

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

From Inside



Raisi: Iran seeking to eliminate poverty, corruption in Islamic world

TEHRAN — President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran said on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic seeking to “eliminate poverty and corruption” and counter “insecurity and instability” in the Islamic world.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity, Raisi also said, “We press the hand of all Islamic countries and all those who care for religion, people and Islamic Ummah and insist on this friendship.”

Suggesting that the Islamic Ummah should be united, the cleric president said “the idea of proximity and unity of the Islamic Ummah, which is emphasized by the late Imam Khomeini and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, is a strategic and necessary move in the Islamic world.”

The Islamic unity conference is being held annually by Iran. It is held on the birth anniversary of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). The conference, which started on October 19 will run until October 24. Prominent scholars from 52 countries are attending and addressing the conference.

Raisi also praised the performance of Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri for fostering unity among the Islamic nations.

“Martyr Qassem Soleimani took practical measures in the Islamic world, and these measures along with the scientific actions of Ayatollah Takhiri, the former secretary-general of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (WFPIST), were very effective in removing doubts and creating unity among the Islamic Ummah,” President Raisi remarked.

Gen. Soleimani, the legendary commander in the fight against terrorist groups, including Daesh (ISIL/ISIS/IS), was assassinated in a U.S. terrorist attack in January 2020 near Baghdad's international airport. ▶ Page 2

H1 trade with ECO members rises 60% yr/yr

TEHRAN - Iran's trade with the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) reached \$7.255 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) to register a 60 percent increase year on year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

According to Rouhollah Latifi, the volume of trade with the mentioned countries also increased by 67 percent in comparison to the previous year's same six months, IRNA reported.

As reported, during the mentioned period Iran traded about 15.307 million tons of commodities with ECO member countries including Turkey, Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. ▶ Page 4

Report



Trudeau finally meets indigenous leaders after snubbing invitation

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has met with indigenous leaders at a First Nations community around two weeks after he went away on holiday, missing a day the country designated to remember and honor residential schools victims and survivors.

In a previous statement, he said, “traveling on September 30 was a mistake, and I regret it. This first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation was a time for Indigenous people and non-Indigenous alike to reflect and connect, think about the past but also focus on the future” ▶ Page 5

- 35th international unity conference kicks off in Tehran **P2**
- Iranian military chief, Russian defense minister push for military, defense cooperation **P2**
- Iran urges OIC action as Daesh seeks to sow sectarian rift in Afghanistan **P2**
- Iran's membership in SCO will be beneficial for members, Kazakh ambassador says **P3**
- Sepahan start 2021/22 IPL season on high note **P3**
- Over \$2.2b worth of industrial parts, equipment indigenized in H1 **P4**
- Tehran to host intl. electricity expo in late Oct. **P4**
- Export to Oman increases 67% in 6 months **P4**
- U.S. envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad resigns following humiliating defeat **P5**
- 90% of Iranian hotel employees receive COVID vaccine, others likely to lose jobs **P6**
- Iranian travel agencies invited to attend Expo 2020 **P6**
- Iranians grant more humanitarian aid to Afghans **P7**
- IRCS seeks assistance from ICRC to deal with drought **P7**
- Tehran short film fest opens first edition as Oscar qualifier **P8**
- “Sun Children” wins City of Chemnitz award at Schlingel film festival **P8**

‘Azerbaijan should respect Iran’s drug control efforts’

TEHRAN – The Iranian director of headquarters for the fight against narcotics, Eskandar Momeni, has urged Azerbaijani officials to respect the public opinion and its people and to see the position of Iran in the fight against narcotics trafficking.

Despite the cruel sanctions, our efforts to combat drug trafficking have intensified and we call on other countries to cooperate in this regard, he emphasized.

Momeni's remarks came after Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev claimed that Iran is helping Armenia to smuggle drugs to Europe, without producing any proof of his allegations.

“After restoring its 130-kilometer border with Iran, which was under Armenian control for 30 years, Azerbaijan stopped the illegal trafficking of narcotics from Iran to Armenia and on to Europe through Azerbaijan's Jebail district,” Aliyev claimed during a virtual summit of former Soviet republics.

“The volume of heroin we seized in other border areas of Azerbaijan-Iran has doubled compared to last year, which shows that over the past 30 years, Armenia and Iran have been cooperating with each other in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan for drug trafficking to Europe.” ▶ Page 7

Report



Hundreds of stone tools found at Iran Neanderthal site

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Hundreds of stone tools have recently been discovered at a Neanderthal site in western Iran.

“Over 800 stone tools have been discovered during a [scientific] demarcation project being conducted at the Bawa Yawan shelter and its surroundings,” senior archaeologist Saman Heydari-Guran told the Tehran Times on Tuesday.

“We are currently busy counting up how many stone artifacts have been found during the recent survey; however, its number is estimated to be something between 800 to 1,000 or even more,” he explained.

Co-led by Heydari-Guran and his counterpart Ahmad Azadi, the survey also aims to demarcate [legal] boundaries of the site, which yielded an in-situ Neanderthal tooth in 2017.

“What we have done recently was not an excavation project but a demarcation,” Heydari-Guran highlighted. ▶ Page 6

Kazakhstan, an emerging power with difficult road ahead

TEHRAN – The glitz and glamour of Astana are engrossing every foreign visitor. From plush towers with sophisticated modern architecture to crowded foreign shopping centers all have one message to convey: Kazakhstan is changing.

This change is better manifested by the hustle and bustle of Astana, the burgeoning capital of Kazakhstan which is becoming a diplomatic venue for resolving many global problems.

In 2013, when Iran and the West were starting their nuclear negotiations, they chose the Kazakh city of Almaty as a venue for their talks, a move that served as an early sign of the emergence of Kazakhstan as a reliable host for important global interactions.

Kazakhstan further strengthened its status as a credible diplomatic venue by hosting several rounds of negotiations over the Syria crisis. These negotiations, which continue

to this day, came to be known as the Astana process.

Kazakhstan's quest for improving its diplomatic position in the world was coupled with an economic opening up, a policy that resulted in an inflow of foreign investments into Kazakhstan. Visitors to Astana would easily notice the impacts of this policy. Foreign investments in Astana bear witness to the Kazakhs' success in attracting foreign capital. ▶ Page 3

Farhad Majidi pens three-year deal with Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Farhad Majidi penned a three-year contract with Esteghlal football team on Monday.

Majidi said they had reached an agreement to renew his deal three weeks ago.

The 45-year-old coach took charge of Esteghlal in March for the second spell.

Majidi will have a difficult task ahead in the 2021/22 Iran Professional League season since Esteghlal aim to end their nine-year title drought.

The Blues will start the new campaign on Wednesday with a match against Havadar in Tehran.

“I hope we start the league with a good result but we have a difficult job against Havadar since they are playing in the IPL for the first time,” Majidi said.

The match will be held at the Azadi Stadium behind closes the doors.

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Winners of Iranian calligraphy biennial honored with tribute to Emad al-Kottab

TEHRAN – The 6th Iranian International Calligraphy Biennial honored its top calligraphers on Monday in Qazvin with a tribute to Emad al-Kottab, a prominent artist who lived most of his professional life during the 19th century. ▶ Page 8

Iran urges OIC action as Daesh seeks to sow sectarian rift in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Monday that Daesh attacks in Afghanistan are aimed at sowing religious discord in the crisis-hit country, urging the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to condemn such attacks, Press TV reported.

Abdollahian made the remarks in a phone call with OIC Secretary General Yousef al-Othaimeen on Monday.

Pointing to the acts of terrorism by Daesh in Afghanistan, he threw Iran's weight behind more active role of the OIC, particularly its chief, in dealing with the ongoing problems in the war-ravaged country.

Noting that said extremist groups are among the most important challenges facing the region, Abdollahian emphasized that the OIC chief and its members should condemn Daesh's inhumane measures, including the group's recent "terrorist and criminal" attacks at two mosques in the Afghan cities of Kunduz and Kandahar.

More than 60 people were killed in three back-to-back explosions that hit the Bibi Fatima mosque during Friday prayers in Kandahar. It came just a week after a bomb attack killed more than 50 worshippers and left over 140 others injured at a Shia mosque in the northeastern city of Kunduz.

Both tragedies were claimed by a local affiliate of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, which has a long history of attacking Afghanistan's Shia minority.

In a telephone conversation with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, late on Monday, the Iranian foreign minister also said it is "necessary" that terrorist attacks in Afghanistan be condemned by "all Muslim countries in the world".

Abdollahian also said the current rulers of Afghanistan should provide security for the people and launch an "effective campaign" against terrorist groups.

In another phone call with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Iran's chief diplomat said terrorist attacks on Afghan worshippers coupled with new wave of Afghan refugees have made the duty of the UN heavier than ever.

President Ebrahim Raeisi of Iran said on Sunday that Daesh terrorism seeks to complete a failed mission pursued by Western occupiers in Afghanistan, calling on Afghan officials to use national capacities and ensure security in the country.

35th international unity conference kicks off in Tehran

TEHRAN — The 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity started on Tuesday with the presence of President Ebrahim Raisi.

Hojjatolislam Hamid Shahriari, the secretary-general of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (WFPIST), addressed the conference attended by prominent scholars from around the world.

The conference, which runs until October 24, is being held on the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Congratulating the participants on the occasion of the birth of the Prophet (PBUH) and Imam Sadeq (AS), the cleric noted: "Unfortunately, today we are witnessing war, conflict and bloodshed in the Islamic world. For this reason, we made the theme of the 35th Conference on Islamic Unity, 'Peace and the Avoidance of Division and Conflict in the Islamic World.'"

"Global arrogance is always trying to justify its presence in the region by warmongering and bloodshed and looting Islamic countries."

Referring to the causes of conflicts in the Islamic world, Shahriari criticized some "dependent" scholars who provide the ground for the presence of oppressors in Islamic countries or normalization of ties with Israel.

Such moves set the stage for serious differences in words and beliefs, he pointed out.

He also expressed worry about "the ignorance and betrayal of some followers of Islamic religions that promote violence, lack of religious democracy in some countries and the

OIC says Afghanistan should not turn into terrorist groups' safe haven

Othaimeen, for his part, outlined the OIC measures to resolve problems in Afghanistan and said the country should not turn into a safe haven for terrorist groups.

He stressed the importance of forming an inclusive government in Afghanistan, observing human rights, particularly rights of women, and showing solidarity with the Afghan people.

Professor Paul Pillar, a nonresident senior fellow of the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University, tells the Tehran Times that "the Taliban need to be far more inclusive so that they can credibly represent themselves as a government for all Afghans." Pillar says "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."

Othaimeen emphasized that the OIC does not discriminate between followers of Islam and believes that all Muslims enjoy equal human rights.

Muslims and worshippers of any religion should not be targeted by terrorist attacks, the OIC secretary general said.

Othaimeen also pointed to recent talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, expressing hope that such negotiations and contacts would continue and result in positive outcomes for both countries.

Iraq has hosted several rounds of direct talks between Iranian and Saudi delegations since April with the aim of resurrecting relations severed five years ago over a host of issues.

The negotiations were launched under Iran's former President Hassan Rouhani, and continued with renewed vigor by the new administration headed by Raeisi.

The Iranian foreign minister also praised efforts by the OIC secretariat to help facilitate the reopening of Iran's mission to the organization in the Saudi port city of Jeddah.

Speaking at his weekly press conference on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia have progressed based on "mutual respect".

He said the two sides have discussed "bilateral and regional issues" in the ongoing talks, with Iran underlining its concerns in unambiguous words.

existence of sectarianism and following blind prejudices."

The secretary-general offered solutions to the existing conflicts between Islamic countries.

The cleric also called for "resistance against global arrogance and its extravagance by creating strong governmental and economic systems in Islamic countries, ending dependence of Islamic scholars on authoritarian governments, observing the norms of disagreements among the followers of different religions, and exposing arrogant acts by the revolutionary media."

Educating the ignorant by ulema, pursuing the demands of the Islamic nations, countering sectarianism and nationalism, and relying on the Qur'an and the Holy Prophet (PBUH), pursuing rational methods for resolving disputes, healthy competition between Islamic countries that can be very constructive were among the solutions that Shahriari put forward, IRNA reported.

Coinciding with the beginning of Unity Week, the international unity conference is being held in-person and virtually with the participation of a group of Islamic thinkers and scholars from 52 countries. The purpose of the conference is to create unity and solidarity among Muslims, the consensus of scholars to approximate their scientific and cultural views, as well as to review and present practical solutions to achieve unity and forming a united Ummah in the Islamic world and solving the problems of Muslims and providing appropriate solutions in this regard.

Raisi: Iran seeking to eliminate poverty, corruption in Islamic world

Idea of Islamic unity is a strategic and necessary notion, president says

From page 1 ▶ Raisi went on to say that the Islamic world must be dynamic.

"One of the important elements of being ummah is to have a common goal, movement and dynamism, and the ummah must not stand still. What we perceive from the term 'ummah' is the movement, and the ummah must follow the Prophet of Islam. The sole purpose of the ummah is liberation from the domineering system," the President suggested.

The president also stated that after the polarization of the world after the Second World War and the unipolarity of the world after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Islam was the sole power against the hegemonic system.

"Today, we are witnessing creation of divisions and conspiracies by the enemies of Islam in all countries

of the region, including Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Yemen, and we must all try to protect the Islamic Ummah in the face of these conspiracies," Raisi pointed out.

Raisi went on to say that the hegemonic system tries to weaken the components of the power of the Islamic Ummah by casting doubt and dividing the Islamic Ummah through media campaign, but efficient manpower and scientists are the greatest driving force, source of power and opportunity of the Islamic Ummah to stand against the conspiracies of the enemies of the unity and solidarity of the

Raisi lauds Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Ayatollah Tashkiri for fostering unity among the Islamic nations.

Islamic Ummah.

Referring to the Western lifestyle, the President said: "If in the past a young man wished to be in the Western cultural space, today he feels he has to stand on his own two feet."

Pointing to the Americans' acknowledgment in helping to create Daesh, he said the Islamic Ummah has comes to senses.

He also pointed to the remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution who have said the savagery of

Daesh is like those of the Zionist regime of Israel.

"At first, some people did not understand Daesh correctly. At

Iranian military chief, Russian defense minister push for military, defense cooperation

TEHRAN – Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in a meeting in Moscow on Tuesday insisted on the need to strengthen military and defense cooperation between the two countries.

The two top military officials also assessed the level of mutual interaction, especially in military field, as positive and pushed for stronger cooperation.

The two sides also expressed their interests to upgrade the level of cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The two top commanders also held talks over an agreement that is going to be signed between the armed forces of the two countries.

The Iranian general also met on Monday his Russian counterpart, Valery Gerasimov. During the meeting, Bagheri discussed two main things: Arms deals with Russia and regional developments, especially Afghanistan.

For his part, the Russian chief of staff said, "Iran is a close partner of Russia and the relations between the two countries will keep developing in a friendly atmosphere."

He also said bilateral talks will continue in the future.

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

Upon his arrival in Moscow on Sunday, General Bagheri said he will pursue the implementation of an arms deal including purchase of 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.

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

The military chief also 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.

Bagheri also said his was visiting Russia as a new administration has come to power in Tehran, which its priority is promoting ties with Eastern countries.

"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," Bagheri stated, according to IRNA.

"We are cooperating with the Armed Forces of Russia, and in recent years this cooperation has expanded. 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 stated.

General Bagheri also said developments in Afghanistan would definitely affect the regional countries, including Iran, the Russian Federation and other countries.

Russia will hold a conference in Afghanistan on Wednesday, October 20. Russia has invited the Taliban to attend the meeting. Iran is also set to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries bordering Afghanistan.

According to Xinhua, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) on Monday held its joint military drills at the Kharbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan near the border with Afghanistan.

Emomali Sobirzoda, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Tajikistan, said the situation in the region remains difficult and tends to worsen.

The readiness of collective security forces to perform tasks, he said, is becoming more important and relevant.

The three operations focus on logistics, intelligence, and armed fighting in border conflicts, as well as terrorism responses.

Over 4,000 servicemen from CSTO member states took part in the exercises, which will end on Oct. 23.

The CSTO is a Russia-led military alliance created in 1992, grouping the six former Soviet republics of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan

Busy day for FM Amir Abdollahian

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian had a very busy day on Monday. He spoke with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

In his phone conversation with Guterres, Abdollahian expressed concern over the security situation in Afghanistan as the Daesh terrorists are committing crimes in the central Asian countries.

He said that terrorist activities and the targeting of worshippers, along with the new wave of Afghan refugees, have added to the responsibility of the United Nations.

The Iranian foreign minister called for serious action by the UN secretary general to stop and confront terrorism in Afghanistan.

Abdollahian also pointed to a plan by Iran to host a regional conference on Afghanistan, stating that the conference is set to be attended by the foreign ministers of countries neighboring Afghanistan.

For his part, Guterres said the UN will continue to send humanitarian



aid to Afghanistan. He also said the UN emphasizes the need for formation of an inclusive government that would represent all Afghan ethnic and religious groups.

FM: Talks with Mora were positive

In the call, Abdollahian also referred to the nuclear negotiations and stated that the recent talks between the Iranian deputy foreign minister and European Union deputy foreign policy chief Enrique Mora were positive and that they will continue their negotiations next week in Brussels.

He stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports negotiations that have tangible practical results, and if parties to the JCPOA live up to their

obligations fully, Iran will return to fulfilling its commitments too.

The chief diplomat also referred to the issue of prisoner exchanges, saying: "We consider the issue of prisoners to be humanitarian and we do not want this issue to be tied to the nuclear talks."

The foreign minister also invited Guterres to visit Iran.

Expressing hope for the success of the nuclear talks, Guterres said the United Nations has always supported the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and, after Trump's departure, it has sought a way to restore the situation to the time before the United States withdrew from the nuclear deal.

Iran, Pakistan foreign ministers exchange views on Afghanistan

Prior to his conversation with the UN chief, Abdollahian held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Qureshi over the phone.

The Iranian foreign minister invited his Pakistani counterpart to attend the meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors in Tehran.

Qureshi thanked Iran for the

that time, the Supreme Leader of the Revolution said that the nature of Daesh was the nature of the Zionists, and it turned out that they had American and Zionist backgrounds, and the United States officially announced that we had created Daesh."

He added, "Today, we are witnessing conspiracies in Lebanon and Afghanistan that are important to understand. The enlightenment by the ulema about the conspiracies is to immunize the youth of Islam."

He said the unity conference is very important and "there must be a proper understanding of the conspiracies and deviations."

The remarks by president at the Muslim unity conference comes as within a week several dozens of Afghan worshippers were massacred in northern and southern Afghanistan.

Nasrallah exposes trap set by Israel

TEHRAN – In his first appearance after the deadly shootings in Beirut last week, Secretary General of Hezbollah Sayed Hassan Nasrallah appeared calmer than ever. He placidly advised a troublesome political party to refrain from endangering co-existence in Lebanon.

Many in Lebanon and the region have impatiently waited to see what the official stance of Hezbollah is on the recent shootings in Beirut which claimed the lives of seven people while peacefully protesting the judge in charge of investigating last year's explosion at Beirut's port.

In a televised speech delivered on Monday night, Nasrallah addressed many issues, most importantly the shootings that have taken place along the sectarian lines in the al-Tayouneh neighborhood of Beirut.

The Hezbollah chief warned about the efforts by the Lebanese Forces party led by firebrand politician Samir Geagea to ignite a civil war in Lebanon in a bid to serve the interests of foreign enemies of Hezbollah, notably Israel.

The episode began last week when a group of people took to the streets in Beirut to protest against Tarek Bitar, the judge who leads the investigation into the Beirut blast. The demonstrators suddenly came under fire while marching through a Beirut neighborhood close to the Ministry of Justice. At least seven people, including a woman, were killed and many others wounded.



Hezbollah pointed the finger at Geagea and his party, accusing them of deploying snipers on the roof of nearby buildings to shoot the mainly Shia protesters.

In the beginning, many expected Hezbollah to hit back. But the movement opted for restraint and de-escalation. Hezbollah sought to raise awareness among the Lebanese instead of going for a war with Geagea's party, one that, if unleashed, would absolutely result in the defeat of Geagea's faction given the massive military capabilities of Hezbollah.

Nasrallah pointed to this fact by warning Geagea against any miscalculation. He urged the Lebanese Forces and its leader to abandon the idea of using discord in a bid to ignite a civil war in Lebanon.

"If you want to prepare for a civil war then have not to miscalculate. Take a note that Hezbollah is made up of at

least 100,00 well-trained and capable fighters who are on the lookout in case their leadership just signals for action," Nasrallah said, indirectly addressing Geagea and those instigating him.

He underlined the combat readiness of Hezbollah and used it to preserve peace and stability in Lebanon. "Hence, I say to LF and its leader: Don't miscalculate, behave and take lessons from the wars you had been engaged in," the secretary general said, according to a read-out of his speech published by al-Manar.

Nasrallah said that the Lebanese state institution along with religious figures, especially the Christians, "must bear responsibility and stand against this criminal butcher in a bid to avoid civil war and preserve national peace."

Moreover, he said the Lebanese Forces has been agitating against Hezbollah for a long time, trying to

create a fake enemy to the Christians in Lebanon. "This party and its leader aim at presenting themselves as defenders of Christians in Lebanon in order to serve their goals related to political leadership," Nasrallah remarked.

He added, "In the latest years, the Lebanese Forces, and with the support of regional and international powers, has been working to create an enemy to the Christians in Lebanon and to present himself as the defender of this community against this so-called enemy, which is Hezbollah."

The secretary general noted, "The real plan of the LF is to unleash civil war, for this scheme would lead to the displacement of the Christians and then creating a Christian canton which LF chief aims to rule."

But Nasrallah debunked the hostile statements of the Lebanese Forces against Hezbollah, underlining that his movement has indeed defended Lebanese Christians. "For those who say that Hezbollah is the enemy of Christians, you can ask the churches which Hezbollah defended in Syria against Takfiri terrorists," he said, adding, "When Hezbollah defended Christians in Syria and the Lebanese border towns against Daesh and Nusra terrorists, the Lebanese Forces party was offering all forms of support to the Takfiris."

Hezbollah proved wise and vigilant. It understood the Tayouneh episode as a trap set by Israel and other enemies and successfully avoided falling into it.

Kazakhstan, an emerging power with difficult road ahead

From Page 1 ► But this success is far less than desired, which constitutes a strong motivation on the part of Kazakhstan to make further strides in terms of strengthening ties with all pivotal countries in the region. For instance, Kazakhstan can improve relations with Iran and raise the trade volume with it.

Kazakhstan understands this pretty well and it even made efforts to foster people-to-people interactions with Iran in parallel with its diplomatic relations with Iran.

On October 17, 2021, the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Iran, jointly with the Cultural Institute of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) organized a roundtable dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the participation of representatives of Iranian expert and "think tanks", the business community, prominent cultural figures of Iran, as well as friends of Kazakhstan,

according to a statement issued by Kazakhstan's embassy in Tehran.

The key lecturers of the roundtable were the Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Iran A. Orazbay, the President of the ECO Cultural Institute S. Bakhti, the ex-Ambassador of Iran to the Republic of Kazakhstan M. Damirchilu, leading experts on the CIS and Central Asia, Head of the International Academic Cooperation of the Allameh Tabataba'i University Professor Mandana Tisheyar and Head of Center for Eurasia of the University of Tehran Professor Elahe Koolae, the statement added.

In addition, the Kazakh capital in mid-October played host to the 6th ministerial meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), with media and diplomatic representation from Iran.

The Conference gathered representatives of 23 out of 27 member states and observers, heads of international observer organizations, and partner organizations in a hybrid format.

The international gathering was the latest indication that Kazakhstan is in pursuit of better relations with other countries. But improving relations with world countries has its own complications that Kazakhstan needs to tackle if it wants to become a country with good trade and diplomatic ties with the world. In their quest for this kind of ties, the Kazakhs seem to have adopted a pragmatist foreign policy. But this pragmatism, while can be fruitful in certain cases, is no panacea for the complexities underlying international relations. For instance, any Kazakh move to build closer ties with Israel would endanger Kazakhstan's warm relations with many Muslim countries including Iran, and alienate the Muslim people of Kazakhstan itself.

Iran's membership in SCO will be beneficial for members, Kazakh ambassador says

TEHRAN — The Kazakh ambassador to Tehran has described Iran as a strong country in terms of economy and underlined that Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) would be very effective for the countries of the region in areas of trade and economic cooperation.

"Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be beneficial for the whole region. Iran is a strong country economically, and Iran's presence in trade and economic cooperation and economic programs in the Shanghai region will be very effective and, given the large population of members, will be beneficial for all countries and Iran itself," Ambassador Ashtak Orazbay told IRNA in an interview published on Monday.

Orazbay also said Kazakhstan will host an SCO meeting next month.

There was a mechanism in the SCO that the meeting of the presidents of the SCO was held once a year in a country that held the rotating presidency and prime ministers or heads of government were coordinating their plans at annual meetings, he explained.

Sending invitation to first VP

Iran was officially admitted as a member of the SCO when the leaders of the pact met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on September 16-17.

"Iran was previously an observer member and this year for the first time wants to attend the meeting as a permanent member. The summit will be held in Kazakhstan in 40 days (December) and we have sent an invitation to the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the diplomat pointed out.

Regarding the level of trade relations between Iran and Kazakhstan, the ambassador said: "There are two main

problems with the corona and sanctions against trade between the two countries, but despite these obstacles, our trade with Iran is increasing exponentially."

Orazbay also spoke of the transit of goods between the two countries and said transit of goods between the two countries should be done through a third country and these countries create problems for travel of trucks.

Iran and Kazakhstan are connected through the Caspian Sea. However, the ambassador says, the ports of Amirabad, Anzali and Gorgan have limited capacity for cargo transport.

Orazbay added: "The volume of exchanges between the two countries is \$230 million, which is very small considering the capacity of the two countries. At the same time, it is important that the intention of the two countries is to increase interaction. The presence of 30 Kazakh businessmen in Iran shows the will of the two countries to trade. Barriers can be overcome in the near future and we are trying to increase exchanges."

The Kazakh ambassador went on to say that the U.S. unilateral sanctions on Iran have affected trade exchanges between the two countries.

"However, we can exchange some goods, such as agricultural products."

He added sports and cultural relations going on between the two states.

The ambassador went on to praise Iran for recognizing Kazakhstan immediately after it declared independence.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran was one of the first countries in the world to recognize Kazakhstan after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the declaration of independence. It is in our memory and we will not forget it."

Kazakhstan's top diplomat to Tehran said this showed that Iran was a "close" country not only geographically but also because of the great attention to the issues that were going on in neighboring countries.

It was as if Iran knew that Soviet republics would soon become independent, and after Kazakhstan's independence was officially declared, Iran was fully prepared and recognized it immediately, he explained.

The envoy also pointed to a looming resumption of talks in Vienna to possibly revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, stating since the Iranian negotiating team is new, new conditions may arise.

"We expect negotiations to start and there is hope that they will reach an agreement because the agreement is in the interest of all parties."

On cultural relations between the two countries, the Kazakh ambassador said: "Many Kazakh universities have a chair of Iranian studies after independence, and Farabi University has a faculty of Oriental Studies and Asian Studies, and Iran is part of it and Iranian language and culture are taught there and students will be Iranologist."

Referring to his acquaintance with Iran, he said: "I am Iranologist and I am fluent in Persian. I was part of the embassy staff and team when we established the Kazakh embassy in Iran in 1993, 28 years ago. Even now, my family is happy to be in Iran. So far, I have visited the cities of Rasht, Sari, Tabriz, Shiraz and Kish, and I intend to go to Hamedan."

"Iran is one of the oldest and most ancient civilizations in the world, and a country with this amount of civilization and antiquity is rare," the Kazakh diplomat remarked.

The ambassador said the people in the

Sepahan start 22/2021 IPL season on high note

TEHRAN – Sepahan defeated Mes Rafsanjan 2-0 in Matchday 1 of the 2021/22 Iran Professional League (IPL) season on Tuesday.

Sepahan, favorites to win the title, dominated the match in Isfahan's Neghsh-e Jahan Stadium.

Omid Nourafkan opened the scoring for the hosts in the 45th minute and Soroush Rafiei made it 2-0 in the 56th minute with a bicycle kick.

Earlier in the day, Nassaji edged past Fajr Sepasi 1-0 thanks to Karim Eslami's first half goal.

Paykan were held to a goalless draw against Naft Masjed Soleyman in Tehran and Padideh and Aluminum played out a goalless draw in Mashhad.

On Wednesday, Esteghlal will play Havadar in Tehran, Gol Gohar host Tractor in Sirjan and Sanat Naft play Zob Ahan in Abadan.

Persepolis will also meet Foolad on Friday in Ahvaz.

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.

Ukrainian center Fesenko joins Sanaye Hormozgan

TEHRAN – Ukrainian center Kyrylo Fesenko joined Sanaye Poshtiban Hormozgan.

The 34-year-old Ukrainian ex-international center (215cm-131kg) has penned a one-year deal with the Bandar Abbas-based basketball team.

Fesenko has played for the last two seasons for Dnipro.

Fesenko was a player of Utah Jazz from 2007 to 2011.

Sanaye Hormozgan will start the new season of Iran Basketball Super League with a match against Exxon.

IRIVF to continue cooperation with Behrouz Ataei

TEHRAN – Iran Volleyball Federation president Mohammad Reza Davarzani met with National Team coach Behrouz Ataei in the federation's headquarters on Tuesday.

The two parties talked about the Team Melli's plans for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Ataei led Iran to title in the 2021 Asian Volleyball Championship in Japan.

Under leadership of Russian Vladimir Alekno, Iran finished in 12th place in the 2021 Volleyball Nations League and came ninth in the 2020 Olympic Games.

The federation is going to work with the Iranian coaches in all levels.

Milan have targeted 58goal Zenit star

TEHRAN – AC Milan intend to buy two strikers in the 2022 summer transfer window and are targeting a center-forward currently playing in Russia, a report claims.

According to PianetaMilan, Milan's intention is to buy two strikers next summer because Pietro Pellegrini has not provided adequate guarantees and because Zlatan Ibrahimović could hang up his boots, with a long-term heir needed either way.

Lorenzo Lucca of Pisa is being followed as a young center-forward with potential is eyed, but profiles are also monitored abroad in particular those with experience in the Champions League, and Zenit St. Petersburg's Sardar Azmoun is targeted.

Milan have monitored Azmoun already in the past windows and there were even rumors of a €15m offer, but now he is free to leave the Russian side in June 2022 when his contract expires, but Roma and Arsenal are also keen.

Azmoun has scored 58 goals and provided 20 assists in 95 games played so far for Zenit, and as mentioned he has UCL experience.

FIVB president meets Asia western zone national federations

TEHRAN – An FIVB delegation led by the FIVB President Dr Ary S. Graça F" met with the Presidents and senior representatives of the Asia Western Zone National Federations in Dubai today to discuss the potential and opportunities for growth of the sport in the region. It also provided a chance to have individual discussions with the National Federations and to listen to their goals and their vision for the future.

The meeting started with the FIVB President's introductory remarks in which he shared the FIVB's vision for the future as well as the International Federation's recent partnership with CVC Capital Partners and the creation of Volleyball World. He also talked about the FIVB's commitment to supporting the National Federations all around the world, including those in Asia Western Zone via Volleyball Empowerment

FIVB President Dr Ary S Graça F" said: "Volleyball Empowerment is a revolutionary development programme in the world of sport where we support national teams, athletes and National Federations to achieve their goals and reach their full potential. In the Western Asia Zone, the FIVB has approved a total of 14 projects from 2017 to 2020, out of 14 applications totalling more than 225,000 USD. This is a 100% approval rating."

The FIVB has also presented opportunities for the National Federations of the Asia Western Zone to host events, including the newly created Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour, and to receive additional support via Volleyball Empowerment and Olympic Solidarity. This additional support will increase the level of the men's and women's national teams in volleyball and beach volleyball and increase the overall popularity of the sport in the region.

The meeting was followed by individual meetings with the National Federations to discuss their specific challenges and look into solutions and opportunities to grow the sport in their countries.

Tehran to host intl. electricity expo in late Oct.



TEHRAN - The 21st Iran International Electricity Exhibition (IEE 2021) is scheduled to be held during October 29-November 1, IRIB reported.

Over 245 domestic companies along with 11 foreign exhibitors from China, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Germany, France, and Japan are set to participate in the current year's exhibition which is going to be held at Tehran Permanent Interna-

tional Fairgrounds.

The exhibition covers a variety of areas including lighting, wire and cable, electrical panels, electrical equipment, automation and instrumentation systems, and transmission lines.

Due to the special conditions created by the coronavirus pandemic, the exhibit will be only open for scholars and experts and also businessmen active in the mentioned industry.

The exhibition will be held in full compliance with safety standards and protocols.

The exhibition is a great opportunity for companies active in the electricity industry, to showcase their achievements and products to the experts and people involved in the mentioned fields, and to direct their future activities and innovations by considering the market demand trends and the direction of growth of this industry.

Regulatory issues discussed at TCCIMA board meeting

TEHRAN- The 27th meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Board of Representatives was held on Tuesday in which major issues related to the rules and regulations affecting the country's business environment were addressed.

As reported by the TCCIMA portal, renewable energy and improving the environment, budget deficit and inflation, revising the laws affecting the businesses, human capital in knowledge-based businesses and start-ups, and industrial policy problems in the country were also among the issues explored in the mentioned meeting.

The meeting was attended by the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari and the Vice-President for Legal Affairs Mehdi Mehdi-Zadeh, as well as the members of the chamber's board of representatives.

Speaking in the meeting Khansari mentioned inflation as a serious concern for the country's economy, which is threatening economic stability.

Stating that the upward trend of inflation in Iran is still continuing, Khansari blamed the budget deficit and government withdrawals from the central bank resources as the main reason for the increasing inflation in the country.



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (3rd L)

He also referred to the recent meeting of the industry minister with the board members of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) this week, during which the two sides discussed the challenges and solutions related to the housing, water, electricity, and budget deficit.

He added that the 13th government is committed to building one million housing units a year, saying: "In this regard, ICCIMA plans to present an operational plan to the government within the next two months to implement this plan."

Further in the meeting, Mehdi-Zadeh mentioned some of the problems and issues regarding the legal aspects of the private sector's economic activities and noted that the diversity and multiplicity of law-making authorities is a major problem in the way of amending the business-related regulations.

More than 6.7m tons of steel products produced in 6 months

TEHRAN- Over 6.768 million tons of steel products was produced in Iran during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 21), IRNA reported.

As reported, the six-month output indicates a nine-percent fall as compared to the figure for the same period of time in the past year, which was a result of constant power outages in the country.

After the withdrawal of the United States from Iran's nuclear deal, the Islamic Republic has faced sanctions in various industries, including steel sector.

The United States has sanctioned entities and individuals associated with Iran's steel industry.

In early January, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) added twelve Iranian producers of steel and other metal products to the list of sanctions.

However, at that time, the U.S. experts said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had resisted the so-called U.S. maximum pressure policy for the past three years, and the Trump adminis-

tration had failed to achieve any of its goals in the face of sanctions against Iran.

Also, those active in Iran's steel sector believed that sanctions against Iran which were in place for 40 years had nothing to do with the Iranian industry.

For example, referring to Iran's success in steel production in the country, the vice president of the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) stated: "Iran is one of the 10 top steel producing countries in the world and no doubt U.S. sanctions will not take special action against Iran's steel industry at this stage."

"Iran's ranking among the top 10 steel producers in the world shows that the decline of Iran's position among steel producing countries will not be easy", Bahador Eshramian noted.

And now, it's proven based on the reports and statistics released by the international bodies and also the Iranian sources that Iran's strong steel sector cannot be hit by the sanctions.

Based on the Iranian Steel Producers Association's data, Iranian steel companies managed to produce 30.2

million tons of steel in the previous Iranian calendar year, registering a three-percent annual growth.

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

Iran's monthly crude steel output stood at 2.6 million tons in July 2021, rising nine percent compared to the figure for July 2020, the WSA's report also indicated.

The Islamic Republic maintained its place as the world's 10th biggest steel producer during the mentioned time span, the report said.

The rising trend is also witnessed in the export of Iran's steel, as according to the latest report released in this due, Iranian major steel producers, including Mobarakeh Steel Company, Khuzestan Steel Company, Esfahan Steel Company, and Hormozgan Steel Company and some others, exported 3.811 million tons of steel in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, rising 48 percent as compared to the same

worth 48.147 trillion rials (about \$1146 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 12,622 points, and the second market's index gained 14,574 points.

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

TEDPIX climbs 12,500 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 12,554 points to 1.449 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 6.855 billion securities

H1 trade with ECO members rises 60% yr/yr

From page 1 ► The Islamic Republic exported more than 12.878 million tons of commodities worth over \$4.555 billion to the said nations in the mentioned time span, registering 98 percent and 81 percent increase in terms of weight and value, respectively, Latifi said.

According to the official, Iran's exports to ECO member countries in the first half of this year were five times more than the imports in terms of weight and nearly 1.7 times more in terms of value, and the trade balance was \$1.855 billion positive for Iran.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian goods in the said union were Turkey with about \$2.308 billion of imports, Afghanistan with \$999 million, Pakistan with \$544 million, Uzbekistan



with \$217 million, and Azerbaijan with \$212 million.

Meanwhile, the country imported 2.428 million tons of goods valued at over \$2.7 billion from the ECO member countries, with Turkey, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Ka-

zakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan being the top sources of imported goods.

The imports from the said union during the mentioned six months fell nine percent in terms of weight

compared to the previous year's same period, however, in terms of value the figure increased by 34 percent year on year.

According to Latifi, more than 23.723 million tons of goods worth \$11.71 billion were traded between Iran and the ECO member countries during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), of which the share of exports was 18.419 million tons of goods worth \$6.890 billion and the share of imports from these countries was 5.312 million tons worth \$4.819 billion.

The Economic Cooperation Organization or ECO is an Asian political and economic intergovernmental organization that was founded in 1985 in Tehran by the leaders of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey.

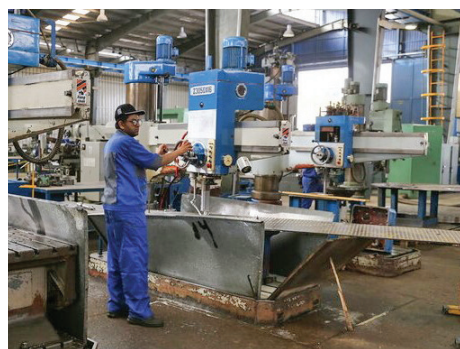
Over \$2.2b worth of industrial parts, equipment indigenized in H1

TEHRAN - Implementation of a program for indigenizing the knowledge for the production of industrial parts and equipment has saved Iran \$2.2 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), according to the Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki.

Speaking in the fifth meeting of the auto industry domestic production promotion desk on Tuesday, Niaraki said the Industry Ministry plans to indigenize the knowledge for the production of \$3.4 billion worth of equipment and machinery in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in March 2022).

Held at the place of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) in Tehran, the mentioned desk meeting was attended by officials and company representatives from the country's auto industry.

Niaraki noted that last year the ministry put the indigenization of \$3.5 billion worth of industrial equipment and parts on the agen-



da of which over \$2 billion or 70 percent was realized.

Based on the mentioned program the country's industrial units sign deals with domestic manufacturers to meet their technological and equipment needs.

Further, during the mentioned desk meeting, IDRO Head Mohsen Salehi-Nia mentioned the achievements of the previous auto industry desks and noted that more than 220 trillion rials worth of deals have been signed for

the indigenization of equipment and parts in the previous domestic production promotion desks for the auto industry.

"The mentioned desks have managed to save the country over €56 million annually," Salehi-Nia stressed.

The program for holding domestic production promotion desks has been defined by the government to supply products, equipment, and machinery needed in various industrial fields using the capacities of the domestic producers and to increase self-sufficiency in the mentioned areas.

Back in 2019 when the program was officially launched, the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister at the time, Reza Rahmani, had said that relying on domestic production was going to save \$10 billion for the country in two years.

In October 2019, Leader of Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei had urged government officials to ban the import of goods that are also produced domestically.

Oji receives Venezuelan foreign minister

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji received a high-ranking Venezuelan delegation headed by the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs Felix Plasencia Gonzalez on Monday, Shana reported.

Speaking in the meeting with Gonzalez, Oji emphasized the expansion of mutual cooperation between the two

countries in the energy sector.

Before meeting with Oji, the Venezuelan foreign minister had announced in a joint press conference with the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian that a joint Iran-Venezuela Economic Committee meeting will be held in Tehran before the end of 2021.



Export to Oman increases 67% in 6 months

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export to Oman increased 67 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the head of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce.

Mohsen Zarrabi put Iran's six-month export to Oman at \$277 million, and said that the value of trade between the two countries also witnessed 49 percent rise to stand at \$547 million in the mentioned time span.

Iran's imports from the Sultanate stood at \$270 million, also registering a 32-percent growth in the first half, he added.

As announced by the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), 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, to register a 52 percent rise year on year.

The Islamic Republic traded over 47.222 million tons of commodities with the neighboring countries in the mentioned year, IRIB quoted Ruhollah Latifi as saying on Sunday.

According to the official, 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.

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.

Iraq was Iran's top export destination by importing \$3.840 billion worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic, while the lowest volume of exports was made to Saudi Arabia with only \$39,000, according to Latifi.

After Iraq, the main export destinations for Iranian products and goods were Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

On the other hand, the highest volume of Iran's imports from neighboring countries was made from the UAE with \$7.305 billion, followed by Turkey, Russia, Iraq, and Oman.

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.

According to IRICA, Iran currently exports non-oil commodities to 40 European countries, 21 Asian countries, 28 African countries, and 12 American countries, while importing from 41 European countries, 31 Asian countries, 12 American countries, and 11 countries in Africa.



From page 1 ► The First Nation says, “we are not interested in apologies that don’t lead to institutional and widespread change. Reconciliation starts with action. Real action and change is needed that supports healing, the revitalization of our language, culture, traditions, and ways of knowing”.

In June, parliament announced the new holiday to ensure a public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools. The Canadian leader’s decision to take a vacation has not gone down well with indigenous leaders.

Trudeau had been invited to attend a ceremony on October 30 at the first nation in British Columbia, where unmarked children’s graves were discovered earlier this year but snubbed the invitation.

Indigenous leaders criticized Trudeau for failing to live up to his pledge to make reconciliation a priority. Last month, Trudeau, 49, returned to power in a closely contested election but fell short of winning a majority, leaving some asking if his attendance was just a PR stunt.

Before the Premier’s trip, the First Nation did warn “the focus of this visit needs to be on the real issues of reconciliation, not a media event to compensate for his lack of participation on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation,”

Chief Rosanne Casimir called the unexpected news that Trudeau was vacationing a gut punch to the community, saying, “the shock, anger, sorrow, and disbelief was palpable in our community, and it rippled throughout the world.”

Trudeau told the community in British Columbia, “I am here today to say I wish I had been here a few weeks ago, and I deeply regret it,” adding he wanted to extend his hand to all First Nations “who have every reason in the world to feel pessimistic and bleak about the future and instead choose hope.”

Trudeau apologized for going on a family vacation to Tofino, British Columbia, on September 30 instead of visiting the indigenous community that day. He has admitted that it was a mistake to fly to the West Coast on holiday

on the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, honoring the lost children and survivors of indigenous schools.

The decision to travel on the holiday “was a mistake, and I regret it,” Trudeau told reporters. “I’m focused on making this right.”

Trudeau flew to Tofino, British Columbia, with his family on Thursday after his own government in June had designated October 30 a federal holiday to underscore the legacy of the so-called residential school system.

The discovery of more than 1,000 unmarked graves at former residential schools earlier this year reopened the deep wounds left by the European colonization of Canada and the subsequent efforts to assimilate indigenous cultures. Canada has been rocked by the institutions’ disclosures that were part of an abusive system that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called “cultural genocide” in 2015.

On May 27, the First Nation in British Columbia said it had discovered the unmarked graves of an estimated 215 children near the site of the former Catholic-run Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Other discoveries have been:

Marieval Indian Residential School - Cowessess First Nation, Saskatchewan: On June 24, the Cowessess First Nation said it had discovered the unmarked graves of an estimated 751 people near the site of the former Catholic-run Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan.

St. Eugene’s Mission School - First Nation, British Columbia: On June 30, the Lower Kootenay Band said the First Nation discovered the remains of an estimated 182 people, including an unknown number of children, in 2020 near the site of the former Catholic-run St. Eugene’s Mission School near Cranbrook, British Columbia.

Brandon Indian Residential School - Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba: Since 2012, research has been conducted to identify people buried at three

Trudeau finally meets indigenous leaders after snubbing invitation

sites near Manitoba’s former Brandon Indian Residential School. Both the Methodist and United churches ran. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation has said an estimated 104 people are buried at those sites, about 78 of whom are accounted for in death records.

Muskowekwan Indian Residential School - Muskowekwan First Nation, Saskatchewan: Bones started turning up near the site of the former Catholic-run Muskowekwan Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan during water-line work in the early 1990s. The Muskowekwan First Nation, in partnership with two universities, found 35 unmarked graves in 2018, and further searches are being carried out.

Trudeau said the federal government would support community resources, including a healing center. But he declined to say whether the government would appeal a federal court ruling that

upheld a previous Human Rights Tribunal decision that ordered individual compensation for indigenous children and caregivers.

On Wednesday, Canada’s Federal Court upheld a human rights tribunal ruling

ordering the Canadian government to compensate indigenous children and families in foster care for suffering discrimination. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled in 2016 that the federal government allocated less funds for child and family services of indigenous people than for non-indigenous people, pushing more indigenous children into foster care.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Liberal government appealed the tribunal’s follow-up order in 2019 that Ottawa pays each affected child C\$40,000 (\$31,500), the maximum allowed under the Canadian Human Rights Act. The tribunal also said that with some exceptions, parents or grandparents of the children would also be eligible for compensation.

The tribunal’s ruling could cost

the federal government billions of dollars. Federal Court Justice Paul Favel rejected the government’s appeal and encouraged the two parties to continue negotiating.

“The parties must decide whether they will continue to sit beside the trail or move forward in this spirit of reconciliation,” Favel wrote, referring to an indigenous parable about a man who sits beside a trail for so long that it grows over and he loses his way.

Trudeau’s government could appeal the court’s decision. His government has argued in the past that although the human rights tribunal was correct in finding discrimination in the system, it overreached by ordering compensation. The government is reviewing the decision, and more information “will be forthcoming,” Marc Miller, minister for indigenous services, said in an emailed statement, “Canada remains committed to compensating First Nations children who were removed from their families and communities,” he added.

Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society that brought the original complaint, said the ruling was “a complete rejection of all the government’s spurious arguments and a complete win for kids.”

The Canadian government’s legal battles with indigenous people have come under increased scrutiny after hundreds of unmarked graves were discovered at the sites of former residential schools. Since May, hundreds more unmarked burial sites have been found.

The institutions operated between 1831 and 1996 and removed about 150,000 indigenous children from their families. Many were subjected to abuse, rape, and malnutrition at schools in what the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015 called “cultural genocide.”

The system to bring the indigenous people of the land (most of them children) to Christian residential schools was run on behalf of the federal government.

China will fill power vacuum left by U.S. in Afghanistan: researcher



By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A research fellow and coordinator of the East Asia Centre at MP-IDSA in New Delhi says that Beijing has already taken steps towards engagement with the Taliban to fill the vacuum created by the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

“China will undoubtedly look to fill the power vacuum created by the U.S. upon its withdrawal from Afghanistan,” Jagannath Panda tells the Tehran Times.

“In fact, to a large extent, Beijing has already taken steps towards this with its positive engagement with the Taliban 2.0 administration.”

Although the Taliban took over Afghanistan at lightning speed, the organization designated as a terrorist group now needs international acknowledgment and legitimacy. What makes matters worse is Afghanistan’s broken economy.

“Afghanistan’s economy is heavily dependent on international aid, which is expected to diminish as countries recalculate their Afghan engagement under the Taliban,” Panda remarks.

“Hence, Beijing will look to firmly establish itself as a critical partner for the country through the provision of essential aid (like its US\$31 million grant) and expansion of the Belt and Road Initiative’s (BRI) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into Afghanistan,” he adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you see repercussions of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan for the region and Afghanistan’s neighbors?

U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, which paved the way for the Taliban’s takeover of the country, will naturally have a major, long-lasting impact on the geopolitics and geostrategic calculations for the region.

The U.S. was a major regional security provider. In its absence, the incoming of the Taliban poses a human security threat to the people of Afghanistan and the national securities of neighboring countries, including India and China. The extent of this threat will be contingent upon how the Taliban 2.0 navigates the coming times and whether it enables Afghanistan to become a safe haven for terrorist activities. This will also be a deterrent to Afghanistan’s ties with states in the region, its position in their foreign and economic policies, and on the international stage.

What is the importance of Afghanistan for the Far Eastern countries, including Japan and South Korea? Is there any competition between these countries and China?

Although geographically separated, both Japan and South Korea have a significant stake in Afghanistan. While Japan holds massive investments in the region, South Korea has contributed over 4000 troops to the region, including a 500-strong contingent to Afghanistan in 2010. In fact, both states were involved in the evacuation process in the country after the U.S. withdrawal, with South Korea even airlifting Afghans deemed as ‘persons of special merit’ who had supported their missions in the country.

Therefore, Japan and South Korea have an interest in Afghanistan both within and outside their security alliance partnerships with the U.S. Japan and South Korea are committed to defending democracy, human rights, and security in Asia and beyond; their interest in Afghanistan is primarily drawn on such an endeavor - and not necessarily competition with China. For Japan, however, U.S. withdrawal and China’s expanding influence in the country are no doubt a source of concern.

How do you read U.S. efforts to give Australia a significant defense upgrade within AUKUS? Isn’t it a kind of escalation with China?

AUKUS’ initiative to support the Australian development of nuclear-powered submarines comes as a way to bolster the country’s defense capabilities. And while China may be a factor of consideration in the decision, the grouping is by no means ‘anti-China’ or aiming to escalate tensions with China. Rather, the effort comes as a progression of a long-held partnership and as a way for Washington to demonstrate that it is committed to the security of its allies and the Indo-Pacific. The strengthening of Australian military capacity is not targeted at any single country but aimed at upholding the international rules-based order and promoting a free, open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. If anything, the move is reactionary to the security threat posed by the alarming buildup of China’s naval capabilities and modernization and its treatment with smaller powers in the region, and not escalatory.

What are the achievements of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) when it comes to U.S. efforts to contain China? How can countries like India balance their participation in the QUAD and their membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

Over the past few years, particularly under Biden in 2021, the QUAD has made significant strides with the holding of two leaders’ summits, displaying increased synergy with the release of their first joint statement, and launching a broad-based agenda covering climate change, COVID-19 vaccinations, and critical and emerging technologies. For instance, as part of their pledge to donate 1.2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses, the QUAD has already delivered 79 million safe and quality-assured doses to Indo-Pacific states (in addition to those committed to COVAX). Such actions have helped strengthen QUAD’s influence and credibility in the region vis-a-vis China. However, the QUAD is not merely an effort to contain China; its achievements and agendas are not military-focused and do not reflect a China-containment strategy. Rather, the grouping is an association of like-minded powers to coordinate their regional agendas and drive cooperation for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. India’s balancing act is drawn in such an understanding. New Delhi does not view its engagement with the

QUAD and multilateral forums alongside China (like the SCO) as mutually exclusive. It recognizes the need to continue interacting and engaging with Beijing via forums like SCO, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and so on. However, the QUAD remains an important platform for India, particularly

as a way to strengthen its partnerships across the region and develop a more vocal role in the region, amidst the direct threat to its territorial integrity that it faces from China on its Line of Actual Control (LAC) border.

Do you predict China will fill the power vacuum in Afghanistan after the U.S. withdrawal?

China will undoubtedly look to fill the power vacuum created by the U.S. upon its withdrawal from Afghanistan. In fact, to a large extent, Beijing has already taken steps towards this with its positive engagement with the Taliban 2.0 administration. Afghanistan’s economy is heavily dependent on international aid, which is expected to diminish as countries recalculate their Afghan engagement under the Taliban. Hence, Beijing will look to firmly establish itself as a critical partner for the country through the provision of essential aid (like its US\$31 million grant) and expansion of the Belt and Road Initiative’s (BRI) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into Afghanistan. Such engagement will be targeted not only at expanding China’s regional clout but also as an attempt to ensure that the Taliban does not promote terrorist activities in the region. Particularly with groups like the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which it regards as a state enemy that could directly impact Chinese interests and spurn unrest in its Xinjiang province.

(The views expressed in this interview do not necessarily reflect those of the Tehran Times.)

U.S. envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad resigns following humiliating defeat

TEHRAN - U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad has resigned following the American military’s humiliating defeat in the twenty-year war in the country and the failure of the so-called peace process, the State Department has confirmed.

The Biden administration’s top envoy for Afghanistan, Khalilzad, tendered his resignation on Monday in a letter sent to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. His resignation went into effect on Tuesday.

Khalilzad told Blinken that it was “the right time” to leave, “at a juncture when we are entering a new phase in our Afghanistan policy.”

“Tomorrow, I step down from my position as the Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation. I decided that now is the right time to do so, at a juncture when we are entering a new phase in our Afghanistan policy,” he wrote in the letter, which was obtained by Politico.

Khalilzad admits “the political arrangement between the Afghan

government and the Taliban did not go forward as envisaged. The reasons for this are too complex and I will share my thoughts in the coming day and weeks.”

“Going forward, I plan to contribute to the discussion and debate about not only what happened but what should be done next,” he continued.

Khalilzad served under both former Republican president Donald Trump and current Democratic President Joe Biden as the special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation.

He led several rounds of talks with the Taliban in Qatar that resulted in the Trump administration’s agreement to leave Afghanistan by May 2021.

“I thank Ambassador Khalilzad for his service and welcome Special Representative West to the role,” Blinken said in a statement, adding that the new envoy, who previously served on former President Barack Obama’s national security team, will now “lead diplomatic efforts” with

Afghanistan’s new Taliban-led government.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. American forces occupied the country for about two decades on the pretext of fighting against the Taliban. But as the U.S. forces left Afghanistan, the Taliban stormed into Kabul, weakened by continued foreign occupation.

Following the 9/11 attacks, the United States invaded and occupied Afghanistan, despite the fact that no Afghan was involved in the attacks. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans died in the U.S. war on the country.

In his first congressional testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee members on September 28, Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the war in Afghanistan a “strategic failure”. He added, “There’s no way else to describe that.”

Then on September 29, Miley doubled down on his assessment. He said, “It is clear. It is obvious to all of us, that the war in

(Source: Press TV)

Hundreds of stone tools found at Iran Neanderthal site



From page 1 ► According to the archaeologist, the remains of three Neanderthals have been discovered in Iran so far.

"In previous [archaeological] seasons at Bawa Yawan, in addition to the discovery of a 42,000-year-old Neanderthal tooth, archaeological layers embracing cultural data from Paleolithic, Middle Neolithic, and post-Paleolithic periods were identified."

The tooth, which is a lower left deciduous canine belonging to a six years old child, was found at a depth of 2.5 m from the shelter surface in association with animal bones and stone tools near Kermanshah.

Stone tools discovered close to the tooth belong to the Middle Paleolithic period and a series of C14 dating suggests the Neanderthal is between 41,000-43,000 years of age which is close to the end of the Middle Paleolithic period when Neanderthal disappeared in the Zagros. Neanderthals were roaming over the Iranian Zagros Mountain sometimes

between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

Bawa Yawan yielded the second Neanderthal tooth that has been discovered in Iran. The first Neanderthal tooth was discovered in the Wezmeh cave near Kermanshah in 2001.

A previous study performed by Heydari-Guran based in the Neanderthal Museum in Mettmann, and his international fellows such as Stefano Benazzi, who is a physical anthropologist at the University of Bologna, the analysis showed the tooth has Neanderthal affinities. Conducted by a team of archaeologists and paleoanthropologists from Iran, Germany, Italy, and Britain, the results of the study appeared on the online journal PLOS ONE in August.

Until the late 20th century, Neanderthals were regarded as genetically, morphologically, and behaviorally distinct from living humans. However, more recent discoveries about this well-preserved fossil Eurasian population have revealed an overlap between living and archaic humans.

Neanderthals lived before and during the last Ice Age of the Pleistocene in some of the most unforgiving environments ever inhabited by humans. They developed a successful culture, with a complex stone tool technology, that was based on hunting, with some scavenging and local plant collection. Their survival during tens of thousands of years of the last glaciation is a remarkable testament to human adaptation.

People participate in restoration of 8,000 historical monuments

TEHRAN – People have participated in the restoration of some 8,000 historical monuments [and relics] over the past couple of years, a senior advisor to Iran's tourism minister has said.

"In the past years, 8,000 historical monuments have been restored and renovated in the country with participation of people [and the private sector], IRNA quoted Mohammad-Hassan Talebian as saying on Monday.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of a visit to several historical caravanserais in which he accompanied UNESCO assessors who are inspecting various mud-brick inns across Iran for a possible registration as a collective World Heritage.

Talebian did not mention the timespan during which the "monuments" were restored.

"People are the real owners of the country's cultural heritage and their contribution will enhance public attention to attract more investment in this realm," he said.

"Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has a limited budget so that people's participation in the restoration of historical monuments helps boost

revenues and tourism prosperity," Talebian explained.

During the past couple of years, hundreds of historical sites and monuments have been temporarily ceded to the private sector reportedly aimed at achieving higher productivity and better maintenance.

Supervised by the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places, the scheme, however, has been dismissed by some experts who believe it will not result in better maintenance in some cases. There have been reports that some of the historical monuments have been mistreated by private investors, such as damages caused to the walls, arches, or the lack of proper restoration.

Upon an initiative scheme, the Fund (known by its Persian acronym Saabta) provides the opportunity for privately-owned businesses to run certain old structures to be maintained and repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants, or lodging places.



According to cultural heritage officials, this sort of investment seems to be attractive for private investors, because accommodation in [well-preserved] monuments is attractive for both domestic and foreign tourists.

Iran hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, as well as rich natural and rural landscapes, of which 26 have been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Iran wants UNESCO recognition for its caravansaries

The Islamic Republic has put forward a selection of 56 caravansaries as a candidate for a collective inclusion in UNESCO'S cultural heritage list, according to Talebian. "After three years of following the case, a dossier for 56 caravansaries [which have been selected] from 24 provinces was submitted to UNESCO for a [possible] registration on the World Heritage list."

The caravanserais date from

various eras from the Sassanid (224 CE-651) to the Qajar epoch (1789-1925), he said.

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

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

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

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

90% of Iranian hotel employees receive COVID vaccine, others likely to lose jobs

TEHRAN – 90 percent of Iranian hoteliers and accommodation staff have received COVID-19 vaccine to date, the head of the Association of Iranian Hoteliers said on Monday.

"The vaccination of hotel staff against coronavirus has reached 90 percent to date, and the remaining 10% have not been vaccinated for personal reasons," Jamshid Hamzehzadeh said, IRNA reported.

The association has set a deadline, which comes to an end on October 30, for unvaccinated employees of the chain hotels... when the time limit passes unvaccinated employees may lose jobs, he asserted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hamzehzadeh said the country's hotels are prepared to receive foreign tourists as the issuance of tourist visas is top of the agenda for the government.

Iran considers reopening borders to foreign vacationers



as its new tourism minister has said the government will soon scrap visa restrictions.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami made the announcement last month following his conversations with President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, however, the minister did not specify the date upon which those regulations would be scrapped.

According to some sources, fully vaccinated travelers would be embraced first under the updated regulations.

The average of international

travels to and from the Islamic Republic fell by 80 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) from a year earlier.

"During this period, 4,343,163 passengers entered the country, which included 3,030,464 Iranian passengers and 512,699 international travelers," according to Arezou Ghanian, an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration. "From the beginning of 1399 to the end of it, we saw a significant reduction in passenger traffic to the country or vice versa in land, sea, rail and air borders, which were caused by various coronavirus restrictions."

Months of steep recession has taken its toll. Many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour

operators have faced big dilemmas such as bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

Panels of travel experts have mapped out new marketing strategies hoping Iran's tourism would get back on its feet once again. For instance, the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association has said the international tourist flow to Iran will return to normal until 2022.

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.

Iran considers reopening borders to foreign vacationers.

Iranian travel agencies invited to attend Expo 2020



TEHRAN – The Association of Iranian Travel Agencies has invited domestic travel businesses to attend Iran pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, which is currently underway in UAE.

Association of Iranian Travel Agencies Director Hormatollah Rafiei has called on [eligible] travel agencies to grasp "this golden opportunity" by attending the event in a space provided to tourism activists for free, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

Visitors to the pavilion are offered to discover epitomes of the ancient land in terms of rituals, handicrafts, cultural heritage, and travel destinations. It also re-

veals more about medical tourism, novel startups, and off-the-beaten tracks.

Many countries and companies are also looking to the expo - the first major global event open to visitors since the coronavirus pandemic - to boost trade and investment.

According to organizers, the Expo, an exhibition of culture, technology, and architecture under the banner "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future", is expected to be a demonstration of ingenuity, and a place where global challenges such as climate change, conflict, and economic growth can be addressed together.

The Persian Gulf state has relaxed most coronavirus limitations but Expo requires face masks to be worn and for visitors over 18 to be vaccinated against, or test negative for, COVID-19.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Khoy, a melting pot of cultural exchange



Encircled with vast sunflower farms and snowcapped towering mountains, the ancient town of Khoy has long been a destination for those who are interested in its virgin nature, genuine culture, and architecture.

The northwestern Iranian city is also filled with centuries-old mosques, churches, caravanserais, bathhouses, fortresses, and ram-parts, each telling their own tales. It has long been a melting pot of cultural exchange.

Khoy may not be on every traveler's radar, but it is a natural fit for eco-tourists as it offers loads of scenic hikes, panoramic

views besides colorful geological features. Therapeutic warm-water spas, salt mines, and Christian centers are among its other charms.

The city is also a destination for lovers of Persian literature, who come visit the mausoleum of Shams Tabrizi, a renowned Iranian poet, and mystic who lived between 1185 and 1248.

The economy of its surrounding regions is primarily based on agriculture; various fruits, grains, timber productions, and sunflowers. The latter is what Khoy is nicknamed for.

Located near the ancient Silk Road in West Azarbaijan province, Khoy was enormously fortified at different eras of its history, most recently by a decree of Qajar rulers in the 18th and 19th centuries.

During bitter times of its history, Khoy was occupied by foreign military forces; for instance in 1911 when the county was at odds with the then Ottoman Empire, and some points during World War I and II by Russians.

Nomadic art of giant tents revived in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad



TEHRAN – The nomadic art of making Siah-Chador (giant "black tents"), which was once on the verge of oblivion in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, has been revived in various counties of the western Iranian province.

"15 handicraft workshops, dedicated to the art of making Siah-Chador, have been organized to revive the ancient art in various parts of the province," the provincial tourism chief said on Tuesday.

"Apart from being used for nomadic life, Siah-Chador is also used for tribal tourism and festivals," Majid Safaei said.

The black tents are usually woven by women from the hair of black goats, which don't let water pass through and are available, cheap, light, and easy to collect and carry. Men are responsible for setting up the tents and nomads usually live and rest under these black tents in summers and winters.

Experts say that the Revival of this field of handicraft will contribute to the prosperity of the nomadic economy, as well as generate job opportunities.

The lesser-known province is home to various nomads and is a top destination for those interested in visiting in person the nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Many tourists from all over the world

tend to observe the lifestyle of these hardworking people and spend a few days watching activities such as milking, yogurt making, buttering, oiling, woolen, carpeting, and much more. Many Iranian and foreign tourists are interested in sleeping in nomadic black tents.

Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay.

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

Language, music, indigenous cuisine, clothing, songs, anecdotes, crafts, live performances, and local rituals such as celebrations and wedding ceremonies have always spurred many to experience life among the tribes.

IRCS seeks assistance from ICRC to deal with drought

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help in dealing with the drought in the southeast-ern part of the country.

So that, in the coming months, funds from the Emergency Response Fund will be provided to the IRCS in the form of international aid, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Hassan Esfandiari, director of operations and humanitarian programs of the IRCS, announced the invitation of David Fisher, an expert of the ICRC, to prepare a plan and allocate some budget to deal with the drought in Iran.

“This will be done in two steps. The first phase will be funded by the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in the near future, often in the south and southeast of the country to quickly address drought-related problems, such as family health, livelihood assistance, and immediate drinking water supply.

Last water year did not receive good amounts of rain and unfortunately, it is predicted that the current water year (began on September 23) to be a year of drought and water shortage,” he added.

Iran is more vulnerable to climate change than the world standard and drought is one of the important manifestations of climate change. In some parts of the country, there has been a continuous drought for more than 4 decades. Floods are the other effect of climate change.



Now in some provinces, despite the drought; Floods occur at the same time. Heavy rainfall in drought-prone areas is very dangerous.

Insufficient measures

Although climate change and global warming may occur as part of natural processes due to fluctuations in sunlight intensity, deviations in the Earth's path, and volcanic activity; after the Industrial Revolution and the increasing consumption of fossil fuels, the earth is increasingly under the impact of human activities.

Greenhouse gases emitted from sources such as cars, airplanes, landfills, etc., cause global warming in the long run, and in the short term, will cause more severe and

unusual weather events such as increased floods and droughts.

Since 1992, climate change has attracted the world's attention, following the UN Convention on Climate Change, which aims to stabilize the volume of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere to prevent future climate problems.

The Paris Agreement was ratified in 2015 with the participation of 174 countries and the European Union within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The purpose of the Paris Agreement is to control climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by countries and preventing global warming by more than 2 degrees Celsius and trying to limit

it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Currently, Iran is a member of the international treaty.

Hossein Khajehpour, a faculty member at the Sharif University of Technology, pointed to the impact of human action and greenhouse gas emissions on climate change by 50 percent, highlighting that the remaining 50 percent is beyond human control and solar activity is the most important factor.

Not serious actions taken on reducing climate change in Iran, while developed countries are taking ambitious action nationally, with 36 countries seeking to zero greenhouse gas emissions; so that Iran ranks sixth greenhouse gas emitter in the world, he explained.

Referring to the 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union, he said that “These changes make us know that oil can be used other than incineration and the country can take advantage of opportunities in this area.”

Amir Sarkardeh, a meteorologist, stated that in temporal variability, the rainfall that should occur during the year for a city falls in a few days, and in spatial variability, annual precipitation decreases than before.

Criticizing the infrastructure for adaptation to climate change in the country, he said that “While everyone in the world is concerned about climate change, there has been no adaptation policies in the country, as well as crisis management.”

Population decline and smaller families’ good news for climate

Population decline should “not be feared” because it will help the UK reach its climate goals, the former chief of the finance regulator has said.



Lord Adair Turner, former chairman of the Financial Services Authority, said that a gentle decline in birth rates would “deliver significant benefits to human welfare”, the Independent reported.

Writing in a research paper, he argued that with the right government policy an ageing population would not pose a threat to the economy.

Low birth rates and an ageing population have often been seen as a looming crisis, with economists arguing there will not be enough people to work and contribute to the future economy.

This, coupled with the rising cost of pensions and health care, has made people increasingly worried about shrinking populations and smaller families.

But the report, Smaller Families and Ageing Populations, argued this is good news.

It said the UK could cut CO2 emissions by some 38m tonnes – the equivalent of taking 19m cars of UK roads – by 2035 if its population was to reduce at the same rate as that of Japan.

In Japan, women give birth to an average of 1.36 children, down from 2.1 in 1974. In England and Wales the figure is 1.6.

By 2035, the Japanese population is set to decrease by 9.6 per cent from 125m to 113.1m people. By contrast, the UK is predicted to increase by 5.2 per cent over the same period, to 71.1m people.

The report also said that a declining population would eliminate the need for some 4m extra homes across Britain and could stop housing developments on some 435,000 acres of land.

In his foreword to the report, Lord Turner, said: “The biggest reason to welcome this demographic shift is that it results from the free choice of empowered people, and in particular women.

“But ceasing endless population growth will also reduce humanity's future press on the natural environment, ease the challenge of adequate housing provision, and make it easier to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions while supporting prosperity growth in developing countries.”

Robin Maynard, director of charity Population Matters, criticised Elon Musk's previous comments that “population collapse is potentially the greatest risk to the future civilization”.

He said: “Women's bodies are not an economic tool to provide a growing supply of cheap labour and new consumers to the very wealthy.

“An economy which ignores the environmental limits of our planet can't deliver long- term wellbeing.”

The report did acknowledge that labour shortages would become an increasing problem with an ageing population. But it argued automation in the work force and migration would be key to dealing with this issue.

It also called for delayed retirement and incentives, such as an increase in their personal tax-free allowance, to keep people working.

UN calls for stronger aviation and shipping climate goals in line with 1.5C

UN chief Antonio Guterres has called for international shipping and aviation targets to be radically strengthened, in line with the Paris Agreement stretch target to limit global warming to 1.5C.

Climate goals set at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which sit under the UN umbrella, are consistent with more than 3C of global warming, he said.

Antonio Guterres told the Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Beijing on Thursday: “Transport, which accounts for more than one quarter of global greenhouse gases, is key to getting on track. We must decarbonize all means of transport, in order to get to net-zero emissions by 2050.”

He added: “Let's be honest. While member states have made some initial steps through the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization to address emissions from shipping and aviation, current commitments are not aligned with the 1.5-degree goal of the Paris Agreement. In fact, they are more consistent with warming way above 3 degrees”.

He then made three specific calls: for the phase-out of production of polluting road vehicles by 2035-2040, for shipping to be zero emissions by 2050 and for aviation's emissions per passenger to reduce 65% by 2050.

On shipping, Guterres said: “Zero emission ships must be the default choice, and commercial- ly available for all by 2030, in order to achieve zero emissions in the shipping sector by 2050.”

This echoes a proposal by three Pacific Island nations, which will be debated at an IMO meeting in November, according to climatechangenews website.

One of those pushing the proposal is the Marshall Islands ambassador Albon Ishoda. He told Climate Home News that he was “absolutely glad that [Guterres] is making that call – it certainly aligns with our view for urgency”.

Peter Nuttall, from the Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport, said that the zero carbon by 2050 proposal “has gone from dark horse to obvious choice”.

The current IMO target, set after fierce debate in 2018, is to reduce emissions at least 50% by 2050 on 2008 levels while pursuing complete decarbonisation.

Cargo ships have a life expectancy of 25-30 years, making the long term goal directly relevant to ships built this decade.

Iranians grant more humanitarian aid to Afghans

TEHRAN – A new shipment of humanitarian aid weighing 25 tons has been delivered by Iran to the people of Kandahar, Afghanistan.

“The ninth shipment of aid weighing 25 tons, including food, medicine, and health items, arrived in Kandahar,” the Iranian embassy in Kabul wrote on its Twitter page.

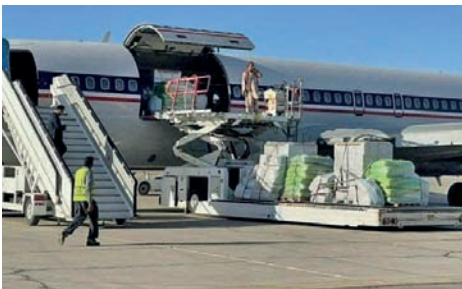
A number of people injured in the terrorist bombing incident in the Fatimid Mosque in Kandahar were also transferred to Iran for treatment.

Following the conflict in Afghanistan, Iran

has so far delivered several shipments of aid to the Afghan people, which mostly included food and medical items.

The Taliban seized control of the country two months ago as foreign forces allied with the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan after a 20-year war. The events culminated in the capture of the capital, Kabul, on August 15, two decades after the Taliban was driven from power by a US-led campaign following the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The UN said that at the start of the year



more than 18 million people – about half of Afghanistan's population – require aid amid the country's second drought in four years.

‘Azerbaijan should respect Iran’s drug control efforts’

From page 1 ► Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian denied the allegations raised by the Azeri president when he addressed the summit from Yerevan.

90% of opium discoveries by Iran

Iran is the leading country in the fight against narcotics worldwide; despite its proximity to Afghanistan, which is the largest producer of narcotics.

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



percent of world heroin.

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

After the Islamic Revolution

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

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

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

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

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

Iran is the leading country in the fight against narcotics worldwide.

81% of bus drivers responsible for fatal accidents in 2 months

The number of public transport fleet accidents has increased significantly over the last two months, and 81% of bus drivers were to blame for fatal road crashes, Traffic Police chief has announced.

Over 90 percent of the whole transfers across the country are done by ground transport system, while air, rail and sea transportation hold a small share, Mehr quoted Seyed Kamal Hadianfar as saying on Tuesday.

Last year, 19 million rides have been delivered transferring over 290 million passengers, mostly through the bus transportation fleet under the Municipalities supervision, he stated.

He went on to say that bus drivers spend more time driving exceeding standard hour due to low income, which increases the risk of road crashes.

۸۱ درصد رانندگان اتوبوس در تصادفات فوتی دو ماه گذشته مقصر بوده اند

رئیس پلیس راهور ناجا، گفت: در ۲ ماهه اخیر تعداد تصادفات ناوگان حمل مسافر افزایش قابل توجهی داشته و در تصادفات منجر به فوت و جرح ناوگان عمومی حمل مسافر، ۸۱ درصد رانندگان اتوبوس مقصر بوده اند.

سردار سیدکمال هادیانفر، افزود: بیش از ۹۰ درصد از جابجایی ها در سطح کشور از طریق زمینی صورت می پذیرد و درصد کمی را حمل و نقل های هوایی ، ریلی و دریایی تشکیل می دهد. در طول سال ۱۹۰۹۷ میلیون سفر با ۲۹۰ میلیون مسافر صورت پذیرفته است که عمده آن از طریق پایانه هایی صورت پذیرفته که مدیریت آن بر عهده شهرداری هاست.

رئیس پلیس راهور ناجا افزود: رانندگان به علت میزان درآمدشان بیش از ساعت مقرر رانندگی می کنند که ریسک تصادف را بالا می برد.

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رئیس پلیس راهور ناجا، گفت: در ۲ ماهه اخیر تعداد تصادفات ناوگان حمل مسافر افزایش قابل توجهی داشته و در تصادفات منجر به فوت و جرح ناوگان عمومی حمل مسافر، ۸۱ درصد رانندگان اتوبوس مقصر بوده اند.

سردار سیدکمال هادیانفر، افزود: بیش از ۹۰ درصد از جابجایی ها در سطح کشور از طریق زمینی صورت می پذیرد و درصد کمی را حمل و نقل های هوایی ، ریلی و دریایی تشکیل می دهد. در طول سال ۱۹۰۹۷ میلیون سفر با ۲۹۰ میلیون مسافر صورت پذیرفته است که عمده آن از طریق پایانه هایی صورت پذیرفته که مدیریت آن بر عهده شهرداری هاست.

رئیس پلیس راهور ناجا افزود: رانندگان به علت میزان درآمدشان بیش از ساعت مقرر رانندگی می کنند که ریسک تصادف را بالا می برد.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 19

New cases	13,308
New deaths	167
Total cases	5,809,967
Total deaths	124,423
New hospitalized patients	1,783
Patients in critical condition	4,623
Total recovered patients	5,347,483
Diagnostic tests conducted	34,224,823
Doses of vaccine injected	75,380,317

