



**Congratulations
on the Islamic
Unity Week**

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Interview **T**

Neighbors are mostly worried about export of extremists from Afghanistan: professor

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN – Professor Paul Pillar, a nonresident senior fellow of the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University, tells the Tehran Times that the main concerns of countries neighboring Afghanistan and those nearby is a “possible export of extremists and extremism from Afghanistan.”

Foreign ministers from the countries bordering Afghanistan are set to gather in Tehran next week to assess the situation in Afghanistan.

The Russian foreign minister, whose country is also worried about the aftershocks of the Taliban ruling for the former Soviet Central Asian Republics, is also expected to attend the meeting.

However, Professor Pillar who also served as national intelligence officer for the Near East and South Asia in the U.S. intelligence community, says, “The Taliban themselves are very inwardly focused and have no interest in causing security difficulties for the neighbors.”

Following is the text of the interview:

Certain countries bordering Afghanistan, including Iran, warned about the “irresponsible withdrawal” of the U.S. from Afghanistan. What is your view?

The withdrawal was the right decision. The United States had already done far more than its fair share of trying to provide. ► Page 2

Interview **T**

Persepolis loss against Al Hilal was logical: expert

By Farrokhes Hesabi

TEHRAN – Reza Torabian, Iranian football expert and former Persepolis player, believes that Persepolis' loss against Al Hilal was a logical result due to the many factors.

Persepolis suffered a 3-0 loss against Al Hilal in the 2021 AFC Champions League quarters and fell far short of expectations.

“It was a bad result. Honestly, it was predictable for me that Persepolis are not able to qualify for the semifinals of the Champions League,” Torabian said in his interview with Tehran Times.

“I think the logic of football says that Persepolis were not deserved to qualify to the next round. Persepolis didn't have the basic preparation for this game, even in the logistic matters,” he stated.

“They had a difficult trip to Saudi Arabia before the game. Their flight was delayed by 48 hours due to logistics and visa problems. So, the team didn't have enough time to train in the host country and recover after a difficult trip before the game against Al Hilal. These issues are related to the managers of the club and not to the head coach and players.

“Moreover, Al Hilal benefited from hosting right and playing in a stadium full of their fans. They also had some top-class and expensive players who every single one of them can lead them to the Asian title. In short, they were better players than the Iranian players,” added the former player of Belgian team Standard Liege. ► Page 3



Macron's remarks on the Algerian massacre in Paris denounced

French President Emmanuel Macron's denouncement of a bloody crackdown on Algerian Muslim protesters in Paris 60 years ago as an “unforgivable crime” has not gone well, with activists demanding a full apology. While Macron's remarks are the strongest recogni-

tion by a French president of the massacre in which police heavily beat the protesters and threw hundreds of them into the River Seine. The events that unfolded that night have never been legally investigated.

It is widely believed to be the most violent

and deadly crackdown of a peaceful protest in post-war Western Europe, yet many in France still refuse to confront it.

On October 17, 1961, under the orders of then Paris police chief Maurice Papon, police launched a deadly attack on ► Page 5

Iran, Saudi Arabia resume economic exchanges

TEHRAN – After a 1.5-year hiatus, Iran and Saudi Arabia have resumed economic exchanges with the Islamic Republic exporting \$39,000 worth of commodities to the Kingdom, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced on Monday.

“Exports to Saudi Arabia coincided with the beginning of the two countries' talks, which is good news,” IRIB quoted Latifi as saying.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have endured rocky relations over the past few years.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister on Friday said the government is serious about talks with Iran as part of their agenda to stabilize the region.

The value of Iran's non-oil trade with its 15 neighbors reached \$22.588 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) to register

a 52 percent rise year on year, according to Latifi.

The Islamic Republic traded over 47,222 million tons of commodities with the neighboring countries in the mentioned year.

The volume of the traded goods in the mentioned period also increased by 37 percent compared to the figure for the previous year's same six months. ► Page 4

Iranian hotels ready to welcome foreign tourists

TEHRAN –Iranian hotels are ready to receive foreign tourists as the issuance of tourist visas and the flow of foreign tourists from land and air borders will be resumed this month.

Ninety percent of hotel staff have been vaccinated against the coronavirus so far, so the hotels are ready to welcome foreign tourists, observing strict health protocols, the head of the Association of Iranian Hoteliers has announced.

To ease the travel process, individual foreign tourists could confirm the reservations of accommodation centers at the border, CHTN quoted Jamshid Hamzehzadeh as saying on Monday.

The destinations of foreign tourists in Iran are to specific cities such as Mashhad, Qom, Tabriz, Shiraz, Yazd and Isfahan, and to return to the figure of over eight million incoming tourists before the outbreak of the coronavirus, serious planning is required, the official added. ► Page 6



President Raisi meets Venezuelan FM

TEHRAN — Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Felix Plasencia on Monday afternoon. During the meeting, Raisi said Iran's foreign policy is to expand relations with Latin American countries, especially Venezuela. He then went on to say that Venezuela is one of Iran's top priorities in economic diplomacy.

39 Iranian universities in ISC 2020 subject ranking

TEHRAN – A total of 39 universities from Iran have been placed in the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC 2020) ranking in various subject areas, ISC head Mohammad Javad Dehghani has said.

In “ISC world university rankings by subject” includes 4 major criteria of Education, Research, International Activity, and Innovation.

In ISC WUR by subject, the targeted universities are those that are ranked among the top 700 ones in the world and in terms of the number of publications in that subject area, where for three successive years should have published at least 150 publications in each subject area and finally, indexed them in incite database. These universities are ranked in 6 major subject areas and brought together with scores provided under their categories.

The six major subjects are natural sciences, engineering, and technology, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

In natural sciences, the University of Tehran (401-450) ranked first, and the Amirkabir University of Technology, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran Science and Technology, Isfahan University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti, ► Page 7

Interview **T**

U.S. is stuck in post 9/11 power politics: analyst

By Mohammad M. Farahani

TEHRAN – American political analyst Martin Love says that the U.S. has been locked in the post 9/11 foreign policy. In contrast, Love says, China has preferred to focus on its economy and be away from wars.

“The U.S. literally seems stuck in foreign policies arising from 9/11 and some wise observers have claimed Biden has a complete lack of self-awareness that the world has moved on without the United States, which has been locked into a certain foreign policy mindset for two decades,” Love tells the Tehran Times.

“Governments have been toppled by the U.S. and countries more or less destroyed and U.S. sanctions have taken a horrific toll, particularly in West Asia,” the political analyst points out.

China has made every effort to improve its economy by establishing trade ties with Asian and African states. Some Arab states are also noticing that U.S. allies are turning to China as an alternative if Washington leave them alone in future crises. ► Page 5

Iran insists won't tolerate presence of Zionist forces near borders

TEHRAN — Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday morning, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh reiterated that the Islamic Republic will not tolerate the presence of Israeli forces near its borders.

Khatibzadeh also criticized the Republic of Azerbaijan for not notifying Iran prior to holding military drills.

Khatibzadeh added that it is a natural thing that military exercises are being held in the region and in different countries, but he criticized Azerbaijan's behavior, saying that accurate information should be provided in this regard, just as Iran provides accurate information.

“If countries can do this and inform us with this attitude, it is a sign of their maturity,” he added. ► Page 2

Raisi appoints special envoy to Afghanistan

Terrorist acts are aimed to cause sectarian rift in Afghanistan, Iranian president laments



TEHRAN – At a cabinet meeting on Sunday President Ebrahim Raisi appointed Hassan Kazemi Qomi as the Special Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Afghanistan.

In a post on his Twitter account, Kazemi Qomi called himself the president's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

He has also said “interaction and establishing dialogue with the Taliban shows the art of diplomacy by the Islamic Republic.”

Kazemi Qomi was Iran's ambassador to Iraq and head of the Iranian consulate in Herat, Afghanistan. He was Iran's first ambassador to Baghdad after the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime.

In an interview with the national TV on July 22, Kazemi Qomi said, “Iran should encourage the Taliban to establish a government with the involvement of all groups.”

The appointment comes as Iran has expressed its deep worries about the deadly terrorist attacks in Afghanistan.

Iran, Venezuela to sign 20-year cooperation document



Venezuelan FM Felix Plasencia (L) greets reporters at a joint press briefing with his Iranian counterpart

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Monday that Iran and Venezuela plan to sign a 20-year cooperation plan.

Abdollahian broke the story at a joint press conference with his Venezuelan counterpart Félix Plasencia.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Plasencia arrived in Tehran on Monday.

At his meeting with Abdollahian, it was decided to hold a joint economic commission of the two countries in the near future and to finalize a comprehensive plan for 20 years of economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian foreign minister also condemned the U.S. attempt to extradite a high-ranking Venezuelan diplomat on trumped-up charges and stressed Iran's support for the Venezuelan government.

During the briefing, Abdollahian said that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro will visit Tehran in the coming months, and the 20-year cooperation document will be signed during the visit.

The Venezuelan foreign minister also called the relations between Iran and his country strategic, saying, “Iran is a strategic friend of the government, the people and the president of Venezuela.”

Iranian President Ayatollah Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi also met with Venezuelan foreign minister on Monday afternoon.

During the meeting, Raisi said that Iran's foreign policy is to expand relations with Latin American countries, especially Venezuela.

He then went on to say that Venezuela is one of Iran's top priorities in economic diplomacy.

“In this government, we are determined to put

aside the problems created by the enemies and continue the path of the country's progress,” the president added.

Emphasizing the need to expand Tehran-Caracas relations in various fields, Raisi said that in order to develop bilateral relations, a clear and long-term plan should be designed so that the perspective of relations moves towards maximum strengthening of ties.

The president praised Venezuela's cooperation with Iran in international forums, adding, “With the long-term cooperation program between the two countries, there is a clear vision for expanding and deepening relations.”

Expressing the importance of the Venezuelan government in Iran's foreign policy, Raisi expressed hope that with the visit of the Venezuelan president to Tehran in the near future, new steps will be taken for long-term cooperation between the two countries.

For his part, Plasencia described Iran and Venezuela as two friendly countries and said that the two countries are united against imperialism and those who want to harm the independence of the two sides.

The Venezuelan foreign minister named Iran as an important and influential country in the region and said, “The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, along with Iran, is committed to defending multilateralism and countering U.S. intervention.”

Emphasizing the need to expand relations between the two countries, Plasencia said that developing a long-term relations plan between the two countries can be effective in achieving this goal, and “Venezuela is ready to develop relations in all fields with the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Neighbors are mostly worried about export of extremists from Afghanistan: professor

“Taliban are not an entirely cohesive and unified movement”

From page 1 ▶ for Afghan security, given the large amount of blood and treasure that it has expended there. The neighboring states, having at least as much interest in what happens in Afghanistan as the United States does, have no basis for criticizing as irresponsible the conclusion of the U.S. expedition.

The security situation has worsened since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. What does it signify?

I would not agree that it has worsened. Civil war had been raging in Afghanistan for years. To the extent that the Taliban have won the war and a new civil war does not ignite, then the end of war--regardless of what one may think about the Taliban--means there will be, if anything, less violence and less insecurity in Afghanistan.

What can be the security implications of the Taliban ruling over Afghanistan for China, Iran, Central Asian Republics and Russia?

The main concerns for those states involve the possible export of extremists and extremism from Afghanistan. Much will depend on the extent to which the Taliban can consolidate their control over the country and curb the operations of groups such as Islamic State. The Taliban themselves are very inwardly focused and have no interest in causing security difficulties for the neighbors.

Afghanistan's neighbors are worried. They want to see a stable government and security in the country. How can this be achieved?

First of all, they need to refrain from doing anything that would stoke a renewed civil war in Afghanistan. Then they need to craft a relationship with the Taliban that recognizes the fact of the Taliban victory without implying an approval of the Taliban's internal policies. Cooperation with the Taliban will be possible on selected security matters--such as dealing with Islamic State--on which the interests of the Taliban and the neighbors are parallel.

Some experts say the Taliban are weak in terms of intelligence and are incapable of ruling the country. They cite horrifying attacks in Kunduz and Kandahar as examples. What is your opinion?

The Taliban clearly have much yet to learn regarding techniques for providing peace and security in territory under their control. Probably they will get better at internal security tasks--in their own ruthless way--over time when they are no longer giving priority to fighting a civil war against the previous Afghan government.

Some former Afghan officials claim that extremists within the Taliban such as the Haqqani network are responsible for the blasts. Do you have any comments in this regard?

Without trying to comment on responsibility for particular attacks, it is true that the Taliban are not an entirely cohesive and unified movement and include elements that function



more as independent actors. The Haqqani network is the leading example of this, and one with a significant capability for major violence. That network will probably be a problem for Taliban leaders who do not agree with all of the Haqqanis' methods and objectives.

Do you agree with this view that fighting is “easier” than ruling in a country like Afghanistan, which is suffering from chronic security and economic problems?

That description applies fairly well to the Taliban, who have known nothing but fighting a civil war for most of the past couple of decades. This is a pattern that has been seen in other countries that have had long-running insurgencies, in which many of the foot soldiers in the movement as well as the leaders have come to devote their entire lives to fighting. The obvious and severe economic, infrastructure, and humanitarian problems in Afghanistan compound the problem.

How is it possible to fill the political and security vacuum in Afghanistan?

To the extent that the Taliban are the new rulers, there isn't really a vacuum. The Taliban filled it.

The current economic and security situation shows that 20 years of nation-building in Afghanistan by the U.S. and its allies has been a failure. People's refusal to resist the Taliban showed that they were not happy with the government in Kabul. For example, when I talked to certain Afghan people in Iran, they were saying that the government was corrupt. What is your analysis?

As has been true of insurgencies in many other countries throughout history, popular dissatisfaction with the incumbent regime has proven to be at least as important as prowess on the battlefield in determining the outcome of a

conflict. Afghanistan is no exception. Corruption under the previous government certainly was part of the problem, but so was overall deficiency in the government's performance in meeting public needs.

Let's turn to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan following the Sept. 11 attacks. Was the invasion advisable given the Soviet experience in the 1980s?

The initial intervention by the United States in 2001 was an understandable response to a terrible terrorist attack against the United States, perpetrated by a group that was then in alliance with the Taliban, which was the de facto government of most of Afghanistan. The U.S. mistake was in not exiting Afghanistan after rousting Al Qaeda and ousting the Taliban from power--objectives that were accomplished within a few weeks--and in staying on with an apparently expanded mission of nation-building.

Do you agree with the view that the “war on terror” in Afghanistan only worsened the security situation in the region as the Soviet invasion of the country ignited civil war and later produced terrorists such as al-Qaeda?

U.S. policy in this area should not be judged in terms of the trouble that the Soviet invasion caused. There already was a civil war and there already were terrorists such as Al Qaeda before the United States got involved. There are reasons to criticize the so-called “war on terror,” but those reasons have more to do with the overall expenditure of resources and with how the United States may have exposed itself to more anger and resentment as a result of its own overseas military operations.

What is expected from the regional countries and the international community as a whole to stabilize Afghanistan and prevent the country from entering a new stage of civil war, refugee flood, etc.

Certainly Afghanistan has dire needs in terms of humanitarian assistance as well as longer-term aid in building infrastructure and the basis for a stronger economy. Modalities still need to be worked out between the Taliban and the international community regarding how such aid can be administered so it meets the needs of the Afghan people without simply propping up the Taliban regime.

And what steps should the Taliban take to be recognized by the international community?

The Taliban need to be far more inclusive so that they can credibly represent themselves as a government for all Afghans. So far the regime the Taliban have erected is very narrow, consisting mainly of Pashtun men who are not representative of the whole population in terms of ethnicity, religion, or gender. The Taliban also need to refrain from the most brutal methods that characterized their exercise of power when they previously controlled most of Afghanistan.

Iran insists won't tolerate presence of Zionist forces near borders

From page 1 ▶ He added that more attention must be paid by the countries in the South Caucasus region regarding the insecurities created by the illegitimate presence of the Zionist regime.

“The roots and essence of this regime grow in blood, violence and terror, and it can grow from such space. It does not go anywhere except in that you see assassinations, bombings, coups and conspiracies,” he elaborated.

The diplomat noted that from the southern region of the Persian Gulf to countries in northern Iran and the Levant, including Syria, wherever the occupying regime of Israel has been present, one can spot insecurities.

He elaborated, “We have told

our neighbors in a friendly way and through various channels that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not tolerate the illegitimate presence of the Zionist regime near its borders and we are not joking with anyone in this regard.”

“No pre-conditions set for U.S.”

Regarding the JCPOA, the spokesman said that Iran has not set any form of pre-conditions to return to the JCPOA revival negotiations.

“We do not receive messages in the media space and we never send messages to anyone this way,” he added.

The spokesman underlined that as the United States is no longer a party to the JCPOA, Iran has not set any pre-conditions for the U.S. to return



to the Vienna talks.

Khatibzadeh then said that what Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian pointed out was the expression of a logic in which the United States had to show, if it was really in line to reconsider its previous policies.

Abdollahian said a few years ago

that if the U.S. is sincere for revival of the JCPOA it should release at least 10 billion dollars of the Iranian assets frozen abroad.

“The Biden administration has not made any changes to any of the dimensions of Trump's policies toward Iran, especially maximum pressure,” Khatibzadeh said, criticizing U.S. excuses regarding the Vienna talks.

He added that what is happening on the ground today is no different from before Biden came.

“The United States could have stopped many of its atrocities against Iran long ago. In the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic, we witnessed the continuation of such atrocities,” the diplomat remarked.

Iranian military chief follows arms deals in trip to Russia

TEHRAN — Iranian Armed Forces chief Mohammad Baqeri, who started a tour of Russia on Sunday, has said, “We have arms deals with Russia after the end of the arms embargo, and in this trip we will talk to the Russian side regarding all these cases.”

Based on UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the arms embargo against Iran ended in October 2020.

“This trip is taking place at the beginning of the thirteenth administration, and Mr. Raisi's administration has a specific look to the East and Asian countries, and also the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Shanghai Pact is an important event, and certainly the

cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia will be further developed in this regard,” Baqeri stated.

Major General Baqeri was visiting Moscow upon invitation by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

“We are cooperating with the Armed Forces of Russia, and in recent years this cooperation has expanded further. At this juncture, my visit is at the invitation of the Russian Minister of Defense. In addition to the bilateral military issues that we have and should pursue, the issue of Afghanistan is one of the issues that will be specifically discussed by the two sides,” Baqeri said upon his arrival in Moscow.

The top general stated that the events in Afghanistan would definitely affect the countries of the region, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and other countries, and these issues would be raised during the trip, Fars News reported.

The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces said Iran and Russia have been cooperating in the fields of military training, military competitions, exchange of experiences, defense industry, and joint cooperation for a full security in Syria.

Baqeri's visit to Russia took place immediately after his travel to Pakistan, where the two countries agreed to hold joint naval exercises.

Iran embarks on military diplomacy

TEHRAN – In the latest sign of activating Iran’s new policy orientation, a senior Iranian general started a regional tour that included visits to two pivotal neighbors of the country in bid to strengthen regional ties and dispel threats emanating from recent developments in the region.

Iran’s Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri arrived in Moscow on Sunday as part of his renewed efforts to improve relations with a number of Iran’s neighbors. The visit was done at the official invitation of Russian Defense Minister General Sergei Shoigu.

In addition to Shoigu, the Iranian general also met his Russian counterpart, Valery Gerasimov. During his visit, Bagheri discussed two main things: Arms deals with Russia and regional developments, especially Afghanistan.

The Iranian embassy in Moscow said in a mid-October announcement that Bagheri will “exchange views with Russian officials on the development of cooperation and joint defense and military relations, the fight against terrorism, and reviewing regional and international changes.”

Bagheri himself said upon his arrival in Russia that he will pursue



the implementation of an arms deal for purchasing fighter jets, training jets, and combat helicopters from Russia. During a meeting with Iranian experts at the Iranian embassy in Moscow, the senior general pointed out that the deal had been signed in the aftermath of the lifting of a UN arms embargo on Iran in October last year.

He confirmed that discussions on mutual cooperation, defense, and military relations, the latest regional and international developments, as well as the fight against terrorism, are on the agenda of his visit to Moscow.

“We need a roadmap to have strong relations with countries, especially Russia and other neighboring countries,” the general said, according to Iran’s state news agency, IRNA.

The visit to Russia came at a time when Afghanistan still has no internationally recognized government in the wake of Taliban’s takeover of Kabul. Iran has voiced concerns over the possible rise of terrorism in Afghanistan after the Taliban overran Kabul. Recent suicide attacks against Shi’ite prayers in two mosques in Afghanistan have only exacerbated these concerns. Iran warned of sectarian sediton in Afghanistan after these attacks claimed the lives of dozens of Shi’ite Muslims.

“The Foreign Ministry also warns of plots by the enemies of the Islamic ummah to cause divisions, and stresses the need for unity and solidarity among Shias and Sunnis and for rejection of violence and extremism in the name of Islam. This heart-wrenching incident and

the past tragic events including the terrorist attack in Konduz highlight more than ever before the need for beefing up security and boosting protection of Shia and Sunni worshiping places and other gatherings in Afghanistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran is confident that our Muslim brothers and sisters in Afghanistan will foil the divisive schemes of their enemies through solidarity, co-thinking and joint efforts,” the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement earlier this week.

Bagheri said the developments in Afghanistan was an important part of his talks with the Russian officials. His visit to Russia also came on the heels of another visit to Pakistan where he met with high-ranking Pakistani military officials to discuss Afghanistan.

In Moscow, Bagheri said he succeeded in dispelling “negative mentalities” just as he did in Pakistan.

General Bagheri rarely make foreign visits. So, his tour of Pakistan and Russia is of real importance particularly in terms of reiterating the new trend in the foreign policy of Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi’s administration, which is based on closer cooperation and consultations with neighboring countries.

Yemen’s ambassador meets top political advisor to Iranian FM

TEHRAN – Ali Asghar Khaji, the senior advisor to the Iranian foreign minister for special political affairs, held on talks on Sunday with Yemen’s Ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim Mohammad al-Deilami.

The they discussed the latest developments on the ground in Yemen as well as political and international developments concerning the country.

The two sides underlined the necessity of protecting Yemen’s territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

Khaji underlined the need for resolution of the problems of the Yemeni people and the removal of the oppressive blockade on the country. He said this hinges on the establishment of a truce and a political settlement of the crisis in the country.

The senior advisor also stressed that any political solution must be away from any foreign interference and should be based on the will of the people of Yemen.

In mid-April, Khaji met with the Russian President’s Special Representative for the Middle East and Africa, Mikhail Bogdanov, to discuss Yemen, among other issues.

Bogdanov was visiting Tehran along with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

In the meeting the two sides also discussed the latest developments in Yemen, the need for national dialogue with the cooperation of the United Nations and support by other international actors.

Iran has been insisting on the need to end the conflict in Yemen through dialogue since Saudi Arabia launched attacks on the country in March 2015.

In April 2015, Iran presented a four-point plan to the UN in a bid to end the conflict in Yemen. The four-point called for the cessation of hostilities and an immediate end to all foreign military attacks,

direct delivery of medical and humanitarian aid, the resumption of political talks and the creation of a broad Yemeni unity government.

Saudi Arabia attacked Yemen to reinstate the government of Hadi Mansour. The Yemeni people’s uprising against the ruling establishment started after Arab Spring in the Arab world, which toppled the Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan leaders as well.

The United Nations has said the Saudi-led war on Yemen has led to the most devastating human catastrophe in modern history.

According to a UN report issued in late September, the Yemen conflict has killed or maimed 2,600 children.

In an early September interview with the Tehran Times, Ambassador al-Deilami commented on the Iranian efforts to bring peace to Yemen, including an Iranian initiative put forward in the early days of the Saudi aggression against Yemen.

“The Iranian initiative, when it was proposed in the first days of the aggression, faced a deaf ear and no one responded to the initiative; it was to address the crisis in the early days of the aggression. Consequently, the Iranian initiative was in constant need of updating after seven years of war, as well as the failure and defeat of Saudi Arabia and America, to impose their demands on the Yemeni people. Iran should take into account the sacrifices made by the Yemenis,” al-Deilami said.

He added, “Iran’s calls to stop the aggression, lift the siege and resort to political solutions are welcome, but Iran at the end of the day, in the eyes of aggressors, is a party to the battle and therefore its efforts and initiatives are not acceptable. The Islamic Republic, in its stance on the side of the Yemeni resistance and its legitimate right to restore its security, sovereignty and independence, has provided a good help for Yemen in

light of the silence of the world and the complicity of all countries against Yemen. I believe that consolidating relations between Yemen and Iran is the first and most important priority. Strengthening relations at various levels between the two countries is more important than talking about political solutions or initiatives that would not be accepted or negotiated by the aggressor countries and even by the United Nations.”

Ambassador al-Deilami also expressed hope that Iran-Yemen relations would change to the better during Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi’s tenure as Iran’s president.

“Let us say at this stage that Iran, since the start of the aggression against Yemen, has stood by the Yemeni people at the official level, by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution or state officials as well as people’s support. We are hopeful that with the coming of the new government there will be a tangible change in bilateral relations for the better. We look forward to strengthening economic relations and cooperation in the field of infrastructure and the relief and humanitarian aspect, as well as in what qualifies Yemen to confront aggression at various military, economic and other levels,” the Yemeni ambassador noted.

He added, “We hope under Ibrahim Raisi’s presidency, there will be improvement and strengthening of relations between the Republic of Yemen and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Certainly, the appointment of [Hossein Amir] Abdollahian as the head of the Foreign Ministry will enhance the Iranian diplomatic presence at regional and international levels. Certainly, Yemen will enjoy greater support given Mr. Abdollahian’s attitudes towards the region, and we hope to witness the strengthening of diplomatic relations between Iran and Yemen.”

Al-Deilami praised Abdollahian as a “well-respected” diplomat whose appointment as the head of the Foreign Ministry will enhance Iran’s presence and role at the regional and international levels.

world today, including war, division and conflict,” the top cleric said, noting, “The enemies of the Islamic world and global arrogance are trying to create problems for the Islamic world.”

The slogan of this year’s International Conference on Islamic Unity is “peace” so that the Islamic Ummah can solve the problems in the Islamic world through empathy and synergy, Shahriari highlighted.

The purpose of the conference is that Muslims live together in peace and tranquility, work together to form a single Islamic Ummah and witness the establishment of the union of Islamic countries in peace and security.

Shahriari added: “Today, the Islamic world is grappling with several wars. We call on the personalities and scholars of the Islamic world to stand against these conspiracies. Because we see global arrogance conspiring for the region every day, our advice to world leaders is to devote all their political, social, security and cultural efforts to preventing any kind of war, violence and terror.”

On the position of the conference on Afghanistan, he said: “The topic of the conference is chosen 6 months in advance so that the guests can prepare their speeches. We are still trying to have a webinar on Afghanistan and mention our position in the final statement. Our request to the Afghan authorities is to form an inclusive government.”

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Loss against Al Hilal was logical: expert

From Page 1 ▶ Asked about tactical issues of the Persepolis match, Torabian said: “It was a strong all-around performance from the Saudi champions from the first to the last minute. They were on their best day.

“Persepolis are a proud club that have reached the final of the competition in two of the last three Champions League finals. They have also won the last five Iranian league titles. The current coaching staff and most of the current players had a brilliant run last year in domestic and continental competitions.

“However, against Al Hilal, the Reds’ players had their worst day possible. They did not perform at their usual level,” he said.

“The elected tactic by the coaching staff was not clear. Persepolis played an open game, and it was a deadly tactic when you are trying to cope with the likes of Bafetimbi Gomis, Matheus Pereira, and Moussa Marega,” Torabian added.

“In general, I should say that Persepolis’ loss in Asia was the result of management weakness, wrong coaching decisions, and individual mistakes,” Torabian concluded.

22/2021 IPL season to kick off on Tuesday

TEHRAN – The 21st edition of the Iran Professional League (IPL) will kick off on Tuesday. The 2021/22 IPL season will be held with participation of 16 teams.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hossein Tavakoli named Iran’s para powerlifting coach

TEHRAN – Hossein Tavakoli was appointed as new head coach of Iran’s Para Powerlifting on Monday.

He replaced Aliasghar Ravasi who led the Iranian powerlifters in the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Tavakoli, Sydney 2000 Olympic Games gold medal winner, will lead Iran at the 2021 World Junior & Senior Para Powerlifting Championships in Georgian capital Tbilisi from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Tbilisi successfully hosted a World Para Powerlifting World Cup for the first time in May with almost 100 athletes from 25 countries.

Paralympic powerlifting is an adaptation of the sport of powerlifting for athletes with disabilities. The only discipline in Paralympic powerlifting is the bench press.

Persepolis eye Stanley

TEHRAN – Brazilian forward Kiros Stanley Soares Ferraz has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis football team.

The 33-year-old striker started his playing career in Iran league in Zob Ahan in 2017 but joined Sepahan after one year. Sepahan have signed Santa Clara forward Shahriyar Moghanlou and will likely part company with Kiros Stanley.

Persepolis, who are looking to win Iran league for the sixth year in a row, are going to sign the player ahead of the start of 2021-2022 Iran professional League.

Lebanon captain absent against Iran

TEHRAN – Lebanon captain Hassan Maatouk will reportedly be absent against Iran football team.

Lebanon are scheduled to host Iran on Nov. 11 in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification in Beirut. Iran lead the group with 10 points from four points and Lebanon are third with five points.

The top two teams of each group will qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, and the two third-placed teams will advance to the fourth round.

Semi-final Preview: Al Nassr, Al Hilal set for enthralling derby

An enticing Saudi Arabian derby awaits as Al Hilal SFC face cross-city rivals Al Nassr at King Saud University Stadium on Tuesday in the bid for a spot in the 2021 AFC Champions League final.

This is a match-up of several seconds: The second all-Saudi semi-final, the first coming in the 2012 AFC Champions League edition, when two-time champions Al Ittihad faced Jeddah rivals Al Ahli FC Saudi. It is also Al Nassr’s second semi-final in a row, losing last time out on penalties to Persepolis.

For both coaches, this is the second Champions League semi-final in their footballing career, but the first in Asia; Al Hilal’s Leonardo Jardim had led AS Monaco to the 2016-17 UEFA Champions League last four, losing to Juventus, while Pedro Emanuel was part of Jose Mourinho’s 2003-04 UEFA Champions League winning FC Porto side as a player.

The road to the semi-finals started off bumpily for Al Hilal, who qualified from Group A as one of the best runners-up but credibly downed Esteghlal FC in the Round of 16 in September, before bringing Persepolis’ pursuit of a second semi-final in a row to a stop, outplaying them throughout the 90 minutes and coming out 3-0 winners to ensure their own fourth semi-final of the AFC Champions League era.

As for Al Nassr, they topped Group B and beat Tractor FC 1-0 in the Round of 16 thanks to an early Vincent Aboubakar effort, before ruthlessly dismantling Al Wahda FSCC in the quarter-finals stage with a score of 5-1.

This will be the first meeting between the two Riyadh sides since their two Portuguese managers were appointed; Emanuel took over the reins at Al Nassr earlier this month, replacing Mano Menezes while his compatriot Jardim took over Al Hilal in the summer.

The Saudi capital comes to a halt when those two sides meet. The two most recent meetings saw Al Nassr come out on top, with the three meetings preceding that all going in Al Hilal’s favour. This term, both sides have had a bumpy Saudi Pro League form, with Al Nassr winning three and losing two of their last five games, while Al Hilal won two and drew their other three. They sit in fourth and sixth respectively.

The match will see the top scorers of the two previous editions of the AFC Champions League come head to head; Moroccan striker Abderrazak Hamdallah led the scoring charts in the 2020 edition with seven goals, while former Olympic Lyon frontman Bafetimbi Gomis took home the top scorer award en route to winning the title in 2019 with 11 goals.

Advertisement Of invitation for Interested Investors

Iran Water and Power Resources Development Company (IWPCO), affiliated to Ministry of Energy in Iran, intends to identify and evaluate the capability of the investors, based on the Amendment of paragraph “T” of Article 48 of the Sixth Development Plan Law, for the construction and operation of the Rudbar Lorestan Pumped Storage Power Plant Project. Therefore, the capable and interested applicants (legal entities, institutions in charge of investing, etc.) are invited to refer to en.iwpcو.ir to register and obtain more details.



شرکت توسعه منابع آب نیروی ایران

Iran, Saudi Arabia resume economic exchanges



From page 1 ► Iran traded a total of 79.104 million tons of non-oil products worth \$44.926 billion with its trade partners in the mentioned six months, he stated.

Trade with neighboring countries in the

first half of the year accounted for 60 percent and 50 percent of the country's total non-oil trade during the said period, in terms of weight and value, respectively.

The country exported over 36.087 million tons of non-oil goods worth more than \$11.218 billion to the neighboring countries in the period under review, while importing more than 19.138 million tons of goods worth over \$11.369 billion.

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

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

PGPIC exports \$2.4b of petrochemicals in H1

TEHRAN - Iran's Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) exported about \$2.4 billion worth of products during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), according to the head of the company.

Speaking in the holding's annual general assembly, Jafar Rabiei said: "The Persian Gulf Holding Group's operational income increased by 71 percent, consolidated operating profit increased by 164 percent, net profit rose 148 percent and earnings per share increased by 146 percent [during the mentioned period]."

According to the official, PGPIC subsidiaries currently account for 12.3 percent of Iran's capital mar-

ket, Shana reported.

PGPIC is currently ranked 37th among the world's top 100 petrochemical companies in terms of value and sales, and it is the region's second-biggest holding after Saudi Arabia's Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, known as SABIC, Rabiei said.

He put the total production capacity of the holding at 27.6 million tons and expressed hope that with the completion of the company's new projects the figure will reach more than 50 million tons by the Iranian calendar year 1406 (begins in March 2027).

The official further pointed out that PGPIC produced 19.6 million tons of products in the previous Iranian calendar year, which was



the highest production record in the history of the company.

"Of this amount, 15.2 million tons were cumulative sales, of which about 920 trillion rials (about \$21.9 billion) were domestic sales and 590 trillion rials (about \$14 billion) were exports," he specified.

As Iran's largest petrochemical group which extends to 39 subsidiaries and foreign-based sales agents, PGPIC has been considered one of the most profitable entities in the country's economic body.

In June 2019, the United States hit PGPIC with economic sanctions due to what they claimed to be tied with the country's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC), however,

the move, in fact, was aimed to choke off financing to the country's largest and most profitable petrochemical group.

The PGPIC group holds 40 percent of Iran's total petrochemical production capacity and is responsible for nearly 50 percent of the country's petrochemical exports.

After the imposition of the U.S. sanctions, many thought the impact of the sanctions to be very significant on the performance of the holding and consequently on the country's economy, however contrary to expectations, PGPIC is continuing to thrive, and according to Rabiei its production and exports haven't been affected greatly by the U.S. sanctions.

Iran welcomes investment in renewable energies

TEHRAN - Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian has said his ministry welcomes foreign investment in the country's renewable energy industry, IRIB reported on Monday.

Speaking in the Second Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference which was held by the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China (NEA) through video conferencing, Mehrabian said: "The current government has a four-year plan to increase the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by 10,000 megawatts."

Referring to Iran's potentials and capacities in the renewable energy industry, the official announced the country's readiness to attract investment to develop the renewable energy industry for a green and inclusive energy future in Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, like other responsible countries, has prioritized the issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change, and seeks an ideal world free of pollution," he stressed.

Considering the high potential of the country's renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal, Iran's renewable energy market is a very attractive market for investors and the Energy Ministry is offering long-term contracts with attractive incentive rates to investors, Mehrabian explained.

"Iran has a law on foreign investment support and protection and is providing a great economic opportunity for investors in the energy industry to establish renewable power plants in the country," he added.

Renewables, including hydro-



power, account for about seven percent of Iran's total power generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

Based on Iran's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), the country was aiming for 5,000 megawatts (MW) increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

But in the final year of the plan, only one-fifth of the figure has been achieved.

Iran was supposed to become a regional hub in the field of energy in the past Iranian calendar decade (March 2011-March 2021), but evidence shows that the country is facing a shortage even in the supply of electricity inside the country, an issue that many believe that could be achieved by developing renewable energy and increasing efficiency of the thermal power plants.

After the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal, in July 2015, many foreign delegations came to Iran for making investments and constructing renewable power plants in the country.

However, following the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions, foreign investment in the country's renewable industry has fallen significantly.



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (2nd R) and Finnish Ambassador to Tehran Kari Kahiluoto (2nd L)

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie has said the necessary infrastructure is provided in Iran for Finland's investment in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and startups.

Shafeie met with Finnish Ambassador to Tehran Kari Kahiluoto on Monday to discuss the expansion of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries in various fields including agriculture, startups, and new

irrigation systems.

Speaking in this meeting, Shafeie stated that cooperation with Finland is one of Iran's priorities in its relations with Nordic countries.

"Due to the importance of this country for Iranian businessmen, we formed a joint special committee two years ago, and this committee was upgraded to a joint chamber in the current year. However, the level of relations between the two countries is still not as expected," the ICCIMA head added.

He further pointed to the potential areas for cooperation between Iran and Finland including new irrigation systems, development of startups in Iran, petrochemicals, foodstuff, paper, and chemicals as well as manufacturing of agricultural machinery.

Kahiluoto for his part expressed the Finnish private sector's willingness to cooperate with their Iranian counterparts in order to revive the trade relations between the two countries.

He stressed the need for removing the barriers in the way of the expansion of trade between the two countries.

Copper cathode output stands at over 143,000 tons in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran produced 143,328 tons of copper cathode in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), IRNA reported.

As reported, the figure shows two percent growth as compared to the copper cathode output in the first six months of the previous year.

Monthly copper cathode production also indicates an 11-percent year-on-year growth to stand at 26,818 tons in the sixth month of the present year.

The periodical reports and statistics indicate that Iran's metals sector is progressing both in terms of production and export despite the limitations imposed by the U.S. sanctions.

The country's copper industry is moving forward noticeably, as some outstanding projects are implemented.

Iran has posted outstanding figures in terms of copper cathode production and export.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rod for the wire and cable industry.

In early April, the managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) announced the discovery of one billion



tons of new copper reserves in the country.

NICIC carried out 101,000 meters of deep drilling to identify new copper reserves across the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which resulted in the discovery of one billion tons of new reserves, Ardeshir Sa'd-Mohammadi said in a press conference.

Sa'd-Mohammadi put the value of the discovered reserves at 350 trillion rials (about \$8.3 billion).

According to the official, NICIC had also discovered 523 million tons of copper reserves across the country during the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019- March 2020).

Considering the new discoveries, NICIC's total copper reserves across the country have currently surpassed eight billion tons.

The official put the country's total copper

reserves at 40 billion tons, saying that Iran currently has the world's seventh-largest copper reserves, and hopefully the country will climb to sixth place in the current Iranian calendar year.

Sa'd-Mohammadi further mentioned the new record achieved in the country's copper cathode production and noted that over 280,000 tons of the mentioned product were produced in the country during the previous year which was 12 percent more than the preceding year.

Pointing to the NICIC's new projects for the current year, the official noted that three major copper-related projects will go operational in the current year which is going to add more than 400,000 tons to the country's copper concentrate output, boosting the company's annual incomes by \$800 million.

According to Sa'd-Mohammadi, NICIC has defined more than €2.4 billion plus 300 trillion rials (about \$71 billion) worth of projects to be implemented over the next four years, which will increase the company's total copper concentrate capacity to 2.3 million tons.

He further noted that the country's copper exports increased in the previous year despite the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. sanctions.

Ali Fekri appointed as new OIETAI head

TEHRAN - Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandozi has appointed Ali Fekri as the new head of the Organization for Investment, Economic, and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI), IRIB reported.

Utilizing the organization's capacities to counter the

sanctions on Iran's economy, prioritizing attracting foreign capital and obtaining bank facilities and credits from foreign countries, as well as pursuing the implementation of contracts under the framework of the 25-year agreement with China and other long-term agreements

with Asian and regional trade partners are some of the main tasks that the new OIETAI head is expected to fulfill.

The Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran is responsible for promoting, financing, and regulating foreign investment in Iran.

Technical-engineering services export to neighbors on agenda

TEHRAN- The chairman of the executive board of the coordination council of the country's technical-engineering entities, referred to the government's plan to increase the export of technical and engineering goods and services to neighboring countries, and said that export of technical-engineering services is the basis for the growth and development of the country and increase the employment in the industrial and construction activities.

In an interview conducted by IRNA, Ali Azad referred to the export of more than \$4 billion of technical and engineering services in Iranian calendar year 1386 (March 2007-March 2008) and said: "Perhaps if this important issue had continued with the same correct order, today we would have reached an annual record of more than \$20 billion in this field"

Recalling that so far most of these services have been exported to neighboring countries and the region, he mentioned Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as another capacity that could lead to boosting the export of technical-engineering services to other countries.

Head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) has recently said that many of the countries in the region are seeking the Islamic Republic's en-

gineering and technical services and the country can provide them with such services.

"The 13th government's major policy is to expand presence in target markets, and many countries in the region are looking for our engineering and industrial capabilities," Masoud Mir-Kazemi said last week.

Speaking in a meeting with some of the country's major contractor companies, Mir-Kazemi noted that such companies should become more productive, value-creating companies.

"Maintaining international economic markets is more important than entering those markets, and to achieve this important, the government should pay special attention to organizing the private sector activities in target markets," he said.

"We know the value of the work of the country's technical, engineering, and professional organizations. The talent and potential of these companies should not be taken for granted," the official added.

Earlier this year, Head of the Association of Iranian Exporters of Technical and Engineering Services Bahman Salehi told IRNA that value of the Iranian exports of technical and engineering services in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) stood at only \$500 million despite the great capacities in this area.

TEDPIX gains 853,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 853,000 points to 1.436 million on Monday.

As reported, over 7.562 billion securities worth 56.57 trillion rials (about \$1.346 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index rose

4,187 points, and the second market's index lost 9,421 points.

TEDPIX fell 6.5 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index lost 91,000 points to close at 1.397 million.

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment

Company, Bandar Abbas Refinery, Isfahan Refining Company, Sepid Makian Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

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

ment.

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

From page 1 ► a demonstration by tens of thousands of Algerians protesting against a curfew imposed in the city solely on them.

Macron's office statement said the march was repressed "brutally, violently and in blood," adding that some 12,000 Algerians were arrested, many were wounded, and dozens killed.

A statement by the Elysee Palace said, "[Macron] admitted the facts: the crimes committed that night under the authority of Maurice Papon are inexcusable for the Republic."

However, the statement stopped short of an official apology which has angered many in the country. Historians and activists in France have expressed disappointment that Macron did not go further in his condemnation of the deadly crackdown, the scale of which has been covered up for decades.

French Algerian Rahim Rezigat, 81, who attended an event in Paris by an anti-racism NGO to commemorate that deadly night, lambasted Macron's remarks saying, "It's not enough. Macron is playing with words for the sake of his electorate, which includes those who are nostalgic for French Algeria."

Critics of Macron's declaration also say that pinning the blame solely on the city's police chief Papon is downplaying the state's role in the massacre.

Speaking to French media, Political scientist Oliver Le Cour Grandmaison, says "believing or expecting others to believe for one second that Maurice Papon could have acted of his own initiative throughout the month of October 1961, and especially on October 17, 1961, and that then interior minister Roger Frey and the entire government headed by Michel Debré were not responsible, is a fairy tale, and a bad one at that."

Grandmaison added that "we consider that this was a state crime and therefore, we could have expected Emmanuel Macron's declaration to reflect that. But there was no recognition, no law, no reparations. There wasn't even a declaration. Macron didn't speak."

(noting that the French President's remarks were instead issued in the form of a statement by the Elysée)

Gilles Manceron, a historian specializing in France's colonial history, agrees, "this is a state crime, it is not a prefectural crime. It was a state crime that implicated a number of state officials and General De Gaulle, even though he did not direct the events himself and would also express his dissatisfaction with them, reportedly saying they were inadmissible, though secondary" Manceron told French Media "he didn't direct the violence and regretted it, but he covered it up with silence. Which contributed to the decades of silence that followed."

Human rights and anti-racism groups and Algerian associations in France have staged a tribute march in Paris. They called on authorities to further recognize the

Macron's remarks on the Algerian massacre in Paris denounced



French state's responsibilities in the "tragedies and horrors" related to Algeria's independence war and to further open up archives from that period.

Earlier this year, Macron announced a decision to speed up the declassification of secret documents related to Algeria's 1954-62 war of independence from France. Macron's office said the new procedure was introduced in August.

The move was part of a series of steps Macron has allegedly taken to address France's brutal history with Algeria, under French colonial rule for 132 years until its independence in 1962.

But Le Cour Grandmaison, who heads an association for the commemoration of the October 17, 1961 events, said the archives are still very difficult to access.

"If you want to access the police archives, you have to ask the police prefecture, who is both judge and party to the events," he told French media. "Access to archives in France, compared to other democratic countries, is extremely restricted."

Manceron explains that "theoretically, French law dictates that archives should be communicable after a period of 50 years. But when the 50-year period was about to end concerning the archives of 1961, an interministerial directive was issued, saying a specific green light would be needed to open up certain archives, which resulted in access being limited, even though it was permitted by law. Hence the mobilization of historians and archivists and of a certain number of associations

which last July led to the highest French court ruling that the interministerial directive of December 2011 was illegal, illegitimate, that it should not have been allowed, and it was canceled."

The massacre, which took place during the war against French rule in Algeria, was long denied or concealed by French authorities. The first commemorations of the event were organized in 2001.

Despite extensive efforts by the victims' relatives, French authorities tried to hide the full scale of the massacre for 37 years. In 1998 it acknowledged that only 40 people were killed in the protests.

That prompted the historian Jean-Luc Einaudi to fight and win a legal battle filed in 1999 against Papon, who ordered intervention in the demonstration. Even though it became official that the massacre was intentional, the incident is still treated as taboo in France.

Yasser Louati is the head of the Justice and Liberties For All Committee and has said, "no institution opposed Papon for its decisions. Years have passed since the massacre, and it was never mentioned until the 1980s. Back then, historians like Jean-Luc Einaudi did their job and documented this bloody massacre". He adds that France does not acknowledge its past, and no president has apologized for French atrocities, while the massacre is still not thought of in schools.

Louati says, "The 1961 Paris Massacre is not an event recognized as a bloody act in the history of the republic. There is a desire to forget or underestimate what happened in October 1961."

"This massacre deserves a national attribution, a day of remembrance, an official speech from the President because it took place in the heart of Paris, not in a distant province. It was a decision taken on behalf of the French state, and different government agencies did nothing to prevent the incident".

On October 6, 1961, French authorities imposed a curfew on Muslim Algerians living in and around Paris. Tens of thousands of unarmed Algerians who took to the streets on October 17 to voice their support for independence in Algeria organized a peaceful demonstration when they were subjected to brutal attacks by French police.

Thousands of people were severely beaten and injured, while 14,000 were detained. The exact number of Algerians murdered by French police has never been identified, and witnesses reported hundreds were murdered. They say protesters were also killed in the garden of the Paris police headquarters or subway stations. Some historians put the death toll at over 200; others have suggested nearly 400 were shot by police. Witnesses say some demonstrators with injuries were thrown into the River Seine by the police.

Last year, some media outlets made a request for access to archives about the massacre on its 59th anniversary. Still, it was declined by the Paris Police Department and the Department of Memory and Cultural Affairs, citing COVID-19 restrictions.

French authorities have spent decades keeping a lid on the massacre, but in an era of growing social movements calling for racial justice and an end to police brutality, there is mounting pressure for France to accept and act on the atrocities it committed in the past.

tional support.

In a controversial presentation on February 5, 2003, to the United Nations Security Council, Powell made the Bush administration's case that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein constituted an imminent danger to the world because of Iraq's stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons.

Powell admitted later that the presentation was rife with inaccuracies and twisted intelligence provided by others in the Bush administration, telling Al Jazeera it represented "a blot" that will "always be a part of my record".

In a statement on Monday, former President Bush called Powell a "great public servant", adding that he was "such a favorite of president that he earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom, twice".

Powell, a Republican, had previously considered a bid to become the first Black president in 1996, but his wife Alma's worries about his safety were among the reasons he ultimately decided not to run.

In 2008, he broke with his party to endorse then-candidate Obama, a Democrat.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

U.S. is stuck in post 9/11 power politics: analyst

From page 1 ► "The Chinese have not started wars and patiently focused on their economy and relations, non-violent relations, with other countries. This path seems, in the long run, to ensure that China's influence in the Far East will grow on a net basis in coming years," Love notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

Why doesn't the U.S. want to acknowledge China as a global power?

Since when has the U.S. acknowledged, much less cheered, the growing global position of any country that challenges U.S. primacy? This is the core of the problematic differences between China and the U.S. now.

Some have claimed the Chinese economy is currently bigger than the U.S. economy, and given Chinese efforts to garner allies across Asia and corral the region with economic agreements, especially through its "Belt and Road" initiatives, the U.S. sees China as a threat rather than any successful country that merits cooperation.

For a very long time, for one thing, the trade deficit with China has just expanded enormously, but this is not a fault of China. U.S. corporations offshored much of their manufacturing capacity to China and some other Asian countries over a period of three decades in the pursuit of profits through the use of relatively cheap Asian labor. The greed of U.S. corporations knows few bounds, and by most descriptions, the U.S. is in the grip of fascism and meanwhile most Americans are suffering economically while the top five percent of Americans are wallowing in untold wealth. China has also pulled back from helping support the U.S. It has sold billions of U.S. Treasury bonds and has pulled back from buying more. China may be in a position eventually to sink the dollar, too, as the world reserve currency. President Biden does recognize the problems. He has noted that U.S. infrastructure

has fallen from the best in the world to the 13th. But just as importantly, he has said that America ranks 35th out of 37 major economies when it comes to investing in early childhood education and care and adds that the U.S. cannot be competitive in the 21st century if the country continues to slide. Thus he is trying to pass a bill amounting to at least \$2 trillion to address the needs of average Americans but is getting stiff resistance from Republicans and even some Democrats in the U.S. Congress in part because this U.S. is sitting on almost \$30 trillion in debt.

Do you think U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific region can help to curb China's influence?

The Biden Administration is trying hard to counter the Chinese in the Far East especially with military supports lately centered on Australia. As a result of these shenanigans, some allies, most notably France, have been angered by the U.S. deal with Australia to build non-nuclear submarines for Australia. In fact, there appears to be a growing distrust of the U.S. among many of its allies, or at least some questions about U.S. intentions.

The U.S. literally seems stuck in foreign policies arising from 9/11, and some wise observers have claimed Biden has a complete lack of self-awareness that the world has moved on without the United States, which has been locked into a certain foreign policy mindset for two decades. Gov-

ernments have been toppled by the U.S. and countries more or less destroyed, and U.S. sanctions have taken a horrific toll, particularly in West Asia. Meanwhile, the Chinese have not started wars and patiently focused on its economy and relations, non-violent relations, with other countries. This path seems, in the long run, to ensure that China's influence in the Far East will grow on a net basis in coming years.

How do you see Afghanistan's future after the U.S. withdrawal? Do you predict China will take the lead in Afghanistan's economic development?

China must and should take the lead in assisting beleaguered Afghanistan. Of course, Beijing worries about Islamic influence and unrest in western China. Helping the Afghans is critical not only for the success of the Belt and Road initiative but in helping China avoid a neighbor that could descend into anarchy, chaos and "terrorism".

The U.S. has made an utter mess in so many countries, and Afghanistan is a good example of that. It's unlikely the U.S. will be welcome in Afghanistan, but China may be especially if it does the right things to assist the country. The U.S. occupation of Afghanistan did very little for the country and its people and killed many thousands. This is why the Taliban won the war in large part. It's quite amazing, and the U.S. looks like a huge loser on many counts. The withdrawal debacle could well sink the Biden Presidency, but the gravest worry is that Trump, if he is not soon indicted and ultimately jailed, could come back to the White House in 2024. This is an indictment of many Americans' judgments!

Do you expect any confrontation or exacerbation in the U.S.-China relations under Biden's presidency?

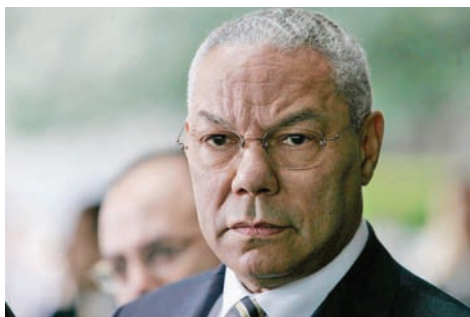
One could expect the U.S., given that the government now apparently sees China as its primary enemy of sorts, will not be constructive and exacerbate tensions if not start another war. But the latter would be insane, especially over Taiwan. There is great danger, not only for the U.S. and China but for the world.

Is the U.S. going to continue to insist on military hegemony worldwide and

continue its bellicose postures? One problem is that the American economy has been so hollowed out that the Military-Industrial Complex almost has become the economy! If the U.S. begins to stress cooperation and recognize a multipolar world, then maybe humanity can be saved, and the environment, too, which has to be at the bottom of the biggest problem facing humanity in the decades ahead. But the U.S. has been short on wisdom in Washington and big on arrogance and exceptionalism, and average Americans have long been afflicted by such.

Some observers have suggested that a sort of revolution COULD occur in the U.S. unless Washington and Wall Street wise up. Another related problem is that it seems the policymakers in Washington virtually demand that the U.S. create "enemies." Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the great unnecessary enemy has been some countries dominated by Muslims. This may be waning, and now China takes center stage, but China is no pushover. And one must not forget that the U.S. is virtually broke, and printing fiat dollars is undermining the monetary system.

Former US secretary of state Colin Powell dies of COVID



Colin Powell, the former United States secretary of state and the first Black person in the country's history to fill the position, has died due to complications from COVID-19, his family has said.

Powell, a four-star general who last held public office in 2005, died on Monday, the family said in a statement on Facebook. He was 84.

"He was fully vaccinated. We want to thank the medical staff at Walter Reed National Medical Center for their caring treatment. We have lost a remarkable and loving husband, father, grandfather and a great American," the Powell family said.

Known as a moderate and pragmatist,

Powell was instrumental in shaping the foreign policy of Republican presidential administrations for decades. He was in top posts during the fall of the Berlin Wall, the 1989 US invasion of Panama, the 1991 Gulf War, the September 11 attacks, and the resulting US invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003.

He served as national security adviser to former President Ronald Reagan from 1987 to 1989 and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under former President George HW Bush and former President Bill Clinton from 1989 to 1993.

When he was confirmed as former President George W Bush's secretary of state in 2001, he became the first Black person in US history to fill the role.

At the time, he also became the highest-ranking Black official in US history, later equalled by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and surpassed by former President Barack Obama.

Iraq war controversy

While initially opposing the military operation, Powell has been accused of misleading the public in the lead up to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 as he sought to build interna-

Ancient “city of the mouthless” protected, renovated



TEHRAN – Shahr-e Yeri, a unique archaeological site in northwest Iran, has been protected and renovated through a variety of measures taken during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year 1400 (started March 21).

Situated near Pirazman village of Meshkin Shahr, in Ardabil province, the ancient city, sometimes referred to as the “city of the mouthless”, is one of the earliest inhabitants in the country.

Some of these measures include the acquisition and delivery of polycarbonate sheets of light panels, paving the access road to the site, construction of walls, landscaping, and establishing a sanitary complex, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

An important part of the stone facade of the prayer hall and the sanitary complex was completed during the mentioned time, and site introduction signs and route guides were also installed, CHTN quoted Nader Fallahi as saying on Monday.

Repairing the telephone network and installing an internet connection as well as giving a per-

mit to dig wells to solve the site's drinking water problem was among the actions taken to boost the site's infrastructures, the official added.

With thousands of years of history and immense importance, efforts are being made to organize and introduce this ancient site at the national and international levels, he noted.

The 400-hectare archaeological site of Shahr-e Yeri was inscribed on the list of national heritage sites in 1931.

The site embraces an Iron-Age fortress, three prehistorical temples, and tens of stones on which bizarre-shaped mouthless faces have been carved. During its heyday bodies of the dead were buried with special ceremonies and rituals in compliance with religious beliefs, however, the majority of the tombs were found empty of skeletons due to illegal excavations, according to the Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies.

More than 10,000 ancient petroglyphs and rock-carved arts have been discovered in and near Meshkin Shahr over the past couple of years. Some of the objects bear depictions of human beings in archery, cavalry in rhythmic and magical themes. There are also petroglyphs depicting mountain goats, boat anchors, shooting and scenes of war, and scenes of deer hunting in individual and collective forms.

Rock arts can be seen around mountainous regions across Iran where roaming life and livestock farming are prevalent typically. The rock-carved figures of animals and associated tools are regarded as good clues to help shed light on daily life in the distant past, though some figures might be symbolic.

Historical cistern in Yazd restored to former glory

TEHRAN – A restoration project has been commenced on a Qajar-era (1789-1925) Ab-Anbar (cistern) in the city of Bafq, the central province of Yazd, Bafq's tourism chief has said.

The project involved strengthening the structure using cob material, repairing its fences, and replacing worn-out materials, Leili Ranjbar said on Monday.

The historical monument is one of the biggest cisterns in the region, which is located in the historical texture of the city, she noted.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or on seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don't miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with



innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

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

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

Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Invitation to participate in the tender “second announcement”

Biatoon Tamin paper manufacturing company to perform reviewing and completion of basic design engineering, detail design and purchasing engineering, site supervision, pre-commissioning, test and commissioning of the project of construction of Biatoon Tamin packaging paper factory located in Iran, Kermanshah province, Harsin city intends to purchase consulting services through tender among the consulting engineering companies with qualified and free capacity with the sufficient expertise and experience in the field of designing the paper industries. Eligible companies can apply to the RONIN CO. (address: No.9, Aftab street, Khoddami avenue, Vanak square Tehran, Iran (Tel.:+9821 88052006) from the second announcement October 19, 2021 to Wednesday October 27, 2021 to receive the bidding documents. The employer is free to reject or accept the bids of the bidders.

Iranian hotels ready to welcome foreign tourists

From page 1 ► Iraqi tourists will flood the country once the borders open, but attracting tourists from Europe will require some time, he noted.

Foreign advertising in foreign media and press, on the internet and through well-known international bloggers should also be planned and taken seriously, he mentioned.

Earlier this month, the official noted that Iranian hotels have lost 202 trillion rials (some \$4.8 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) of potential revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two-thirds of the hotel staff have lost their jobs as well, he added.

Back in September, Hamzehadeh announced that all employees of accommodation centers across Iran are scheduled to be vaccinated against the coronavirus.

“To vaccinate staffs of all accommodation centers, including eco-lodges, apartment hotels, and guest houses, as well as hotels, more coordination with the Ministry of Health is needed,” he added.

Back in July, ISNA reported that the tourism industry of the country has suffered a loss of some 320 trillion rials (\$7.6 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) since the outbreak of the



coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has also ruined more than 44,000 jobs in a once budding travel sector of the country, the report added.

Experts believe accommodation centers suffered the most as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and its subsequent unemployment and financial losses.

Iran plans to resume issuing tourist visas

Back in September, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced that by the order of President Ebrahim Raisi the issuance of tourist visas and the flow of foreign tourists from land and air borders will be resumed from the month of Aban (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) following 19 months of suspension.

Qajar-era bathhouse to turn into creative center for handicrafts

TEHRAN –Hamam-e Haj Shahbaz Khan, a Qajar-era (1789–1925) public bathhouse in the western province of Kermanshah is planned to be repurposed into a creative center for handicrafts, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The historical structure will be ceded to the private sector to turn into a creative center for handicrafts with the aim of sharing knowledge, promoting, preserving, and exporting local hand-made products, as well as providing sustainable employment in this sector, Jabbar Gohari said on Monday, IRNA reported.

After resolving the legal problems and property issues of the historical monument, the facility could be effectively used as a handicrafts center, the official added.

The project is planned to be carried out in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) related to the handicrafts sector, he noted.

Some historical sites and monuments across Iran have been temporarily ceded to the private sector during the past couple of years under the close supervision of the Fund, to achieve higher productivity and better maintenance.

The lack of a sufficient government budget for the restoration of all centuries-old sites is the main reason behind the ceding projects.

In 2019, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced that of the numerous historical buildings and structures that are scattered across Iran, some 2,500 ones need

restoration.

Public bathhouses in Persian culture

The bathhouse, which was mostly built with red bricks, was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2003.

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

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

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

There were also male and female public bathhouses; at daybreak, a longhorn (boooq-e javaz) was blown to announce that the bath was ready. Men came to the baths from daybreak till the afternoon. Women could then use the bathhouses till sunset. In some cases, five days were allocated to men and two days to women.

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

Flooring project begins at historic bazaar of Tabriz

TEHRAN –A flooring project is underway at Amir Shomali covered passage of the UNESCO-registered bazaar of Tabriz, northwestern East Azarbaijan province.

To preserve, reinforce and reorganize the covered passages of the historical bazaar, the project is being carried out in collaboration with the shop owners, Hossein Esmaeili, the director of the World Heritage site, said on Sunday.

The project is scheduled to be completed within a month, the official added.

Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010 and was mentioned by Marco Polo when he traveled the Silk Road in the Middle Ages.

A jumble of interconnected covered passages that stretches for about five kilometers, the bazaar has been a melting pot of cultural exchange since antiquity.

It embraces countless shops, over 20 caravanserais, and inns, some 20 vast domed halls, bathhouses,

and mosques, as well as other brick structures and enclosed spaces for different functions. Its history dates back to over a millennium, however, the majority of fine brick vaults that capture most visitors' eyes date from the 15th century.

Tabriz became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The ancient city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin.

During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and the Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.



Bazaars in Persian towns

Bazaar is, originally, a public market district of a Persian town. The bazaar of the ancient Islamic world was vividly described in the folktales of “The Thousand and One Nights”. Located in a distinct quarter of a town, it was bustling and noisy by day in contrast to the quiet residential quarters. Access was forbidden after sundown.

Distinctive architecture characterized some bazaars—such as those built at Kashan and Isfahan in Iran in the 17th century. They were usually roofed for protection against the hot desert sun, either with a

Some experts believe Iran is still somehow “unknown” for many potential travelers due to Western “media war”. Several estimates have been released so far on the extent of the tourism-related losses incurred by the pandemic. Only months into the outbreak, Zarghami's predecessor, Ali Asghar Mounesan, lamented that the number of foreign travelers to Iran was drastically plunged due to the pandemic.

“Tourism of the country was growing before the corona [outbreak], its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent,” Mounesan said. He added 8.7 million foreign nationals visited Iran during the [Iranian] year (1398), adding that Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Wide-ranging handicrafts

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

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qasemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

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

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

single roof, with individual vaulted cupolas or domes, or with awnings.

From another point of view, bazaars are also synonyms of foods, with their unmissable colorful stalls of vegetables, herbs, and spices. Yet, most of these ingredients might be mysterious to a foreign eye. Teahouses help punctuate the walk and a traditional restaurant is a perfect place for lunch.

Browsing through a traditional bazaar may provide new experiences and fresh points of view on the ancient land. Such excursions can be made either in person or by “off-the-beaten-track” tours. Not only it's an opportunity to discover dozens of unique local ingredients, but it's also a chance to taste street foods and delicacies, in some traditional bakery known only by locals and shopkeepers.

People watching and even mingling with them in the bazaars is one of the best ways to take the pulse of the country. Bazaars have traditionally been major economic and social centers in any Iranian city.

Over 5,000 ID cards issued for children born to Iranian women, foreign men

TEHRAN – Iranian identity cards have so far been issued to over 5,000 children born to Iranian mothers and foreign fathers, Mehdi Mahmoudian, deputy minister of interior for foreign citizens and immigrants, said on Monday.

Under a new nationality law, which was amended in 2019, nearly 75,000 children at risk of becoming stateless are eligible for Iranian citizenship which allows children under 18 years to apply for identity documents.

The first group obtained their Iranian nationality and Iranian identity booklet (shenasnameh) in November 2020.

According to Mahmoudian, 29,737 children below the age of 18 years have filed applications to receive birth certificates and ID cards.

The provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Tehran and Khorasan Razavi have the highest number of applications for birth certificates for children born to Iranian women married to foreign men, he further stated, ILNA reported.

According to the law, children of Iranian women and non-Iranian men who were born before or after the law can be Iranian citizens in case the Iranian mother requested if they have no security problem before the age of 18.

These children, after reaching the age of 18, can apply for Iranian citizenship if not requested by the mother, then will be granted



Iranian citizenship in case of no security problem.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also has welcomed the law as a step toward reducing statelessness around the world.

UNICEF also welcomed the implementation of the Iranian nationality law.

Although Iran is not a party to the UN Conventions on Statelessness, the Government of Iran is taking steps towards the prevention and reduction of statelessness in the country.

While the law does not give mothers and fathers equal rights to confer nationality to their children, it represents significant progress.

Statelessness: a global issue

Around the world, stateless people can face a lifetime of exclusion and discrimination and are often denied access to education, health care, and job opportunities – making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Worldwide, statelessness affects millions of people, leaving them without the basic rights and official recognition that most of us take for granted. Some 3.9 million stateless people appear in the reporting of 78 countries, but UNHCR believes the true total to be significantly higher.

“No child chooses to be stateless,” said Ivo Freijsen, UNHCR Representative in Iran last year. “Without identity and official

documents, stateless people are often excluded from society. The Government of Iran is leading by example through its new law. It is a hugely positive move for these children and their families.”

Although Iran is not a party to the UN Conventions on Statelessness, the country is taking steps towards the reduction of statelessness.

Life expectancy reaches 75 years for Iranian women

TEHRAN – Women’s life expectancy has increased from 51 years in 1978 (before the 1979 Islamic Revolution) to 75 years, Ensieh Khazali, Vice President for Women’s and Family Affairs, has announced.

Investing in women’s health will improve the country in all areas, for example, rural women’s health can prevent rural to urban migration, she added, Mehr reported on Monday.

The life expectancy rate in Iran increased from 64 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2019, which is still on a growing trend, Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raisi said on Octo-

ber 3.

According to Raisi, the life expectancy in Iran in 1976 was equal to 57 years, and now, after 44 years, the life expectancy has reached 76 years.

Life expectancy at birth in the world has risen from 64.2 in 1990 to 72.6 in 2019 and is expected to surpass 77.1 in 2050. In 2019, one in 11 people in the world is 65 and older (9%), while this figure is projected to reach one in six (16%) by 2050.

According to demographers, developed countries increase their life expectancy by reducing mortality among the elderly. But

in developing countries like Africa, improvements in life expectancy are achieved by falling child mortality.

Demographic research suggests that at the beginning of the 19th century no country in the world had a life expectancy longer than 40 years. Over the next 150 years, some parts of the world achieved substantial health improvements.

Globally the life expectancy increased from less than 30 years to over 72 years; after two centuries of progress. Highlight: The life expectancy rate in Iran increased from 64 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2019.

Mastodon skull, ivory on show at biodiversity museum

TEHRAN – The Pardisan Park Biodiversity Museum in Tehran has put on show a skull and ivory dating back to 9 million years ago belonged to a mastodon – mammoth-like extinct creature that existed on the Earth until around 10,000 years ago.

During the excavations in the northwestern Mordagh village near Maragheh city, a right dentin piece with a length of 2.9 meters was found, which belongs to mastodonts, setting world’s record high in terms of length and diameter, Mohammad Medadi, head of National Museum of Natural History and Genetic Resources, said.

So, it was decided to com-

pletely reconstruct the skull and dentin on the left and make a replica of it for public display, he noted, IRNA reported on Monday.

During the studies, this sample belongs to the Upper Miocene in terms of age, he concluded.

The fossil region of Maragheh is world-famous for having fossils of large herbivores such as mastodont and dinotrium from the family of elephants, rhinos, and primates.

A mammoth is any species of the extinct elephantid genus Mammuthus, one of the many genera that make up the order of trunked mammals called proboscideans. The various species



of mammoth were commonly equipped with long, curved tusks and, in northern species, a covering of long hair.

They lived from the Pliocene epoch (from around 5 million years ago) into the Holocene at about 4,000 years ago, and var-

ious species existed in Africa, Europe, Asia, and North America. They were members of the family Elephantidae, which also contains the two genera of modern elephants and their ancestors. Mammoths are more closely related to living Asian elephants than African Elephants.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran spends \$477m on refugee education annually

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education has said.

Over 558,000 foreign national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, 474,000 of whom are Afghan children, ISNA quoted Gholamreza Karimi as saying on Wednesday.

Karimi said that there are currently about 137,000 undocumented Afghan students in the country, adding that their parents do not have valid residency documents, “but we have provided the conditions for enrolling them in schools.”

A number of foreign nationals from neighboring countries came to Iran over the past four decades due to numerous regional crises and civil wars, he lamented.

ایران سالی ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای دانش آموزان اتباع خارجی هزینه می کند

ایران هر سال حدود ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای ۵۵۸ هزار دانش آموز اتباع خارجی در مدارس سراسر کشور هزینه می کند.

به گزارش روز چهارشنبه ایسنا، غلامرضا کریمی رئیس مرکز امور بین الملل و مدارس خارج از کشور وزارت آموزش و پرورش گفت از این تعداد ۴۷۴ هزار نفر آنها اتباع افغانستانی هستند. کریمی با بیان اینکه در حال حاضر ۱۳۷ هزار دانش آموز غیرمجاز در کشور داریم گفت پدر و مادر این افراد مدارک اقامتی معتبر ندارند اما ما شرایط ثبت نام آنها را مدارس فراهم کردیم. تعدادی از اتباع کشورهای همسایه به خاطر بحرانیهای متعدد منطقه ای و جنگ های داخلی در طول چهار دهه گذشته به ایران آمدند. پس از صدور فرمان مقام معظم رهبری در پایان سال ۱۳۹۳ هیچ کودک ایرانی و خارجی مستقر در ایران نباید از تحصیل محروم بماند. رهبری در پایان سال ۱۳۹۳ هیچ کودک ایرانی و خارجی مستقر در ایران نباید از تحصیل محروم بماند.

SOCIETY

OCTOBER 19, 2021

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

39 Iranian universities in ISC 2020 subject ranking

From page 1 ▶ Sharif University of Technology, Shiraz, Tarbiat Modares, Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Tabriz (700 601) jointly won second place, Dehghani explained.

In the field of engineering and technology, rankings have been made in 11 disciplines, with Iranian universities participating in all 11 disciplines, the University of Tehran tops the list, while Amirkabir and Sharif universities of technology (251-300) came in second place, he added.

“Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked first, followed by Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, in the field of medical sciences and health.

In agricultural sciences, the University of Tehran ranked among the top 100, with Tarbiat Modares coming the next.

In both categories of social sciences and humanities, only the University of Tehran achieved ranks,” he further noted.

Iranian universities make progress in world rankings

Most recently, 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.



Some 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.

Energy crisis reignites demand for oil, threatening climate targets, says IEA

The worldwide energy crisis has reignited demand for oil, posing a threat to the world’s climate ambitions and the global economic recovery from Covid-19, according to the International Energy Agency.

The global energy watchdog said the shortage of gas and coal across the biggest economies, which has caused energy markets to rocket, could trigger a faster-than-expected rebound in the oil market and drive demand to above pre-pandemic levels as soon as next year, the Guardian reported.

The Paris-based agency said this would greatly increase costs for energy-hungry industries which, along with power outages, could lead to lower industrial activity and a slowdown in the world’s economic recovery from the pandemic.

“Record coal and gas prices as well as rolling blackouts are prompting the power sector and energy-intensive industries to turn to oil to keep the lights on and operations humming,” the IEA said.

In China, the producer price index (PPI), which reflects the prices factories charge wholesalers for their products, rose by 10.7% in September compared with the same month last year. China’s factory gate inflation stands at a 26-year-high after a months-long global commodity price rally.

The world’s second largest economy has been dealt a double blow by soaring commodity prices and rolling blackouts across at least 20 of its 31 provinces. Last month there was a surprise slowdown in the Chinese economy amid curbs on electricity use and rising prices for commodities and parts that led to a slump in output.

The IEA said rising energy prices had added “inflationary pressures that, along with power outages, could lead to lower industrial activity



and a slowdown in the economic recovery”.

The warning came as John Wood, the chief executive of the marine engineering company Harland & Wolff, forecast a deterioration in UK energy supplies. Speaking on BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, he said the company expected to “see the lights going out imminently and brownouts happening”. Brownouts occur when a utility reduces the flow of power to a particular area in order to avoid a blackout.

Harland & Wolff has set out plans to increase the UK’s overall gas storage capacity by a third with a new facility that would use salt caverns 1,500 metres underground near Larne in County Antrim.

The UK’s overall gas storage is among the smallest in Europe, but Harland & Wolff’s Islandmagee project would not come in time to ease the current energy crisis, which has led to record high gas prices and claimed 15 small energy suppliers this year.

Daligas Limited, which supplied gas to about 9,000 domestic and non-domestic customers, became the latest supplier to drop out of the energy market on Thursday afternoon. Its failure follows Wednesday’s collapses of Pure Planet, which supplied energy to 235,000 homes, and Colorado Energy, which supplied gas and electricity to 15,000 homes.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 18

New cases	11,844
New deaths	181
Total cases	5,769,659
Total deaths	124,256
New hospitalized patients	1,804
Patients in critical condition	4,693
Total recovered patients	5,333,304
Diagnostic tests conducted	34,115,587
Doses of vaccine injected	74,113,680

