing. No Greek is afraid; respectively, the Turks are afraid of us. They are ordered to enter the Aegean, and in no case do they feel comfortable. If the “bag of Aeolus” is opened, we will prevail with an overwhelming difference.

It is no coincidence that every year Greek pilots come first in exercises. They love their homeland and will do anything to keep it free. They do not want to see it shrink, and under certain conditions, they want to see it grow. We have occupied places in Cyprus; we have people who have not been protected by the Greek state.

The Greek-French pact is a game-changer in the Eastern Mediterranean because Article 2 provides mutual military support. As the pact states, the two countries agreed to provide each other with military support using “all the means at their disposal, including, if needed, armed violence” in the event of an invasion on their soils, according to a copy of the document.

I do not expect help from other countries of the European Union. Germany supports Turkey. It is noted that Turkey and Germany have strong economic ties, while about 4 million Turks now live in the European country. Some are descendants of the first Turkish immigrants of previous decades, while others are German citizens.

Greece, however, has strong alliances, beyond France, with the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and India.

What are the main differences between Turkey and Greece?

Ankara brings every day



several issues to the table, such as the continental shelf, demilitarization of Greek islands, gray zones and airspace in the Aegean, and exclusive economic zones (EEZ).

In the Aegean, Turkey wants to discuss issues relating to the continental shelf, territorial waters, airspace, demilitarization of islands and islets, air traffic centers (FIR), and jurisdictions of operations.

As for the Eastern Mediterranean and Cyprus, Ankara wants to bring up the continental shelf and EEZ in the context of a “fair solution” for the protection of the rights of Turkish-Cypriots in the occupied part of the island.

Greece has made it clear from the start that issues such as continental shelves and territorial waters are not up for discussion because they have already been decided by the Treaty of Lausanne.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his administration, and Turkish media continually claim that Greece must “demilitarize” their East Aegean islands.

Athens continually shuts down any discussions of demilitarization.

Greece has categorically stated that there is no chance that the demilitarized status of the islands will be discussed. With Greece having a legal right to militarize its islands to varying degrees and

watching Turkish threats against the East Aegean Islands, the dialogue will be deadlocked as Erdogan will not back down from his demands that the islands be demilitarized.

With regard to the militarization of the islands in the Eastern Aegean, various international agreements apply. In particular:

These islands were ceded to Greece in full sovereignty by the Paris Peace Treaty between Italy and the Allies in April 1947.

With regard to Turkish claims on the demilitarization of the Dodecanese islands, it should be noted that:

- Turkey is not a signatory state to this Treaty. According to Article 34 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, a treaty does not create obligations or rights for third countries.

Why does the EU reject Erdogan's plans for a two-state solution in Cyprus?

Brussels and Washington have reacted strongly to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's decision to partially reopen a coastal resort town emptied

of its original Greek Cypriot residents as well as his proposal for a two-state solution on the island of Cyprus.

Erdogan also voiced support for Turkish Cypriot plans to reopen a part of Varosha, effectively handing over control from the Turkish military and changing the status quo in defiance of UN resolutions.

Turkish troops seized the northern third of Cyprus in response to an aborted coup in Nicosia aimed at attaching the country to Greece.

Let us not forget that Cyprus is a member of the European Union. Brussels, like Athens and Nicosia, wants the settlers and the occupying army removed.

Ankara is flexing its military muscle in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in an apparent effort to torpedo efforts to proceed with the construction of the East Med pipeline by imposing its own maps and pushing its expansionist theory of the “Blue Motherland” at sea.

Cypriot government sources have revealed to Cyprus' Sigma television that three Turkish warships – two frigates and a corvette – are blocking the Nautical Geo research vessel in southwest Cyprus.

The warships essentially occupy an area of Cyprus' EEZ for which Nicosia issued a NAVTEX day ago. The vessel was conducting research in the same area until recently.

Ankara's escalation coincided with the recent Greek-Turkish exploratory talks in Ankara.

The Nautical Geo – which is conducting research at the behest of Cyprus, Greece, and Israel – has anchored four nautical miles off the port of Larnaca.

Ankara is invoking a NAVTEX it illegally issued to conduct military exercises in the area, which has not commenced.

How do you assess Turkey's role in the region?

Turkey has become a state that challenges other nations and gets involved in the internal policies of other countries. Turkey also played an active role in the Artsakh war, where it provided/ with providing assistance to Azerbaijan. As it is known, Turkey sent a drone to Baku. Turkey has also been challenging Greece in recent years and has tried to abolish international treaties. Turkey also sent mercenaries to Libya, and of course, Turkey was mixed in the war of Syria. Erdogan's goal is to acquire nuclear weapons to achieve his purposes. At the same time, Erdogan has exploited for his own benefits the refugee and migrant crisis. He keeps sending thousands of people to Greece and Europe. Erdogan wants the re-establishment of the Ottoman Empire; it is his dream.

Daesh war on Hazara Shias in Taliban's Afghanistan

By Syed Zafar Mehdi

The deadly spiral of violence targeting Afghanistan's long-repressed religious and ethnic minority, Hazara Shias, continues unabated.

From the notorious Pashtun ruler Abdur Rehman Khan in late 1880s to the Daesh terrorist group in the 21st century, this vulnerable group has known nothing but violence and death and everything in between.

The juggernaut rolled again this week, during Friday congregational prayers, in the northern Kunduz province of Afghanistan. A young suicide bomber, masquerading as one of the worshippers, detonated his explosives during prayers, leaving a trail of death and destruction.

The devastating attack followed a strikingly familiar pattern, which has come to define the terrorist group's modus operandi in Afghanistan since 2014, when it first made inroads into the war-ravaged country.

More than 100 casualties have been reported from Friday's high-intensity bombing at Gozar-e-Sayed Abad Mosque in the Khanabad area of Kunduz, with a predominantly Hazara population. The toll is likely to mount, as many have been admitted to hospitals in critical condition.

Videos shared on social media showed heartbreaking scenes inside and outside the mosque, with disfigured bodies scattered through the debris. One video showed a distraught mother wailing over the body of her young son. Not much remained of his lifeless body though.

There were other extremely graphic images too, with body parts hanging from the ceiling inside the mosque and plumes of smoke rising from the burning structure outside. The blood and tears were indistinguishable.

Eyewitnesses and survivors described to Press TV's website over the phone the apocalyptic scenes in the aftermath of the bombing, with ambulances ferrying the dead and people frantically searching for their missing relatives.

“All I could see was blood and body parts, and frightened people standing numb, not knowing the fate of their friends and relatives,” Mohammad Imran, a local resident and eyewitness said. At least three of his friends died in the bombing, and many are still missing.

One eyewitness said his father was critically wounded in the tragic incident, but had no information about some of his friends who went to the mosque that day.

“It feels like doomsday, everything seems to be over,” cried Hadi. “What did we do to deserve this, why do they keep snatching our loved ones from us?”

Zaki Daryabi, chief editor of Kabul-based newspaper Etelaat, said a woman who lived in his neighborhood for two years had 23 people in her immediate family either dead or injured in the deadly blast.

Daryabi shared pictures of some young victims who had been identified by their families, and a video showing people digging mass graves in an open field. He said many people had succumbed to their wounds due to “lack of medicine”, pointing to poor services.

Local sources told Press TV's website that hospitals and dispensaries were teeming with patients. The trauma center run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Kunduz had treated more than 100 wounded people while many others were brought dead to the hospital.

It's important to recall that on Oct. 3, 2015, the US forces had bombed this hospital, killing at least 42 people, including women and children. Scores of patients were charred to death and many others were badly decapitated, in a horrendous war crime that largely went unnoticed.

The latest diabolical attack, reminiscent of the Oct. 2015 bombing, is among the deadliest terrorist attacks in Afghanistan since the US-

led invasion 2001, and the first since the Taliban announced a caretaker government in Kabul last month.

The last time Daesh terrorists struck was immediately after the Taliban's sweeping takeover of the country and the US-led coalition's hasty and humiliating retreat outside Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport in mid-August, killing over 160 civilians.

In recent weeks, there have been intermittent attacks on Taliban fighters in eastern Nangarhar province, the Daesh stronghold, as the two groups step up their long-running rivalry in the volatile Af-Pak region.

Experts see Friday's bombing serving multiple purposes for Daesh: to undermine the Taliban's newly-established rule and to continue its long-running murderous campaign aimed at ethnically cleansing the minority Hazara Shia community, which it has long seen as part of the resistance front in Syria and Iraq.

In a statement after the attack, the terrorist group said the suicide bomber detonated his explosive vest amid a crowd of Hazara Shia worshippers inside the mosque. The explicit mention of 'Hazara' was striking.

The group vowed to continue targeting the vulnerable Hazara Shia community, who constitute roughly 15 to 20 percent of the country's population. In Kunduz, they make up about 6 percent of the 1 million population.

Another important takeaway from the statement was the mention of the suicide bomber's ethnic identity and the clear anti-China messaging. The assassin belonged to China's Uyghur Muslim community, recruited by Daesh to be a pawn in its sinister game. He had apparently been brainwashed into believing that the Taliban have pledged to expel the Uyghur militants from Afghanistan at China's request.

Since Friday, social media has been flooded with evocative messages, expressing solidarity with the persecuted Hazaras and warning against Afghanistan becoming “another Syria.”

Samira Hamidi, a human rights activist, said Kunduz attack is a reminder that “terrorism is at its peak” in Afghanistan, warning against ignoring the danger posed by the Takfiri militant group.

Munazza Ebtekar, an Afghan researcher at Oxford University, said there are “no feelings of sadness or desperation, just anger”, asserting that the campaign to annihilate the Hazara population “can and will be stopped by the people.”

Pertinently, it's not the first attack on the minority Hazara community in Afghanistan, claimed by Daesh.

The targeted attacks have assumed alarming proportions since 2014, when Daesh terrorists made a foray into Afghanistan, from their original bases in Syria.

The attacks on Ziyarat e Sakhi shrine in western Kabul in 2015, Baqir ul Uloom Masjid in central Kabul in 2015, Al-Zahra Masjid and Imam Zaman Masjid in western Kabul in 2017, Hazara educational center in 2018 are some of the examples of ghastly terror perpetrated by this group in Afghanistan in recent years.

More recently, in May, three bombs struck outside a girls' school in western Kabul's Hazara-dominated neighborhood of Dasht-e Barchi, leaving at least 68 dead. The victims were all young girls with big dreams.

The pattern of attacks remains the same but now a different set of players are running the show in Kabul. Will the Taliban, which has its rivalry with Daesh, up its game to protect the vulnerable Hazara community, or will we see the repeat of the late 1890s. Time will tell.

Syed Zafar Mehdi is a Tehran-based journalist, editor and blogger with over 10 years of experience. He has reported extensively from Kashmir, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran for leading publications worldwide.

(Source: Press TV)

Who ran in Iraq's crucial election?

From page 1 ► Each electoral district or constituency elects between three to five deputies in proportion to its population.

The candidates competed for 329 seats, including 83 seats representing 25 percent of the total for women and nine seats for minorities distributed among Christians, Shabaks, Sabbeans, Yazidis, and Fali Kurds.

Representatives of the new Parliament have been elected for a four-year term, and candidates can only run in one electoral district.

So unlike before, when candidates ran as independents or on behalf of a party, the winner of each constituency will end up in Parliament. Previously the party leader had the power to select whoever he saw fit enough from his party to sit in Parliament, which in essence doesn't mean the lawmaker in Parliament is the one people voted to represent them.

Familiar and popular political parties still dominate the Iraqi political scene despite the protest movement in the country in October 2019. While the activists who participated in

the protests have set up, their political party called the “Tishreen movement” or the October movement in reference to their rallies that brought about early elections. They have fielded a number of candidates in several provinces in the country.

The Sadrist movement, led by the cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, has a broad fan base that enabled it to win the most significant number of parliament seats during the 2018 elections. It may be able to strengthen its presence in Parliament this time as well. Many analysts expect the Sadrist movement to do well, given its popularity. The party has publicly said it expects to gain around 100 seats, but some say this could be a slight exaggeration. The party had also made it clear that it expects to get the Prime Minister's post given its popularity and the fact no prime minister has been chosen from the Sadr movement before.

Another popular faction represented by candidates within the Al-Fateh alliance or Conquest alliance, is led by Hadi Al-Amiri,

who also heads the Badr Organization, one of the main factions in the Popular Mobilization Units. Political parties affiliated by the popular mobilization units first arrived in Parliament after the 2018 elections. And having played the biggest role in liberating Iraq from Daesh, Conquest came second in 2018 despite having just formed the alliance on the backdrop of Daesh's defeat in late 2017. Observers also expect the Conquest alliance to do well this time.

The Haqq party is new to the scene, running for the first time. These are former members of the Hezbollah Brigades (one of the most prominent units from the Popular Mobilization Forces). Their members say they are no longer associated with the Hezbollah brigades and have dropped their weapons, intending to take a political path only. Observers expect them to win no more than ten seats, but these ten seats could play a crucial role, and they will most likely link up with the conquest alliance to form a majority.

The National State Forces Alliance is composed

of two familiar faces. The Hikma (wisdom) party Ammar al-Hakeem leader has teamed up with former Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Analysts expect this alliance to gain around 30 seats. In 2018, a coalition led by al-Abadi became third, winning 42 seats after he presided over Daesh's defeat. The Hikma party won 19 seats in 2018. Previously they had formed a parliamentary majority with the Sadr movement.

The state of law coalition is another party familiar to the political landscape led by another former prime minister, Nuri al-Maliki, a senior leader in one of Iraq's oldest Shia political parties, Dawa. The state of law coalition won 25 seats in 2018, and observers tell Tehran Times, it is expected to attract something similar this time around.

The Sunni parliament speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi is leading the Taqaddum, or progress, alliance which comprises several Sunni leaders from the Sunni-majority north and west of Iraq.

Parliament speaker Halbousi's main competitor is Khamis al-Khanjar's coalition

which is called Azm.

The two Kurdish heavyweights, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, run by the Barzani tribe, will compete against the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan founded by the late Jalal Talabani.

Iraq's political system is set up where the Prime Minister is a Shia, the President a Kurd, and the Parliament speaker a Sunni. A system that experts say was set up by the United States following its invasion in 2003 with the aim of division and a design that needs urgent reviewing and revising.

As the results emerged on Monday, no party has gained a majority, so talks will take place between different parties and independents to form the largest parliamentary coalition. This coalition will choose the Prime Minister, who in turn will select his cabinet ministers.

In previous elections, this process took months to complete, but analysts say this time, the government will be formed quicker, perhaps in a couple of weeks.

Iconic Azadi Tower welcomes visitors after COVID shutdown



TEHRAN – Borj-e Azadi (Azadi Tower), widely known as the most iconic landmark of the Iranian capital, reopened to visitors on Sunday after some five months of closure caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Completed in 1971, the structure has a very distinct style that merges traditional Persian architecture with modern influences ?— one can see this quite clearly by its big iwan arch that is covered with 8,000 pieces of white marble.

Azadi Square, where the tower sits, is very symbolic too: a lot of protests happened there during the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and it's still a popular site for demonstrations today.

Visitors can climb Azadi Tower using the elevator or stairs to get a nice view of the city from the top.

The Islamic Republic is set to resume tourist visas by next month after months of suspension amid strict government measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced on September 27 concurrent with World Tourism Day.

30 historical monuments restored in eastern Iran

TEHRAN – A total of 30 historical buildings and aging structures, which are located in South Khorasan province, have been restored since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

“Restoration projects completed on 30 historical monuments across South Khorasan during the first half of the current year,” Ali Shariatianesh announced on Sunday.

A budget of 40 billion rials (some \$952,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the renovation projects, he

noted.

South Khorasan is home to some 1,600 historical monuments such as Ab-Anbars (underground cisterns), mosques, madrasas, caravanserais, edifices, and Hammams (public bathhouses), the majority of which date from the Qajar era (1789–1925), the official explained.

Reviving such historical sites could help attract more tourists, which in turn could lead to a better economic climate, the official added.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry



which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. It also hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 – 330 BC)

and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistoric sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa, and Tchogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

Eco-lodge complexes inaugurated in southeast

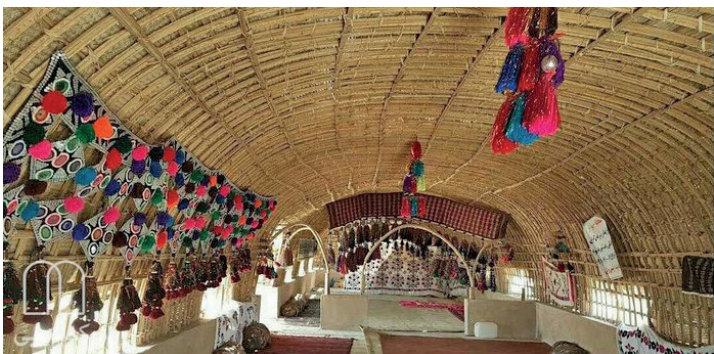
TEHRAN – Three eco-lodge complexes have recently been inaugurated in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan on the occasion of the National Day of Village and Nomads, observed annually on October 7, a local tourism official has announced.

With a total budget of three billion rials (\$71,400 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar), two eco-lodges came on stream in Chabahar county in close collaboration with the private sector, Hossein-Ali Sarhadi said on Sunday.

An eco-lodge unit also opened in Taftan county with a budget of 17 billion rials (\$404,700), the official added.

A total of 50 people can be accommodated in these units, and 10 people are directly employed, he noted.

The province currently has some 51 eco-lodge units active, and there should be a boom in ecotourism following the resumption of tourism,



he mentioned.

“The majority of my travels during my tenure has been to Sistan-Baluchestan, which I consider as a safe province with significant values in terms of culture, history, handicrafts, and tourism.”

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase

in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic and transit location, especially Chabahar which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle

Asian countries to free waters.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

The tourism ministry has set a target to help build 2,000 eco-lodges by 2021, believing such guest houses could cater to sustainable development and job creation in the countryside and rural areas. Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on average so that the scheme could create 160,000 jobs.

The culturally diverse country never disappoints visitors when it comes to eco-tourism, sightseeing, and even tribal tourism as it is home to many regional people including ones with Turk and Arab elements in addition to the Kurds, Baloch, Bakhtyari, Lurs, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, Jews, and others.

Exhibit of engraved metalwork opens in Tehran



TEHRAN – An exquisite collection of engraved metalwork has been put on show at the headquarters of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Tehran.

The week-long exhibition features decorative plates, vessels, various embossed utensils, and personal ornamentations, which are handcrafted using an indigenous skill called Qalam-Zani, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Qalam-Zani is one of Iran's traditional arts to make decorating and painting motifs on metal objects, especially copper, gold, silver, and brass.

The art became popular in the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC) and reached its peak in the Sassanid era (224–651 CE).

Nowadays, artists first fill the object with bitumen and gypsum to reduce the noise of the pen and then draw the desired pattern on it. When passing through the old bazaar of Isfahan, tourists can hear the sound of artists working to keep the art of Qalam-Zani alive.

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.

New book explores traditional textile of Sistan-Baluchestan



TEHRAN – Iran's Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICHT) has recently published a book that turns the spotlight on traditional clothing and textile across the ancient Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Authored by Farzad Frouzanfar, Mehrozaman Noban, and Shahin Borhanzahi, the book has a detailed look at Suzan-duzi (needlework) that is a very common occupation among locals of the southeastern province.

Needlework is the art of drawing images on plain fabrics by sewing delicate stitches using a needle and colorful yarns. They are mainly used to

embellish women's clothes; however, such works are applied to decorate bracelets, necklaces, bags, and scarves.

Earlier this year, Iran's Anthropology Research Institute published an atlas of traditional clothing and attires of people who are natives of the southeastern province. To preserve indigenous traditions and original clothing, it seems vital to revive indigenous clothing and its effectiveness today, the research institute said.

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic and transit location, especially Chabahar which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters. The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

Castle, traditional ice storage in Semnan being restored

TEHRAN – A historical castle and a traditional Yakhchal (mudbrick ice storage) in the village of Qatul, in the north-central city of Garmsar, Semnan province have undergone some rehabilitation works.

The castle's worn-out materials are being replaced while it is reinforced and strengthened, Garmsar's tourism chief has announced.

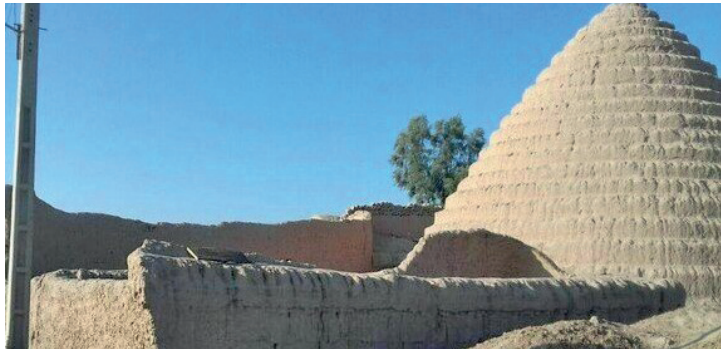
Yakhchal-e Qatul is also being repaired and restored, Mahvash Kamali said on Sunday, CHTN reported.

As part of the project, Yakhchal's walls, foundation, and surrounding landscape are being repaired and restored, the official added.

Back in March the Qajar-era (1789–1925) Yakhchal, which was used to supply ice slabs to the neighboring towns and villages for decades, was turned into a museum.

The Yakhchal and Castle of Qatul have been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

From very early history to modern times, defensive walls have often been



necessary for cities to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest.

Fortifications in antiquity were designed primarily to defeat attempts at the escalade, and to the defense of territories in warfare, and were also used to solidify rule in a region during peacetime.

When there was no electricity, no refrigerators, and no appliances, people kept a huge amount of water next to the high walls of Yakhchal,

which cast a shadow that kept the water cool.

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

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

There were also wells behind the ice

storage with a connective canal at the bottom of the ice storage to the wells with a slight slope.

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

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

Oxus treasure, a splendid set of prehistoric Persian metalwork

The Oxus treasure is the most important surviving collection of Achaemenid Persian metalwork. It consists of about 170 objects, dating mainly from the fifth and fourth centuries BC. This was the time of the Achaemenid empire, created by Cyrus the Great (559–530 BC), when Persian control stretched from Egypt and the Aegean to Afghanistan and the Indus Valley.

The treasure seems to have been gathered together over a long period, perhaps in a temple. It includes vessels, a gold scabbard, model chariots and figures, armlets, seals, finger-rings, miscellaneous personal objects, dedicatory plaques, and coins. It was found on the banks of the River Oxus, probably at the site of Takht-i Kuwad, a ferry station on the north bank of the river.

In May 1880 Captain F.C. Burton, a British political officer in Afghanistan, rescued a group of merchants who had been captured by bandits while traveling between Kabul and Peshawar. They were

carrying with them this rich collection of gold and silver objects. Burton bought from them a gold armlet, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Other pieces from the treasure subsequently emerged in the bazaars of Rawalpindi. Some of those now in The British Museum were acquired by Major-General Sir Alexander Cunningham (1814–93), Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, and others were obtained by Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks, who was both a curator in the Museum and a generous benefactor. In due course, Franks bought Cunningham's share of the treasure, and eventually, the entire Oxus treasure was bequeathed by him to The British Museum.

The pictured embossed ornament is part of the Oxus treasure, the most important collection of silver and gold to have survived from the Achaemenid period. The treasure is from a temple and dates mainly from the fifth and fourth centuries BC.

Restoration work completed on centuries-old caravanserai in central Iran



TEHRAN – A restoration project has been completed on the Safavid-era (1501–1736) Sheikh Ali Khan Zangeneh Caravanserai in Shahinshahr va Meymeh county, central Isfahan province, a local tourism official has announced.

A budget of 500 million rials (about \$12,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials

per dollar) was allocated to the project, Javad Chehrazai said on Sunday.

With the aim of preparing the historical inn for possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list, the project involved repairing rooftops, flooring as well as courtyard and entrance gate, the official added.

Also known as Chaleh Siah, the caravanserai has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Iranian caravanserais being ready for collective UNESCO tag

Iran has put forward a selection of 56 caravanserais as a candidate for a collective inclusion in UNESCO's cultural heritage list,

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Caravansary is a compound word combining “caravan” with

“sara”; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 –330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country.

Such roadside inns were originally built in various epochs along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

Over 2000 beds to be added to hospitality sector of West Azarbaijan



From page 1 ► 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.

Iranian universities among institutes producing world-changing graduates

TEHRAN – The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

The QS World University Rankings portfolio, inaugurated in 2004, has grown to become the world's most popular source of comparative data about university performance.

In 2015, in an attempt to meet student demand for comparative data about the employment prospects offered by prospective or current universities, QS launched the QS Graduate Employability Rankings. The unique methodology consists of five indicators, with three that do not feature in any other ranking.

The employer reputation metric is based on over 50,000 responses to the QS Employer Survey and asks employers to identify those institutions from which they source the most competent, innovative, and effective graduates.

This year, Sharif University of Technology and the University of Tehran, with a rank in the range of 301-500, were listed among the top 500 universities in the world for the first time in this field, and Amirkabir University of Technology was also ranked in the +501 category.

In the first year of the ranking,



300 universities worldwide were included in the evaluation. In 2022, 550 universities from 78 countries were producing the most employable graduates.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) receiving a perfect score of 100 and retaining the top spot. MIT was followed by Stanford University and University of California in second and third respectively.

Iranian universities make progress in world rankings

Most recently, 41 Iranian universities in engineering sciences and 12 universities in computer sciences have made a place among the top 1,188 universities in the world with the announcement of Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 by subject.

It also has introduced 59 Iranian universities among the top institutions

in World University Rankings 2022.

The THE Education Young University Rankings 2021 listed 26 Iranian institutions among the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger.

Moreover, some 34 Iranian universities and institutions were listed among the top 1,000 in the world, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021.

World Mental Health Week to highlight inequality



By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Iran celebrates World Mental Health Week on October 9-15 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to raise awareness of the inequality in access to mental health care.

World Mental Health Day was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization with members and contacts in more than 150 countries.

Observed annually on October 10, the event represents a global commitment to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

This year, it is celebrated around the world with a theme of "Mental health care for all: let's make it a reality".

Low share of mental health in health sector budget

The third meeting of the specialized working group on mental health was held with the aim of reviewing and updating the goals of the national mental health document, prepared and piloted in 2012.

Ahmad Hajebi, director of the mental, social, and addiction health office of the Ministry of Health said that said the goals of the national mental health document include increasing mental health literacy, equitable access to mental health services, and empowering the public.

Referring to the low share of mental health in the country's health system budget, he stressed the need for policies and financial resources as two main pillars to facilitate the provision of mental health services.

Ali Delpisheh, Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Health and Food Security said that factors such as respect for civil rights, fair distribution of resources, prevention of natural disasters, and childhood development can keep the society mentally healthy.

He further pointed to the link between inflation and the economic situation with mental health, and cited coronavirus and the resulting tensions, including economic problems, as factors exacerbating mental health problems.

bating mental health problems.

Regarding the importance of mental health and the need to review its goals and interventions in light of the pandemic, it is needed to provide a platform for cross-sectoral cooperation to facilitate the implementation of the document and coordination between stakeholders.

Mental health week programs

The health ministry has assigned each day of the week with a special theme as follows:

Monday, October 9: The role of policymakers in the equitable access to mental health services

Tuesday, October 10: The role of sanctions on mental health inequality during the pandemic

Wednesday, October 11: Fair relationship of psychosocial health service providers with service recipients

Thursday, October 12: The effect of stigma on the inequality of mental health services in society

Friday, October 13: The need to develop economic and social justice in improving the mental health of society

Saturday, October 14: Mental health literacy and service use

Sunday, October 15: The role of governance in empowering people with disabilities (physical and mental)

Virtual universities of Islamic world develop scientific co-op

TEHRAN – The second meeting of the executive committee of the Virtual Universities of the World of Islam (CINVU), to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation, will be held on November 1-2, in Turkey.

The meeting will be held with the presence of the representatives of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech), senior members of the CINVU Executive Committee from Malaysia, Turkey, Pakistan, Tunisia, Ivory Coast, Syria, and Iran, Ali Karimi Morid, the Secretariat of the CINVU said.



Reviewing the measures taken, identifying existing challenges, and defining a new mission for the members of the CINVU in order to develop scientific and technological cooperation between the virtual universities

will be on the agenda, he explained.

The Third General Assembly of the CINVU will be held on December 15-16, hosted by Allameh Iqbal University of Pakistan, he further announced.

COMSTech, the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation), in order to strengthen the relationship and to improve the scientific, educational, academic research, and technological collaborations among the Islamic countries, established Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual

Universities (CINVU) to support the educational and research networks based on ICT technology and knowledge engineering, promoting joint venture and collaboration culture and expedition of cooperation and sympathy among entrepreneurs and Muslim scientists, scholars, students and researches of Islamic countries.

Iran is the Host Country of the CINVU has accepted to provide the required administrative, financial and scientific support to make CINVU a viable and successful institution of COMSTech.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

90,000 clunker taxis are plying the roads

Some 90,000 clunker taxis are plying the roads in Iran, an official with traffic police has said.

The old taxis are being used 8 times more than private cars, YJC quoted Mohammad Tarahhomi as saying on Monday.

There are 1.5 million clunker vehicles and 9 million clunker motorcycles in Iran, he regretted, adding that unfortunately scrappage of old, high-emission vehicles is linked with importation of vehicles which is now banned.

۹۰ هزار تاکسی فرسوده در جاده‌های کشور تردد می‌کنند

رئیس اداره حقوقی پلیس راه گفت: ۹۰ هزار تاکسی فرسوده در ایران وجود دارد.

به گزارش باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان سرهنگ محمد ترحمی گفت: میزان تردد این تاکسی‌ها هشت برابر خودروهای عادی است.

وی افزود: یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار خودروی فرسوده و ۹ میلیون موتورسیکلت فرسوده در کشور وجود دارد. متأسفانه حیات اسقاط به واردات گره خورده است و از آنجا که واردات ممنوع شده است، اسقاط نیز صورت نمی‌گیرد.

783 nanoproducts developed in 6 months

From page 1 ► Over the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year, 294 knowledge-based companies in the country have developed 772 nanoproducts and have received nanotechnology certificates, according to the Nanotechnology Innovation Council.

Ali Asghar Najimi, the director of the industry group of the Nanotechnology Development Council announced on June 25 that currently, 750 approved nano products are sold in the market; by the end of this year (March 2022), about 250 more products will be added to the commercialized nano products.

Last year, some 60 projects in nanotechnology were successful, which saved about \$30 million in foreign currency, he highlighted.

Pointing out that so far about 80 large industrial companies have used nano products, he added that by 2025, more than 200 large industrial companies will use nanotechnology to improve efficiency and productivity.

Iran among five pioneers of nanotechnology

Iran has been introduced as the 4th leading country in the world in the field of nanotechnology, publishing 11,546 scientific articles in 2020.

The country held a 6 percent share of the world's total nanotechnology articles, according to Stat-Nano's monthly evaluation accomplished in WoS databases.

Iran ranked 43rd among the 100 most vibrant



clusters of science and technology (S&T) worldwide for the third consecutive year, according to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 report.

The country experienced a three-level improvement compared to 2019.

Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, has said that Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence.

Iranian nanotechnology companies have increased sales by 100 percent over the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly \$1.9 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), Sattari announced.

Ageing cars are bogging down the battle against climate change

When world leaders attend the make-or-break United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland in a few weeks, they will be ferried around in electric vehicles – a reminder that the transport sector has a critical role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

While many developed nations have pledged to phase out petrol and diesel vehicles in the next two decades, the transition will be more complicated in developing countries, where old cars imported from Europe, Japan and the United States are often the only affordable option, Modern Diplomacy reported.

Many of these used cars emit dangerous fumes, exposing people to high levels of air pollution, and they are often not roadworthy, resulting in more accidents and fatalities.

Rob de Jong, head of the Sustainable Mobility Unit at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), says there is no way the world can meet its zero-emission targets under the Paris Agreement on climate change unless efforts are made to regulate the used car trade. It's a point he plans to make at the upcoming climate summit, known as COP26.

"Over the years, as demand for affordable, second-hand cars has grown in developing countries, we have seen an increase in the export of polluting, outdated vehicles from developed countries. These issues are all interconnected. If we want the global fleet to go electric, this problem needs to be tackled as part of that," he says.

Below standard

Globally, the transport sector is responsible for nearly a quarter of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. Vehicle emissions are also a significant source of fine particulate matter and nitrogen oxides that are major causes of urban air pollution.

Many exported used cars would not meet safety or emission standards in their countries of origin, with some even stripped of key parts or safety features, such as air filters. Ideally, these vehicles will be rapidly phased out as part of the global transition to electric mobility but, in the meantime, experts say the trade needs to be regulated, not

least because the global fleet will double by 2050, with some 90 per cent of this growth taking place in low- and middle-income countries.

UNEP has long been working with partners to tighten regulations in importing countries while urging developed countries to stop exporting vehicles that fail environment and safety inspections.

In a landmark report last October, UNEP found that the three largest exporters of used vehicles – the European Union, Japan, and the United States – exported 14 million used light duty vehicles worldwide between 2015 and 2018.

Of the 146 countries studied in the report, about two-thirds have "weak" or "very weak" policies regulating the import of used vehicles. The report called for harmonized regulations at a global and regional level to "ensure used vehicles make meaningful contributions to shifting to cleaner, safer, and affordable mobility." This could notably happen if used low- and no-emissions vehicles are promoted as an affordable way for developing countries to access advanced technologies.

Setting new standards

UNEP and its partners have worked with African countries to draw up new standards, helped by the UN Road Safety Fund, which is chaired by the UN Special Envoy for Road Safety Jean Todt, who is also president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile.

This work has already paid off in West Africa, where the Economic Community of West African States last year adopted a comprehensive set of regulations for introducing cleaner fuels and vehicles. Those standards came into effect in January this year.

Now, efforts are underway to introduce similar rules in East Africa, de Jong said, and South Africa has started a consultation process on harmonised standards.

"I'm very optimistic that in less than five years we can have harmonised standards in all of Africa, and in less than eight years, we can have the whole world introduce those minimum standards, give or take a few countries," de Jong says, noting that action must also be taken at the other end of the supply chain.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 10

New cases	11,256
New deaths	222
Total cases	5,702,890
Total deaths	122,592
New hospitalized patients	1,733
Patients in critical condition	5,304
Total recovered patients	5,217,999
Diagnostic tests conducted	33,246,447
Doses of vaccine injected	64,401,945

