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A Manufactured Crisis Azerbaijan Must Avoid

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Iranian, Azerbaijani FMs hold phone talks

TEHRAN – Iranian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers held the second phone conversation in less than a month amid border tensions between Tehran and Baku that resulted in a media war of words and extensive diplomatic contacts.

But these tensions now seem to be fading away as the two sides opted for de-escalation. In the latest sign of improvement in Iran-Azerbaijan relations, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov discussed bilateral relations between Tehran and Baku in a telephone conversation on Saturday.

In this conversation, Amir Abdollahian referred to the recent constructive contacts between the two ministers, praising the Republic of Azerbaijan for the release of two Iranian drivers detained in the country, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Iranian foreign minister described the move as a constructive step that can provide the necessary room to resolve misunderstandings.

He also called for more positive steps and urged Baku to facilitate the movement of Iranian trucks in border areas with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the need to adopt a positive approach and look to the future by the two countries and said the joint economic commission of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan should be activated as soon as possible. ►Page 3

Interview

Foolad Sirjan coach Rezaei reveals how difficult it was to win Asian title

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Sirjan Foolad head coach, Saeid Rezaei, who led his team to title at the 2021 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, explained the struggling condition he experienced when he was appointed as Foolad coach.

The Sirjan based team won the Iranian Volleyball Super League last season. However, at the end of the season, the team went under massive changes when the ex-head coach (Reza Tondraavan) and some key stars such as Rahman Davoudi, Saber Kazemi, and Alireza Behboudi left the team.

So, Rezaei took over an already crisis-stricken team and led them to the continental glory.

"The Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship has been held for many years without the participation of the East Asian representatives such as Korea, Japan, and China's clubs. However, some of the teams have strong squads due to their world-class foreign players," said Rezaei in his interview with Tehran Times.

"We had a bad condition when I started coaching of the team. In fact, I had to build an entirely new team comparing the one that had won the league title last season. Moreover, we had to use the players such as Behnam Tashakori and Saber Kazemi in Asian Club Championship since they still were under contract with Foolad, but we no longer have them for the next season. ►Page 3



Ayatollah Khamenei warns of sectarian dispute fomented by U.S.

TEHRAN – What is the plan of the U.S. after withdrawing its troops from the West Asia region? This question is becoming increasingly important with the U.S.'s gradual withdrawal from a region where it used to maintain considerable military assets and troops on the ground.

With tensions rising around Iran from Afghanistan to Lebanon, Iranian officials are giving a curious and different answer to the aforementioned question that is based on recent developments in a number of countries in the region. The latest reference to the answer can be found in Sunday's

speech delivered by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei at a gathering held on the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Sadiq (PBUH). ►Page 3

◀ STAY UPDATED #IslamicUnityWeek

Iran's economy getting back on track: CBI governor

TEHRAN – The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said the growth in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter of 2021 indicates that the Iranian economy is going on the right path and is moving toward recovery.

Speaking in an online meeting with the governors of the central banks and heads of financial institutes of the MENAP region (Middle East, North Africa, and Pakistan)

on Saturday, Ali Saleh-Abadi put Iran's GDP growth in the second quarter of 2021 at 6.2 percent, IRIB reported.

"Like many other countries, Iran has also suffered severely from the coronavirus pandemic but is now on a solid path to economic recovery. The latest official statistics show a 6.2 percent growth in Iran's GDP in the second quarter of 2021, which is a significant achievement despite the severe restrictions

preventing the country from accessing its foreign resources and the impossibility of purchasing vaccines from abroad due to the U.S. sanctions," Saleh-Abadi said.

According to the CBI governor, the country's economy excluding oil grew 4.7 percent which is also another indication of the country's economic recovery.

"Also, due to the financial and monetary support policies of the government ►Page 4

Interview

Danish ambassador tells of his 'unforgettable' visit to Isfahan

By Afshin Majlesi

ISFAHAN – On Thursday evening, when I was roaming through the gorgeous Imam Square of Isfahan, I suddenly bumped into the Danish ambassador to Iran, Jesper Vahr, and his family who were also touring the UNESCO-designated site.

The envoy kindly accepted to share his views over the journey to the ancient city as well as ways to expand tourism. Here is an excerpt of his views:

"It has been a spectacular visit we have to Isfahan where my wife and I visited for the first time 25 years ago when we came here as tourists.... and actually, it is our third visit [to Isfahan]."

"Now, we are here with my son and his fiancée.... and the sites here are absolutely ►Page 6



Iran car museum inaugurated

TEHRAN – The car museum of Iran was inaugurated on Saturday, October 23. A collection of 61 unique classical and historical vehicles dating back to Qajar (1789-1925) and Pahlavi (1925-1979) dynasties are on show at the museum on the Tehran-Karaj old road. Some 1.2 trillion rials (around \$28 million) has been invested to build the museum measuring 11,000 square meters in area.

international philanthropists participate in Mustafa Prize 500

Report

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The Mustafa Prize has so far benefited from the participation of over 500 international charities, scholars, and philanthropists, Mehdi Saffarinia, director of Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation, said during the award ceremony, held at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Thursday.

During the 2021 Mustafa Prize award ceremony, five Muslim scientists were awarded cash prizes amounting to \$1 million, as the laureates of the 4th edition of the event.

In the 'All Areas of Science and Technology' section, the Mustafa Prize 2021 was shared between Professor Kamran Vafa, an Iranian-American Theoretical Physicist, and Professor Zahid Hassan, a Bangladeshi scientist.

Mohamed El. Sayegh, Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, and Yahya Tayalati were the other prize winners from Islamic countries.

Saffarinia said that over 500 charities, scholars, and philanthropists have participated to donate the cash award during the past editions. More than 200 members from around the world have supported the scientific-cultural movement with their contributions, he added. ►Page 7

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Interview

Zero chance for EU to make a break with NATO: EU MP

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A member of the European Parliament says that the EU has no chance to be independent of NATO.

"There is zero chance of European states making a break with NATO, and all the strategic autonomy talk is more aimed at softening citizens up for more military spending than anything else," Clare Daly tells the Tehran Times.

"The EU has always been the U.S.'s lapdog, and talk of a European NATO won't change that."

The United States, especially during the Trump administration, has preferred solid ties with the UK but been skeptical of the EU and strong alignment between France and Germany in a broader sense.

Many believe that the U.S. keeps following its trajectory and the EU needs to break with NATO whereas others say that Europe cannot be independent in terms of security and military power.

"European militarism is much less about a break with the Euro-Atlanticist order than it is about siphoning off billions in citizens' money to give to arms companies," Daly notes.

"The idea of a European army is something that will be in addition to NATO, not a replacement for it - with obvious and destructive ramifications for global peace and security," she adds. ►Page 5

Op-ed

Weep or not, America is beginning to hurt seriously...

By Martin Love

In the U.S. there are signs of decadence almost everywhere nowadays. In the debasement of the dollar, in militarism, in the paucity of honesty and ethics, in mainstream media propaganda and even in educational standards and one could go on. The list unfolds like an ocean crossing tsunami.

Consider this, for example. Last August the Loudon County School board in the state of Virginia passed gender identity legislation to permit boys to use facilities for girls, and in fact a girl was raped in a bathroom as a result of this. If a boy identifies as a "girl" he can use the girls restroom in this county where the school board manages 94 public schools.

But of course the worst "policy" is giving a trillion dollars or so annually to the U.S. military at a time when the Biden gang asserts the U.S. is not currently and literally "at war" anywhere, having withdrawn from Afghanistan. ►Page 2

A manufactured crisis Azerbaijan must avoid

TEHRAN — After Amir Abdollahian's phone call with his Azeri counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov, Iranian social media exploded with an astounding piece of news. The Republic of Azerbaijan blocked the Azeri Sahar TV website, as well as religious websites close to Iran.

Of course, the websites had been blocked in the Saturday morning, but the news, whether unintentionally, or deliberately, began to circulate after the phone call took place.

Iranian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers held the second phone conversation in less than a month amid transit dispute between Tehran and Baku.

The two spoke of mutual respect and expansion of ties, but the recent move by the Azerbaijani authorities is inexplicable, and beyond words.

The conflict between Iran and Azerbaijan is an affair that can be solved by the two countries in a friendly and diplomatic atmosphere. However, those who do not wish well for the two countries have seized this opportunity and are now trying to add fuel to the fire.

The Azerbaijan administration must distance itself from ill-intentioned advisors such as the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD).

FDD, known for its notoriously shallow and dishonest CEO Mark Dubowitz, has taken a new strategy with regard to Iran-Azerbaijan issue. They have sent a lobbyist with a cover identity of "energy policy specialist" named Brenda Shaffer. She has been referred to as a lobbyist on behalf of Azerbaijan, and has faced criticism over her writing of political articles and books related to Azerbaijan

Shamkhani says Israel must wait for Iran's 'shocking' response as Tel Aviv makes open military threats

TEHRAN — In a tweet posted on Sunday, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said that the Zionist regime must be worried about Iran's "shocking response" as Israel's threats of military attacks against Iran has reached an alarming level.

The regime's war minister Benny Gantz has also threatened that Israel would act alone if needed to stop what he claimed Iran's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons, according to The Associated Press.

"Israel has the means to act and will not hesitate to do so – I do not rule out the possibility that Israel will have to take action in the future in order to prevent a nuclear Iran," Gantz said on August 25, the Daily Sabah reported.

Israeli Defense Force chief Aviv Kochavi also said on September 7 that the Tel Aviv regime has "greatly accelerated" its plan to attack Iran over its nuclear program.

In an interview with the Walla news agency, Kochavi added that "a significant chunk of the boost to the defense budget, as was recently agreed, was intended" to minimize "Iranian presence in the Middle East"

Iranian victim slams UK for giving asylum to ex-Iraqi chemical arms official

A victim of Iraq's 1987 chemical attack on the Iranian city of Sardasht has slammed a decision by the British government to grant asylum to an official in Iraq's former Ba'athist regime who was largely involved in the production of chemical bombs under former dictator Saddam Hussein.

In a letter to UK Justice Secretary Dominic Raab on Saturday, Farideh Shafei, a teacher from Sardasht, recounted how she and her three daughters had severely been injured by mustard gas bombs dropped by Iraqi warplanes on their city in 1987, when the Saddam regime was in the middle of a deadly Western-backed military campaign against neighboring Iran.

"Recently, we learned that a high-ranking person in ... the Ba'athist Iraqi regime, who was apparently in charge of the chemical bombs production center in [the city of] Samarra, has been helped to escape accountability and punishment after receiving asylum in your country," she told Raab.

"On behalf of my family members, all of whom are still suffering from the effects of the crime after several decades, we want you to turn this person over to law enforcement [authorities] so that he will stand trial for complicity in the murder and atrocity against the innocent people of Sardasht," she wrote.

Shafei also warned that impunity and escape from punishment will help spread crimes against

while hiding her commercial ties to the Azerbaijani government.

Shaffer has been proactively infuriating the Azeri authorities by trying to provoke Iranian Azeri citizens to take drastic measures to –in her dreams– and join the Republic of Azerbaijan.

A wolf disguised as a sheep, she has been propagating against using Persian as the official language as mentioned in the Iranian constitution. Seemingly, FDD has given her a promotion, as she is now provoking the Arab citizens in Iran as well.

This sedition is being followed by the Turkish administration as well, although unknowingly. Erdogan has been playing in the wrong field. It seems that both presidents are being briefed by the wrong people, and need to update their information.

Shaffer criticized Iran's logical decision to suspend trade with the Karabakh region in order to respect the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, saying that the decision is violating the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan. An absurd analysis of course, but one cannot expect more from FDD experts.

The recent decision to ban and block Sahar TV, an Iranian network in Azerbaijan is a volatile move by the Azeri authorities, clearly fueled by ill-intended advisors.

It is best for the leaders of Azerbaijan and Turkey to distance themselves from the U.S.-Israeli sedition to create sectarian rift among different ethnicities in Iran. The Iranians are well aware of these cheap tricks.

On October 19, the Zionist regime's Channel 12 reported that Israel has approved a budget of some 5 billion shekels (\$1.5 billion) to be used to prepare the military for a potential strike against Iran's nuclear program.

In response to this direct threat, Admiral Shamkhani tweeted, "Instead of allocating 1.5 billion dollars budget for atrocities against #Iran, the Zionist regime should focus on providing tens of thousands of billion dollars funding to repair the damage that is going to be caused by Iran's shocking response."

Contrary to Iran which is a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and its nuclear program is subject to the Safeguards agreement, Israel is refusing to sign the NPT and is widely believed to have about 300 nuclear arsenals. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has put the number of Israel's nuclear weapons about 90.

The regime has adopted an ambiguous approach toward its secret nuclear program. It neither confirms nor denies it possesses nuclear arms.

The Israeli regime has also refused to establish a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East.

humanity across the world.

"As long as criminals do not express regret for their past crimes against humanity and do not expose the mechanism and organizers of those atrocities to the society, granting them asylum has nothing to do with human rights and humanitarian principles, but it will instead be an opportunity to spread crimes."

She expressed hope that Raab and other officials in Britain, Iran and Iraq "will fulfill their historical responsibility and provide the ground for the victims of the Sardasht chemical disaster to have access to justice."

On June 28, 1987, Sardasht, a small city in Iran's West Azarbaijan Province, was targeted by chemical weapons supplied by the Western states to Saddam Hussein.

The attack killed at least 110 Iranian civilians and injured another 8,000, leaving some of them permanently disabled.

After 34 years, many of the survivors still have to live with the long-term respiratory and even psychological effects of inhaling mustard gas used in the chemical raid.

Sardasht was the third city after Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki to become the target of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

(Source: Press TV)

Special envoy says Taliban is a reality in Afghanistan

TEHRAN — The Special Representative of the Iranian President for Afghanistan has said "considering the situation in Afghanistan, the Taliban is a reality in this country that controls the capital and is responsible for ensuring the security of this country."

In an interview with the IRIB news agency on Friday, Hassan Kazemi Qomi said that his appointment to the job shows the status of Afghanistan in Iran's foreign policy with regard to the Islamic Republic's national security.

He said, "Afghanistan is in a complex and critical situation, and 20 years of American occupation have resulted in nothing but killing, aggression, and destruction for the oppressed people of this country."

The envoy went on to say, "In such circumstances, we are witnessing the resumption of another dimension of terrorist acts and the killing of the oppressed people of Afghanistan, which can be interpreted as a continuation of the American strategy in the region."

He underlined that the escape of U.S. troops from Afghanistan coincided with the entry of ISIS into the security dimension of Afghanistan, and this means that the Americans have waged a proxy war against the oppressed Afghan people after their 20 years of occupation of the Central Asian country ended in failure.

Afghanistan is still important for the Americans because they think that they can create security problems for countries like China, Russia and Iran by terrorist groups, Kazemi Qomi remarked.

He stressed, "From this perspective, it is important for our country to (help) establish stability and security in Afghanistan, and the Americans want to spread instability and security problems to its neighbors, and Iran will be no exception to this (endeavor)."

The special envoy linked stability and security in the region to stability in Afghanistan and other U.S.-occupied countries such as Iraq.

"On the other hand, Afghanistan can be defined in the area of civilization of our country and the protection of this area of civilization is extremely important for us," he pointed out.

In response to Iran's duty regarding the inflamed atmosphere in

Afghanistan, he stressed regardless of the current political and security environment in Afghanistan, "we must work to expand comprehensive cooperation in this country."

The Special Envoy also highlighted that the people of Afghanistan were suffering from food shortages and Iran must intensify its trade with the country, while the expansion of political, economic and trade relations with Kabul could affect the stability in the country and prevent flood of migrants towards Iran's borders.

"From this perspective, strengthening comprehensive relations with Afghanistan, including economic, political, defense, and especially regional cooperation will lead to stability, security" in Afghanistan.

He stressed that in this context, all countries in the region should help build Afghanistan and prevent terrorism as the sinister legacy of the occupiers.

Now the problems afflicting Afghanistan are not limited to the country, the envoy remarked, warning security threats may be directed to countries in the region and Iran must work hard to curb them.

He went on to say that the decision by President Ebrahim Raisi to appoint a special representative for Afghanistan is intended to coordinate efforts and use all national, governmental and private sector capacities, especially in the economic field in this regard. "The private sector should help activate our country's economic diplomacy capacity in Afghanistan within the framework of the roadmap that has been developed."

On the recent explosions in Shia mosques in Afghanistan, Kazemi Qomi said, "These terrorist acts are not only intended to create chaos in this country, but also to wage a war between Shias and Sunnis, to polarize the country and to involve countries in the region, in particular Iran."

The special representative stressed, "From this perspective, we are vigilantly monitoring the



developments in this country and working hard to cooperate with the people of this country."

In response to Iran's purpose in negotiating with the Taliban given the history of the movement, he said, "Given the situation in Afghanistan, the Taliban is a reality in this country, a reality that holds the capital and is responsible for ensuring the security of this country."

Given the magnitude of problems created by foreigners in Afghanistan and their conspiracy to involved counties in the region, Iran should try to "get out of this situation", he suggested.

Referring to the Wednesday meeting in Moscow to help Afghanistan, he said, "This meeting was held in order to find solutions for getting out of the crisis in Afghanistan, and we were also diplomatically active" in the conference.

Regarding Iran's policy towards the events in Afghanistan, Kazemi

Qomi said Iran, as an active player, will help the Afghan people to establish stability and security, and at the same time strives to expand cooperation, secure the region, counter interventions by the former occupiers and counter terrorism.

He went on to say that "terrorism has a dynamic state and it cannot be said that if

a country faces terrorism, it will not affect the region; so Iran, as an active player, would help the Afghan people to restore security."

On how effective is Iran's role in stemming the web of conflicts in Afghanistan, the former Iranian ambassador to Iraq stressed, "Iran has always been a factor and encourager of unity and, fortunately, we have achieved great success in the diplomatic movements" in Afghanistan.

Pointed to long years of the Afghans' resistance against the invaders – the Soviets in the 1980s and U.S.-led forces since 2001 – Kazemi Qomi said the Afghans won over occupiers through unity.

"Iran has always supported unity and resistance in Afghanistan and now is the guardian of unity in this

“We must consider priorities and conditions, because currently Afghanistan is facing security problems and difficult conditions.”

Weep or not, America is beginning to hurt seriously...

From page 1 ► Why? Decadence! At any rate the Tehran Times recently published an interview with an American analyst on some questions about China, and in light of that here's a further bit of information contrasting China and the U.S.

Laos was the most heavily bombed country in the world ever during the Vietnam War and that may still be the case now decades later. Laos is a very poor country that represents no threat to the U.S. And it certainly is no threat to China, which knows this and which has completed the construction of a high-speed railway in Laos for Laotians. No question that China is ascending across Asia, U.S. influence on the fast wane.

Can anyone of sound mind doubt that the U.S. eventually will get what it seems to deserve for the harm it has done worldwide as a crude and vicious military "empire"? Patience will prove it. The U.S. long ago tossed fair play, its cultural racism knows few bounds along with its arrogance and obtuseness, its environmental destruction is off the charts and support for Zionist Apartheid abroad and the lambent racism at home, especially by some GOP politicians,

remains extant.

It feels like the U.S. may well experience a crescendo of consequences in the year ahead for bad policies abroad and at home over the past few decades, especially since 9/11. And few allies are going to weep about it if the dollar is further shunned and loses its reserve currency status, if the economy crumbles as it did in the crisis of 2008, if the various U.S.

markets like stocks and bonds disintegrate and the wealth gap, the biggest ever in history in any country, expands further and more social chaos and division erupt.

Let what is happening, or going to happen in America, be a warning to other countries to avoid internal and external policies that at bottom harm their own citizens especially and even, ultimately, their elites in time. The great Arab scholar and social historian who lived in Muslim North Africa centuries ago, Ibn Khaldun, developed the

concept of "asabiyya" which loosely means "group solidarity" as the key component of successful countries or political realms. When group solidarity begins to disintegrate, societies are weakened and eventually give way to challenges by stronger regimes which later, in turn, may fall apart, too, when they become corrupted.

This is exactly what the U.S. faces: a growing and intractable loss of social cohesion and national solidarity. Biden throwing fiat dollars conjured out of thin air in the trillions to the public is not going to heal this gaping wound, and efforts by Washington to use what amounts to fire hoses to douse the American citizens in propaganda about

Iran or any other country is not going to work over the longer term. It's quite remarkable that even now some so-called political and thought "leaders" continue to

country and this is not limited to Afghanistan but in other countries in the region such as Syria, Yemen, Lebanon. Iran is considered a harbinger of unity."

Iran hosted hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and backed the Mujahedin in their struggle against the invaders in the 1980s.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said, "The Americans, though they claim they are harbinger of peace and security and fight against terrorism and are savior of the Afghan people, have blocked the money of this oppressed nation and are not willing to release it to heal its pain."

Regarding the possibility of reaching an agreement with the Taliban on resolving problems related to water rights, countering terrorism and preventing the transit of drugs to Iran, Kazemi Qomi said, "It is possible to reach an agreement in this regard in the new Afghanistan."

The diplomat stated, "However, we must consider the priorities and conditions, because in the current situation in Afghanistan, which is facing security problems and difficult conditions, we must know what issue to pursue at the right time."

All these cases were among the agreements between the two countries that should be pursued within the framework of Iran's policies and roadmap already drawn up, Kazemi Qomi remarked.

The special representative said, "We hope that with the participation of Iran and neighboring countries, the necessary security and stability will be provided in Afghanistan so that the intended goals can be achieved within the framework of national interests. I am optimistic about this, and although this path has its complexities and difficulties, it is achievable."

"In other fields, we faced more difficult conditions and gained a wealth of experience in difficult conditions. In this regard, we hope with the collective participation of countries in the region and within the framework of a specific strategy, under the guidance of the Leader and President, the role played by the relevant ministers and involving the private sector, we can achieve our goals in Afghanistan," he concluded.

assert absurd charges about Iranian intentions and deeds.

Even now, when an honest few Western journalists have clearly disproven that Iran's ally Assad in Syria used chemical weapons wantonly on its own citizens (who remain solidly behind Assad) as Syria emerges from a decade of destruction and death, the propagandists in Washington and some in the mainstream media continue to lie. The net result is that the American public has little clue what to think about many countries like Iran and Syria and dismay and ignorance prevail.

It's unlikely Iranians, beset by sanctions and threats from the Zionists and Washington and some other U.S. allies, are going to feel any sympathy for Americans whose unwise leaders have gotten the country on a downward trajectory, but Iranians should realize that the very policies that have damaged countries abroad have also damaged average Americans and they are marginally beginning to wake up to this fact. The faster this awakening expands, the faster things can improve worldwide.

Ayatollah Khamenei warns of sectarian dispute fomented by U.S.

Frome Page 1 ► Ayatollah Khamenei underlined the need for strengthening unity among all Muslims and warned of the efforts by the U.S. to stoke sectarian tensions among Muslim sects.

The Leader said, “In any period of time, it is the believers’ duty to look at what situation they are in, what the religion expects of them, and what mission has been assigned to them. In this era, acting duly based on Islam’s comprehensiveness and the issue of Islamic unity appear to be very important,” according to a read-out published by the Khamenei.ir.

“The Islamic Unity is definitely a Quranic obligation. The unity of Muslims is not a tactical matter that some people assume we should be united in certain situations. No, it is a principle. Cooperation between Muslims is necessary. If Muslims are united, they will all be strong,” he said.

The Leader added, “An indicator of Muslim unity is the issue of Palestine. If Muslim unity is realized, the issue of Palestine will be solved in the best way. Some Islamic governments committed a grave sin by normalizing relations with the usurping, despotic Zionist regime. They must repent and compensate.”

Ayatollah Khamenei said the reason for repetitively reiterating the need for unity is the “serious efforts” by the enemies to deepen the schism between Muslim sects. “Today, the words ‘Shia’ and ‘Sunni’ have entered the political language of the Americans while they oppose and are enemy of Islam itself,” he



said, noting that the U.S. and its agents are making efforts to create sedition all over the Muslim world.

“The sorrowful and heart-wrenching explosions in Afghanistan’s mosques against the Muslim and worshipping people are a case in point which was carried out by Daesh, and the Americans openly stated that they created Daesh,” the Leader added.

He was referring to recent two explosions targeting mostly Shia Muslim worshippers performing Friday prayers. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the deadly attacks, raising alarm bells in Tehran over a possible plot to pitch Afghanistan’s Shia

Muslims against the Sunni Taliban and then pitch the Taliban against Tehran.

Iran quickly warned about this plot and increased diplomatic contacts with other Muslim countries and institutions in a bit to prevent an internecine war in Afghanistan, one, that if unleashed, would have severe implications for Tehran and the entire region.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian discussed the situation in Afghanistan with his Turkish and Indonesian counterparts as well as Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Yousef Al-Othaimeen.

Amir Abdollahian told the OIC chief that Daesh attacks in Kunduz and

Kandahar are aimed to cause sectarian division in Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan attacks coupled with rising tensions in Lebanon and Iraq as well as Azerbaijan created a sense of danger among many Iranians. Some experts and officials in Iran believe that these developments are pieces of one puzzle and that all seek to drive a wedge between Iran and its neighbors in an era marking a decline in U.S. military presence in the West Asia region.

Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf pointed to this Iranian assessment on Sunday at a Tehran conference cherishing Muslim unity. “The Islamic Ummah should know that today global arrogance, led America and the Zionist regime [Israel], seeks to drag Muslims, through sowing division, into fratricide. They seek to sow insecurity in the Muslim world in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the region. Their effort to create division in Lebanon and Iraq and provoke the leaders of the region’s countries are all in this direction,” the parliament speaker said.

Qalibaf underlined that U.S. troops superficially left the region but their work is still unfinished.

But while the U.S. is bet on the leaders of some Muslim countries in order to secure its interests by pitching them against Tehran, Iran is carefully extending its hands to the people in the region in an effort to beef up unity among Muslims. At the end of the day, Iran is a Muslim country and Muslims are the natural allies of Iran.

SPORTS

Foolad Sirjan coach Rezaei reveals how difficult it was to win Asian title

Frome Page 1 ► “My ultimate goal was to achieve success and to reach a peak in my journey with the team. Fortunately, we could handle the situation with players’ efforts and the club managers’ support,” added the head coach of Sirjan Foolad.

Foolad Sirjan will represent Asia at the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men’s Club World Championship. However, Rezaei confirms that the club must consider the condition to decide about participating in the Club World Championship.

“The world championship consists of the best teams with best players from all over the world. We will consult with the club managers to make the best decision about participating in this tournament.

“The main issue is that we have lost key players, and there is no time to sign new players because the transfer window is over. To strengthen the team by signing new players, we have to wait till the mid-season transfer window,” concluded Rezaei.

Main goal is to qualify for Paris 2024: Mahdavia

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team coach Mehdi Mahdavia says that they are ready for the 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification but their main goal is booking a place in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Iran will kick off the qualification on Monday against Nepal.

“We are well-prepared for the competition and hope to show a good performance but our main goal is to book a place in the Paris 2024,” Mahdavia said.

“The Tajikistan’s match can help us to prepare for the Olympics. We want to participate at the Olympics after 48 years with a long-term plan,” he added.

“Our main opponent in Dushanbe is Tajikistan but we respect Nepal and Lebanon as well. There is no an easy team in football. We have not invited our foreign based players for this competition,” the former Iran winger went on to say.

The 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification is being held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from Oct. 23 to 31. Iran are pitted against host Tajikistan, Nepal and Lebanon in Group B.

A total of 16 teams will qualify to play in the final tournament, including Uzbekistan as hosts.

Sadeghzadeh becomes Iran’s Pahlevan for seventh time

TEHRAN – Jaber Sadeghzadeh became Iran’s Pahlevani Wrestling Championship for the seventh time on Sunday.

He defeated Amir Mohammadi in the +100kg final in Tehran’s Azadi Hall. Iran president Ebrahim Raisi attended the match.

Pahlavan of Iran is an annual Pahlevani Wrestling competition held in Iran, in which athletes from across the country participate to achieve the title.

Though the competition has ancient roots, its modern form has been held since 1944.

Winner of this title is called Pahlavan and wears the special Bazouband (Armband).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) registered Pahlevani and Zourkhaneh rituals in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014.

Sepahan defeat Naft Masjed Soleyman in IPL

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team defeated Naft Masjed Soleyman 3-0 thank to Sajad Shahbazzadeh’s brace.

In the match held in Ahvaz’s Foolad Arena, Shahbazzadeh scored twice in the seventh and 25th minute.

In the 39th minute, unmarked Giorgi Gvelesiani scored the visiting team’s third goal with a header.

Mes Rafsanjan and Padideh match was cancelled.

On Monday, Zob Ahan will host Esteghlal in Isfahan, Havadar face Paykan in Tehran, Tractor play Sanat Naft in Tabriz and Fajr Sepasi meet Gol Gohar in Shiraz.

Iran remain unchanged in FIFA ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national football team remained in 22nd place in the FIFA ranking released on Thursday.

October 2021 was a busy month in international football, with qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, friendlies, and the final rounds of the UEFA Nations League all on the agenda. A total of 160 fixtures were played, the impact of which can be seen on the FIFA World Ranking.

Though their lead is now under threat, Belgium remain top despite UEFA Nations League defeats to France (3rd, +1) and Italy (4th, +1). Among the top five, only Les Bleus and Gli Azzurri have improved their positions.

Brazil remain second but are breathing down the neck of Belgium, just 12 points behind. England, meanwhile, drop two places to fifth.

The next edition will be published on Nov. 25.

Iran sitting volleyball maintained invincibility in 2020 Tokyo: IPC

TEHRAN – Iran came out with terrific performances to clinch their seventh Paralympic gold medal as thrilling contest was underway over 10 days at Makuhari Messe Hall in Tokyo.

Iran maintained their invincibility clinching the seventh title, second in a row, after a 3-1 win over Russian Paralympic Committee at Makuhari Messe Hall, according to IPC.

RPC rallied back in the third set with a 25-19 win but couldn’t maintain the momentum thereafter only to falter against the Iranians.

What sets the Iranian apart are their Unity and Determination to continue the momentum, Paralympic.org reported.

Ramezan Salehi, who has been part of Iran’s team in five Paralympic Games since Athens 2004, highlighted these factors adding that years of meticulous training also has been a key reason to their success.

More and more training, that’s how Iran team has picked up seven Paralympic titles making them the most successful nation in men’s sitting volleyball at Paralympics.

Iran Spiker Morteza Mehrzad was named the Most Valuable Player of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games after his stupendous performance at the Games steered his team to back-to-back gold medal.

Mehrzad’s brilliant show at Tokyo 2020 made him the top scorer among the Iranians with a total of 80 points off 68 attacks, also making him the Best Spiker of the Games. In the final against RPC, he accumulated 28 points off 25 attacks.

Mehdi Taremi nets hat trick against Tondela

TEHRAN – Iranian forward Mehdi Taremi scored a hat trick in FC Porto’s victory against Tondela Saturday night.

Neto Borges gave the host a lead in the 4th minute, but Taremi equalized the match in the 20th minute.

Tondela’s Iker Undabarrena was shown a red card in the 28th minute for bringing down Taremi with a clear break on goal.

Taremi scored two more times in the 43rd and 79th minutes.

With these three goals, the Iranian Taremi is the top scorer in the Portuguese championship with seven goals, one more than his teammate, Colombian winger Luis Diaz.

Having played one more game than rival Benfica and Sporting, Porto are the provisional leader of the League with 23 points.

ECO secretary general meets Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and the Economic Cooperation Organization’s new Secretary General Khosro Nazeri have held talks over ECO’s role in the region and in strengthening cooperation among member states.

Amir Abdollahian expressed satisfaction with the implementation of infrastructure and long-term projects in the fields of transportation, trade, finance and banking. He voiced hope that incomplete projects will be finished during Nazeri’s tenure, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Iranian foreign minister also voiced regret

over the recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan which is a key member of ECO.

Elsewhere, Amir Abdollahian referred to recent negotiations between Iran and the European Union in Tehran and Brussels, saying the nuclear talks between Iran and the 4+1 group of countries will soon resume.

In the meeting, ECO’s secretary general expressed pleasure with his trip to Iran.

Nazeri appreciated Iran’s effective help with his appointment as ECO’s chief and gave a report on the activities of the body including arrangements that are afoot to hold the ECO summit in Ashgabat on November

28 with the presidents of member states in attendance.

He underlined Iran’s key role in ECO and urged the Islamic Republic to continue supporting the important regional organization.

Amir Abdollahian reaffirmed Iran’s continued backing for ECO and its secretary general, expressing hope that in the Ashgabat summit which is expected to be attended by Iran’s president, key decisions will be made for development of regional cooperation.

It should be pointed out that Khosro Nazeri from Tajikistan was recently appointed as ECO’s secretary general.

of direct contacts between relevant government agencies.”

Commenting on Saturday’s conversation, Amir Abdollahian said he held a “frank” and “constructive” conversation with Bayramov.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan are to Muslim neighbors with a lot of commonalities. I had a frank, cordial, and constructive conversation with my colleague Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov about the forward-moving roadmap of [our] comprehensive relations. Relations between the two governments and nations will be developed in light of mutual respect,” Abdollahian said on Twitter.

Also on Saturday, the office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, opened Azeri-language accounts on Facebook and Twitter in what appeared to an effort to reach out to the Azerbaijani people.

Over the last weeks, relations between Tehran and Baku soured for a number of reasons.

The tensions began in early August when social media users in Iran reported mistreatment of Iranian truck drivers by Azerbaijani forces along the Goris-Kapan Highway which links Iran to Armenia through the newly-liberated Karabakh region. The Iranian trucks were carrying

Armenia-bound goods from Iran but due to the change in Karabakh’s borders during a 2020 war had to pass through a road curve into Azerbaijan’s territory.

Azerbaijan also reportedly imposed a staggering tax on Iranian commercial trucks which drew criticism from Iranian merchants.

Azerbaijan confirmed the trucks row by inviting the Iranian ambassador to Baku, Seyed Abbas Mousavi. On August 11, the Azerbaijani foreign ministry issued a statement saying that Mousavi was “invited” to the ministry over the issue of the trucks.

“During the meeting, Ambassador’s attention was drawn to the undesirable facts revealed in connection with the illegal travel of trucks belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran to Karabakh,

and Note Verbal was submitted to the opposite side,” the statement said. “Dissatisfaction with the recent continuous entry-exit of various vehicles belonging to the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran to Karabakh region of

Azerbaijan without the permission of official Baku is expressed in the Note. Our dissatisfaction, which earlier was conveyed to the Iranian side verbally, was once again raised in front of the Iranian Ambassador during the meeting.”

Iran moved to resolve the issue in a

Amir Abdollahian describes his conversation with Azerbaijan’s Bayramov as “frank” and “constructive”.

Astana peace process representatives meet UN Syria envoy

TEHRAN – The representatives of Iran, Russia and Turkey at the Astana peace talks met on October 21 with UN special envoy for Syria Ger O. Pedersen on the sidelines of the Syrian Constitutional Committee’s meeting in Geneva.

The Iranian foreign minister’s senior advisor for political affairs Ali Asghar Khaji represents Iran in Geneva, heading a high-ranking delegation. He attended the four-way

meeting with Pederson in addition to separate talks with the representatives of Russia and Turkey, the Iranian foreign ministry said. At the meeting, Khaji supported the efforts of the UN envoy for Syria and stressed that, alongside the talks on the Syrian constitution, all sides must take account of the humanitarian crisis, the removal of sanctions, the reconstruction of Syria and the fight against terrorism. Khaji

added that the UN and the international community should not neglect the U.S. illegal presence in Syria and Israel’s repeated aggression against the Arab country.

At the meeting, Pederson and the Turkish and Russian envoys also spoke on the 6th round of talks about the Syrian constitution. They expressed pleasure at the course of the negotiations between Syrian factions.

Iran's economy getting back on track: CBI governor

From page 1 ► and the Central Bank of Iran, the unemployment rate in the second quarter of 2021 fell to 8.8 percent, which shows a decrease of one percent compared to the same period last year," he added.

Mentioning the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the global economy, Saleh-Abadi said no country is safe unless all countries are vaccinated against the virus, adding: "Given the single-digit vaccination rate in low-income countries, it is difficult to meet the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s target of 40 percent vaccination by the end of this year and 60 percent by mid-2022, and any delay in vaccination in any region is the biggest threat to the global economy."

The official further welcomed the IMF's new plan and strategy to help members meet the challenges of climate change, stating: "We all agree that climate change is a global threat that is disproportionately burdened by countries with a small share of carbon emissions. Climate change has many characteristics and dimensions, which are of different importance in different regions and countries."

IMF, in its latest World Economic Outlook



report titled "Recovery During a Pandemic", predicted 2.5-percent GDP growth for Iran in 2021, with no change from the fund's previous report.

The entity modified its forecasts of the global economic growth from six percent in its previous report to 5.9 percent; the fund expects the global economy to shrink even more in 2022 to settle at 4.9 percent in 2022.

Based on the IMF data, despite the sanctions and the negative impact of the pandemic, the Iranian economy is going to outperform many countries both in the region and across the world.

Aluminum ingot production up 23% in 6 months on year

TEHRAN – Production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 23 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The country's six-month aluminum ingot output stood at 260,679 tons.

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

The country's aluminum ingot output stood at 446,800 tons in the previous year.

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

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

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

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

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

Last year, during the inauguration ceremony of Iran's biggest aluminum production complex (in the central Fars province), the former industry minister said the country's aluminum production is expected to be doubled with that unit going operational.

The official put the value of the Iranian mining industry's production at about \$22 billion, saying that the country is relatively self-sufficient in minerals and a great deal is also exported every year.

He went on underlying the country's capacities in the sector, saying that Iran is ranked 18th among the world's top aluminum producers, and with this new plant going operational the country will climb four places to stand at 14th place."

Iran plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

TEHRAN – Iran exported 1.3 tons of caviar worth \$539,000 in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), registering a 50 percent rise in terms of value compared to the figure for the previous year's same period, an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

According to Arezu Ghaniyoun, the deputy head of the IRI-CA Bureau of Customs Statistics and Information Processing, the Islamic Republic had exported 605 kilograms of caviar worth \$350,000 during the previous year's same six months, IRIB reported.

The exports of the mentioned products increased 110 percent in terms of weight, she said.

Iranian caviar was exported to 23 different countries during the mentioned time span, Ghaniyoun noted.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the main importer of Iranian caviar during the said six months, accounting for about 32 percent of the total imports in terms of weight and value. Britain stood



H1 caviar exports rises 50% yr/yr

in second place, accounting for nearly 17 percent of the total caviar imports.

Portugal, Kuwait, and Japan, each accounting for about six percent of Iran's total caviar exports, were also among the top importers of the product in the first half of the current year, according to Ghaniyoun.

She noted that about 466 kg of the total exported caviar was

exported to five European countries, namely Britain, Spain, Switzerland, Greece, and Portugal, which means about 37 percent of Iran's caviar exports were to Europe.

Back in July, Head of Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Nabiollah Khoun-Mirzaei said the country's annual caviar production has reached 12 tons.

Speaking on the sidelines of

the Sixth National Conference and Exhibition on Caviar and Related Industries, Khoun-Mirzaei put the annual production of sturgeon meat at over 3,500 tons.

He stated that the development of the sturgeon breeding industry is on the IFO agenda, adding: "In recent years, in some parts of the country, sturgeon breeding in cages has been on the agenda and we are trying to develop this type of breeding."

Noting that the Iranian caviar is the best and most expensive caviar in the world, Khoun-Mirzaei said: "Considering the popularity of Iranian caviar and sturgeon meat in the world and the high price and profitability of the mentioned commodity, the export of the product is done officially through the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA)."

The Persian sturgeon is a species of fish in the family Acipenseridae. It is found in the Caspian Sea and to a lesser extent the Black Sea and ascends certain rivers to spawn, mainly the Volga, Kura, Araks, and Ural Rivers.

Iranian trade delegations visit Armenia seeking expansion of ties

TEHRAN – Two Iranian trade delegations have visited Armenia over the past month to explore avenues of mutual cooperation in various areas including plastic, polymers, agriculture, and foodstuff with Armenian counterparts, Iran's commercial attaché in Yerevan announced.

"During their visit, the delegations examined the export potentials and barriers to trade cooperation between the two countries," IRNA quoted Akbar Godari as saying on Friday.

According to the official, one of the mentioned delegations was comprised of businessmen and traders active in the polymer and plastics industry while the other one was mainly focused on agriculture and foodstuff areas.

During their visit, the polymer and plastics delegation met with the Iranian Ambassador to Yerevan, Abbas Badakhshan Zohuri, to dis-



cuss geopolitical issues, the importance of the Armenian market, the country's trade-related laws and regulations, as well as issues related to mutual coproduction, Godari said.

"Chairman of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce Hervik Yarijanian, in a meeting with the Iranian delegation, emphasized on the development of trade between the two countries and noted that the existing obstacles are hindering the growth and development of mutual exports and trade," he added.

Sponge iron export increases 287% in H1

TEHRAN- The export of sponge iron in Iran has risen 287 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.

As reported, 673,000 tons of sponge iron was exported in the six-month period of this year.

Production of sponge iron in the country fell six percent to 14.527 million tons in the period under review.

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is pro-

duced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by a reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such



barriers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

Tehran hosts Iran-Turkey trade conference

TEHRAN – The International Institute of Iran Industries Research (MPSIran) in collaboration with the Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce hosted a conference on Iran-Turkey trade cooperation in Tehran on Saturday evening.

The event was attended by senior officials from both sides including Head of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce Jalal Ebrahimi, the Deputy Head of Turkey's Independent Industrialists and Businessmen Association Selman Erdogan, and the MPSIran Managing Director Sina Sanjari.

The attendees of the meeting discussed a variety of issues in this event and explored ways for removing the barriers in the way of the expansion of two countries' trade.

Speaking in the meeting, Sanjari said Iranian traders, producers and exporters should follow the marketing and negotiation methods of Turkish traders.

According to him, Turkish businessmen have been successful in various trade fields



MPSIran Managing Director Sina Sanjari (1st L) and Head of Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce Jalal Ebrahimi (C).

and the experiences of Turkish businessmen can be useful for Iranian traders.

He said that if the sanctions are lifted, Turkey will be Iran's trade channel with Europe and Iranian businessmen must have the necessary economic coordination with the Turkish side for a successful trade with European countries.

"For Iranian businessmen, producers and exporters, Turkish business models will be a

good example of successful trade, which will be discussed at such conferences," he added.

Sanjari further noted that the currency and trade problems between Turkey and Iran must be resolved so that Iranian traders can have a successful and hassle-free trade with Turkey and other countries.

Elsewhere in the conference, Halal Ebrahimi, who is also the head of Iran-Turkey Common Trade Council, said commercial

attachés are an opportunity to expand exports to other countries, adding: "Iran should try to have active economic advisors in all countries."

He further underlined the need for using modern negotiation techniques for expanding trade ties, saying: "in order to develop Iran's trade relations with other countries, proper negotiations should be practiced and modern business models should be examined."

Finally, Erdogan for his part expressed the Turkish private sector's readiness for cooperation with their Iranian counterparts.

Erdogan said that Turkish companies are willing to invest in Iran in order to have better access to Iranian markets, adding: "Many companies in Turkey are now ready to invest in Iran."

According to him, Iran and Turkey have great cultural similarities, and in case of any problems in trade between the two countries, it should be well managed to achieve win-win results for the two sides.

Over 7m tons of commodities traded at IME in a month

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar month (September 23-October 22), 7,222 million tons of commodities worth \$2.008 billion was traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), the exchange's Public Relations and International Affairs Department reported.

Within this month, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 5.541 million tons of commodities valued at \$1.096 billion.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1.226 million tons of steel, 3.993 million tons of cement, 26,445 tons of copper, 580 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 69 tons of precious

metals concentrate, 23,940 tons of aluminum, 215,000 tons of iron ore, 21,870 tons of zinc, 2,000 tons of coke, 49,000 tons of sponge iron and 67 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor trade of more than 1.65 million tons of commodities worth \$885 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 419,796 tons of bitumen, 328,872 tons of polymeric products, 140,451 tons of chemicals, 13,955 tons of slops wax and 501,000 tons of vacuum bottom.

\$11b of investment required to complete West Karoun development projects

TEHRAN – Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has said the company requires \$11 billion of investment for completing the development projects defined for the oil fields at the West Karoun region.

Speaking in the introductory ceremony of the new head of Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), Mohsen Khojasteh Mehr pointed to the West Karoun joint oil fields as the most important projects of the National Iranian Oil Company and called on the new PEDEC head to strongly focus on the development of the mentioned oil fields especially South Azadegan field.

Iran's oil industry has been strongly focused on

developing joint oil and gas fields, aiming to increase the share of such fields in the country's oil and gas production.

West Karoun oilfields, which Iran shares with Iraq at the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun, include five major fields namely North Azadegan, South Azadegan, North Yaran, South Yaran, and Yadavaran.

West Karoun holds great importance for the country's oil industry since according to the latest studies, its in-situ deposit is estimated to be 67 billion barrels containing both light and heavy crude oils, and therefore it could have a big impact on Iran's oil output increases in the future.

Zero chance for EU to make a break with NATO: EU MP

From page 1 ► Following is the text of the interview:

What are the repercussions of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in terms of mass immigration towards Europe?

We just don't know yet. The EU is pursuing an aggressive externalization policy in order to stop migrants from Afghanistan from ever getting near the EU's borders; it, therefore, remains to be seen whether we'll see an increase in Afghan refugees. What we can say with certainty, though, is that if there is an increase, the EU will respond to them with its usual violence and racism.

Some political observers claim that Turkey's Erdogan is playing with immigration card to pressure the EU. What is your comment?

Erdogan wouldn't have an 'immigration card' to play if Europe lived up to its responsibilities to welcome and accommodate refugees at a level commensurate with its huge wealth and resources.

How do you assess the EU's independence from the U.S. in terms of security as there is talk of a European NATO?

The EU has always been the U.S.'s lapdog, and talk of a European NATO won't change that. European militarism is much less about a break with the Euro-Atlanticist order than it is about siphoning off billions in citizens' money to give to arms companies. The idea of a European army is something that



will be in addition to NATO, not a replacement for it – with obvious and destructive ramifications for global peace and security.

While some European politicians like to talk up the idea of European 'strategic autonomy', there is zero chance of European states making a break with NATO, and all the strategic autonomy talk is more aimed at softening citizens up for more military spending than anything else.

How do you evaluate the EU's move in building a multipolar

world? Washington is trying to curb any power that may challenge its hegemony including China. Harsh sanctions on Iran, after Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal are another example of U.S. unilateralism whereas the EU preferred to sit on the fence and watch.

The EU's attitude to multipolarity is slightly schizophrenic at the moment – both the EU institutions and some member states have followed the U.S. in taking an increasingly hysterical and belligerent tone re-

“The EU has always been the U.S.'s lapdog, and talk of a European NATO won't change that.”

garding Russia and China, but on a practical level when it comes to the member states, there's still a lot of cooperation with both countries. When it came to the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Europe talked a surprisingly good game in the beginning, but ultimately showed itself unwilling to put its money where its mouth was – the much-hyped INSTEX mechanism ending up as a lame duck that didn't secure EU trade with Iran following the imposition of U.S. sanctions. Some of that is down to the fact that the EU doesn't have full control over what businesses in its jurisdiction do or don't do, of course, but it was also a matter of political will is lacking.

Do you think that AUKUS will cause a turning point in Europe's attitude towards the U.S. and Britain? London preferred to stand on America's side while France as a European country is a losing side.

To be honest, I'm not sure that it will. Relations with Britain have already been strained by Brexit, and AUKUS added another layer, but it's certainly not a game-changer anywhere outside of France (and it's questionable as to the real effects it will have on UK-French relations, beyond bluster). In terms of the relationship between the EU and the U.S., I don't see it as having any long-term effect. The EU and the U.S. are too tightly bound up as a trade and imperial power bloc for a spat over some submarines to upset that.

Daesh terror in Afghanistan: A divide-and-conquer operation?



By Kevin Barrett

On Friday, October 15, more than thirty people were killed in a terrorist bombing of the Bibi Fatima Mosque in Kandahar, Afghanistan. A week earlier, on October 8, a terrorist bomb devastated the Sayed Abad Mosque in Kunduz, killing dozens of people and wounding more than 150. The previous Monday, at least seven people died in the bombing of the Eidgah Mosque in Kabul during the funeral service for the mother of Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid. All three attacks were claimed by Daesh.

Western media blames “Islamic extremism” for these and similar events. But Daesh, far from being an authentic Islamic liberation group, is actually a tool of anti-Islamic forces. To understand the true role and origins of Daesh, we need to understand the geostrategic imperatives and false flag tactics of the imperialist invaders of the Muslim world.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, perhaps the single most important force behind the post-1979 US presence in Afghanistan, famously wrote: “The three grand imperatives of imperial geostrategy are to prevent collusion and maintain security dependence among the vassals, to keep tributaries pliant and protected, and to keep the barbarians from coming together.”

Today, a great many nations could be called either tributaries or vassals of the US empire (which might be more accurately termed the Anglo-Zionist empire, the Western bankster empire, or the NATO empire). To the extent that a nation's banking system is linked to the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and other Western-dominated financial institutions, that nation could be considered one of the empire's tributaries; while those nations that host US military forces, and/or cooperate with US/NATO military ventures, might be called vassals.

Then who are Brzezinski's “barbarians”? They are the nations that refuse to be dominated by the empire's military and financial control systems.

US-occupied Afghanistan was a de facto tributary and vassal from 2001 through 2021. In August of this year, it rejoined the ranks of “barbarians” (nations that resist the imperial system). By doing so, it set itself up to be targeted by the empire's covert operators, whose mission is to “keep the barbarians from uniting.”

The empire will implement its divide-and-conquer strategy against Afghanistan on two levels. First, it will try to foment fractiousness and chaos within the borders of Afghanistan, using false flag operations as its primary tactic. Second, it will try to divide the government of Afghanistan from other “barbarian” nations outside the imperial system.

The empire's primary tool for dividing-and-conquering Afghanistan is Daesh. Branded “ISIS-K” in English—a name that sounds like a pagan breakfast cereal—Daesh routinely attacks civilian targets with the aim of inciting ethnic and sectarian strife. Though Daesh pretends its goal is to unify the Muslim world, its real objective is precisely the opposite: to “keep the Muslims from uniting,” as Brzezinski would put it. Currently Daesh is being deployed by its controllers to destabilize the Taliban government in Kabul, which has set out to establish a government of national unity under Islam that would be considerably more inclusive than the tribalist Taliban governments of the 1990s.

The empire has unleashed Daesh as a weapon against the Taliban's unifying efforts. By slaughtering Hazara Muslim worshippers and

other innocent civilians, while simultaneously attacking the Taliban, Daesh hopes to turn Shia and Sunni Muslims against each other, while provoking ethnic strife in order to prevent the peaceful unification of Afghanistan.

The empire also hopes that its Daesh mercenaries will wreck Afghanistan's relations with Iran, and by extension with the Iran-Russia-China bloc that is rising to challenge the empire's dominance in Eurasia. Daesh's ferocious pseudo-Sunni sectarianism is not only anathema to Iran, but also alienates Russia and China, which have their own problems with “Islamic terrorism.” While using Daesh to destabilize Afghanistan and ruin relations with its neighbors, the empire also can send its Daesh terrorist shock troops to serve as mercenaries against the Chinese in Xinjiang, the Russians in Chechnya and across Russia's southern border, and the Iranians and their allies in the Muslim East.

Daesh terrorism also serves as a psychological weapon against Islam in general and the post-1979 Islamic Awakening in particular. Public relations experts and psychological operations specialists

know that the best way to discredit a message is to put it in the mouth of a loathsome spokesperson. Today, the noble Islamic concept of jihad, which means “struggle in the path of God,” has been equated in the public mind with the horrific terrorist atrocities of Daesh. In reality, jihad can refer to either the struggle to be a better person (greater jihad) or the struggle to defend the community (lesser jihad). But thanks to false flag terror groups like Daesh, when the non-Muslim public hears the word jihad it thinks of appalling attacks on civilians.

More specifically, Daesh has been tasked by the empire with discrediting Muslim unity. Daesh pretends that its mission is to establish a universal Islamic caliphate. But by using the most mindlessly heinous terrorist tactics imaginable, Daesh creates the impression that only bloodthirsty homicidal maniacs favor Islamic unity. That impression is far from the truth! In reality, polls have showed that roughly two-thirds of the residents of the biggest contiguous Muslim countries are in favor of abolishing national borders and establishing a unified pan-Islamic ummah. And they want to do it peacefully. That prospect terrifies the empire—which, if the Muslim “barbarians” united, would lose its control over the world's most strategic lands and resources. Even worse, from the empire's perspective, is that a pan-Islamic ummah would use its energy resources to annihilate the Western bankers' monopoly on currency, overthrowing the current riba (usury) banking system in favor of an Islamic non-usurious alternative.

Additionally, a unified House of Islam would quickly expel the genocidal Zionist squatters from Palestine. The illegitimate Zionist entity only survives due to the division and fractiousness in the Muslim world. So Daesh divides and subjugates Muslims, and discredits their pan-Islamic unity efforts, on behalf of Zionism as well as imperialism.

When we pray for the victims of Daesh's terror bombings, we should recognize their status as martyrs in the larger struggle to defend the Muslim-majority lands against invaders and plunderers, as well as in the moral struggle of right against wrong.

Dr. Kevin Barrett is an Arabist-Islamologist scholar and one of America's best-known critics of the War on Terror. From 1991 through 2006 Dr. Barrett taught at colleges and universities in San Francisco, Paris and Wisconsin.

UK factories suffer as concern rises over inflation

TEHRAN – A survey by the Confederation of British Industry has shown UK manufacturers are struggling with their worst supply chain shortages since the mid 1970s. Fears are now growing in the sector over the financial fallout of rising costs and a lack of materials on the backdrop of Brexit and the coronavirus.

Almost two-thirds of the businesses that were surveyed have warned that in the next three months, a shortage of items will hit their factory's output.

The research shows this is the biggest supply chain shortage since 1975, a year when inflation also hit a postwar high with severe economic woes in Britain as health workers went on strike and bin collectors staged industrial action.

The latest survey of 263 manufacturers reveals increasing concern over staff shortages and skilled staff shortages. Those who participated in the survey also cited rising fuel, transport and energy bills, alongside steep price increases for items in short supply.

About 64% of UK manufacturers reported a particularly steep rise in unfinished work, with the backlog rate at its fastest since June, the data showed. They also warned they are struggling to meet customer demand, while blaming falling export sales. A lack of skilled labor to keep factory production lines running has also been cited.

As manufacturers face challenging months ahead, information provider IHS Markit says companies have also been hit by a record rise in costs.

Many countries around the world are facing challenging times as their economies emerge fractured from the coronavirus Pandemic, but the situation in the UK has been exacerbated by the government's new post-Brexit trade and immigration rules.

With slow economic growth and concerns that severe disruption could ruin the Christmas holiday season, the government has drafted in former chief executive of Tesco, David Lewis, for advice on the shortages.

According to Downing Street, Lewis will offer his expertise on necessary long-term changes to UK supply chains and any immediate measures of improvement that can be taken.

In a statement, Downing Street said, “this includes both identifying the causes of current blockages and pre-empting potential future ones, and advising on resolutions either through direct government action or through industry with government support.” Lewis will also co-chair a new supply chain advisory group and will be based in the Cabinet Office.”

However, the Confederation of British Industry says action was required in the budget to unblock short-term challenges across the economy.

The lobby group warned that, “manufacturers are using key levers, such as hiring new

workers and planning further investment in plant and machinery and training, to expand production. But with both orders and costs growth expected to climb over the next quarter; we're not out of the woods yet.”

Companies have reported that average growth in the three months to October remained mostly the same as July, a period when company prices rose to their fastest rate since 1980.

This as UK consumer confidence has dropped for the third month in a row. According to consumer research firm GfK; consumer confidence index fell in October as the economy was hit with labor and fuel shortages, as well as a rise in COVID cases.

GfK says, “after six-months of robust recovery in the first half of 2021, UK consumer confidence has taken a turn for the worse with all vital signs weakening. The sharpest concern is how consumers see the future economy, with this collapsing 10 points this month just as it did in September.”

Meanwhile, a rise in inflation comes just one month after rocketing gas prices led to the collapse of several British energy suppliers, leaving households with the prospect of much higher bills in 2022.

There are growing concerns about the cost of living in the UK. The Bank of England believed the soaring energy costs will drive inflation above 4% this winter.

In recent weeks, more than a dozen energy suppliers have withdrawn from the retail market, and more are likely to do the same as wholesale gas prices rally. The UK has a so-called Energy Price Cap in place which puts the burden on energy firms.

One of the largest energy companies in the UK, ScottishPower, says unless the government intervenes “we are in danger of just sleepwalking into an absolute massacre [ScottishPower] think probably in the next month at least another 20 suppliers will end up going bankrupt.”

According to ScottishPower, the price cap currently costs providers around \$6.9 billion (£5 billion).

Adding to the financial woes, figures from Confederation of British Industry shows the growth rate for orders in October was at its lowest level since April. This is while optimism had considerably fallen as many economists believe consumer demand may weaken in the face of rising living costs the end of the furlough scheme as well as rising Covid cases in the UK again. Experts have warned of another winter wave which could trigger another lockdown, something the Prime Minister has public dismissed as it could rock the economic recovery even more.

The Bank of England had warned that ac-



tion will be taken if it saw a surge in inflation expectations in the medium term. Last month, Britain's Central Bank defined medium-term inflation expectations as five to 10 years from now.

The Bank of England's new chief economist, Huw Pill, has warned, “the UK inflation level is likely to rise close to or even slightly above 5 percent,” early next year, as he says the central bank would have to take a ‘live’ decision on whether to raise interest rates during its November meeting.

In a gloomy outlook he said, “I would not be shocked, let's put it that way, if we see an inflation print close to or above 5 per cent [in the months ahead]. And that's a very uncomfortable place for a central bank with an inflation target of 2 per cent to be.”

The British Chancellor Rishi Sunak has said he has no “magic wand” to stop increasing inflation as he admits that the issue could be out of the government's control. Sunak will unveil his autumn Budget on Wednesday.

But the former Brexit Secretary, David Davis, when the Chancellor delivers his Budget this week, he will do so with the country facing its worst winter crisis for more than 40 years.

Davis warned that, the “high taxing chancellor will send the UK economy crashing into the rocks.” He added, “rising fuel prices, tens of billions of pounds of tax increases, inflationary pressures and an environmental activist agenda for net zero are fueling a cost of living crisis for ordinary families.”

A record proportion of the British public thinks inflation will accelerate over the next 12 months, according to data that could further boost expectations that the Bank of England will raise interest rates next month.

In 2011, a similar surge in public inflation expectations in the euro zone led the European Central Bank to raise interest rates twice that year, although it quickly reversed course.

Economists say those hikes in the interest rate by the European Central Bank had been a big mistake and some think the Bank of England is at risk of repeating the same errors amid increasing signs of a slow and long path towards economic recovery.

Iran reopens borders to foreign tourists



TEHRAN –The Islamic Republic of Iran reopened its borders to foreign tourists as of October 23, the deputy tourism minister has announced.

As of last night, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control agreed to reopen the country's borders to foreign tourists, based on the new conditions prevailing in the country after crossing the fifth wave of the pandemic, increasing vaccinations, and at the request of the tourism ministry, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian said on Sunday.

As a condition for entry into the country, the headquarters has instructed all tourists and the host communities to follow all health protocols, the official added.

As the post-coronavirus era emerges, extensive measures have been taken to revive the tourism industry, the official added.

He also expressed hope that issuing tourist visas would result in an upsurge in tourism.

Tourist visas

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

Quake inflicts no harm to historical sites in Kerman

TEHRAN – A medium-sized 4.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Qalehganj county, southern Kerman province, on Thursday, caused no damage to historical sites across the province.

Based on field visits conducted by the cultural heritage experts, no serious damage to historical relics and monuments has been reported so far, Qalehganj's tourism chief Musa Ebrahimi said on Saturday.

However, experts are on standby to inspect the possible harms to historical sites and aging structures of the region, the official added.

Qalehganj (also spelled Qale Ganj) has so far yielded tens of prehistorical sites and relics including a variety of ancient hills, archaeological sites, cemeteries, subterranean aqueducts, shrines, lithographs, kilns, caravanserais, and castles, many of which so far have been identified and documented.

Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich

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.

They now have good grounds of hope as Zarghami announced on September 19 that the country plans to lift visa restrictions to help the severely hit tourism industry.

Meanwhile, the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 has continued to fall in the Islamic Republic, curbing a stubborn fifth wave of the pandemic, which has seen daily mortalities of up to 700 in recent weeks. As of September 22, the figure dropped to below 300 as the government has devoted a great deal of effort to vaccinate citizens against the nasty virus.

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

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

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



tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

mia, Ottoman Turkey, and Czarist Russia.

From the fecund Caspian coast to the stark, mountainous northern borders, and the crumbling desert ruins of the southern plains, the region hosts everything from paddy fields to blizzards to Persian gardens.

Iron Age is in fact final technological and cultural stage in the Stone–Bronze–Iron Age sequence. The date of the full Iron Age, in which this metal, for the most part, replaced bronze in implements and weapons, varied geographically, beginning in the Middle East and southeastern Europe about 1200 BC but in China not until about 600 BC, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Although in West Asia iron had limited use as a scarce and precious metal as early as 3000 BC, there is no indication that people at that time recognized its superior qualities over those of bronze.

Danish ambassador tells of his ‘unforgettable’ visit to Isfahan

From page 1 ▶ spectacular and I think this is the most beautiful square I have seen anywhere in the world.”

The ambassador called the visit an “unforgettable experience”, saying: “Also the location with the mountains in the background and a very friendly atmosphere adds to our unforgettable experience here.”

So we will come back on a regular basis actually with my sister and brother-in-law on our next flight so we will take on a trip out of Tehran to Isfahan. We would be here again the week after next.

In response to a question about ways to enhance tourism, the envoy said: “Well, I think we have a very, very significant interest in tourism to Iran.”

“I think the tendency is to move toward more exotic, cultural destinations and the focus on this regardless of the [U.S.-led] sanctions and maxi-

mum pressure.”

“We focus on it that there would be many Danish agencies that would come here 15 or 20 people who would usually conduct these tours for ten days They would move from Tehran to Isfahan, to Yazd, to Shiraz and Persepolis, where is a fantastic, important part of the Danish exploration history because one of our famous explorers came to Persepolis in the 18th century.”

The top diplomat noted. However, parts of travelers in the Danish tourism markets and package tours consist of people who prefer “to go to Spain, Portugal, or Italy and stay at the beach that makes sense that people enjoy beaches [as well].”

Vahr added the cultural tourism is gaining momentum in his country. “This sort of cultural-oriented tour-



ism which is also high in tourism in which people stay a lot more in a host country is picking up in Denmark.”

“And I think many parts of Iran almost see themselves interested in tourism,” he added.

He also appreciated efforts made by his Iranian counterpart to enhance tourism ties between the two nations, saying “I know very well that my good friend, the ambassador of Iran to Copenhagen, Afsaneh Nadipour, is also promoting this side of tourism through considerable efforts.”

The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning “Image of the World”), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Built in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated

with the most interesting sights in Isfahan.

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into “half the world”; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

The ancient city is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its ‘life-giving river’, the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

Qom holds potential to become medical tourism destination

TEHRAN – Medical tourism is planned to be facilitated and promoted in the central province of Qom after the coronavirus crisis is over, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

In the post-coronavirus era, foreign tourists will require medical services that are different from the past, and it is necessary to make the needed arrangements to meet these requirements, CHTN quoted Alireza Arjmandi as saying on Saturday.

Arab states of the Persian Gulf are interested in visiting Iran and in particular, the holy city of Qom, which presents a good opportunity to plan health tourism, the official added.

Expo 2020 Dubai, which is currently underway in the UAE, also offers a great chance to promote Qom as a destination for medical tourism, he noted.

Considering the province's capacity in health care, the expo is an excellent opportunity for marketing health tourism, he said.

Back in September, the official announced that a number of handicrafts masters and artisans from Qom are planning to participate at the Dubai Expo.

During the expo, artisans will showcase their works in the fields of handmade rings, miniatures, statues, and wood carving through live performances, he mentioned.

It is also an opportunity for Sohan producers, the most famous souvenir of the province, to reach the required market with the proper packaging and quality, as well as live baking of Sohan during the expo, the official explained.

Sohan is traditional saffron brittle toffee, which is mainly produced in the city of Qom. Made from flour, sugar, wheat sprout, egg yolks, butter, rose water, saffron, cardamom, and slivered pistachios or almonds, Sohan comes in different shapes, flavors, and qualities and is distributed across the country.

Qom has been designated as the national city of handmade rings as almost 1,200 crafters and artisans are active in the production of handmade jewelry and rings in workshops across the province.

The semi-precious stone mines, which are scattered across the province, are also one of Qom's potentials to be developed in this field of handicrafts. Besides domestic travelers, foreign tourists, who are mostly from Arab countries and the Persian Gulf littoral states, are traditionally the main customers of these handmade products.



The second-holiest city of the country after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools). Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage at the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

Medical tourism in Iran

The developing health tourism industry is one of the most important fields of Iran's travel sector, which is trying to prove its capabilities and capacities in attracting medical and health tourists to the country.

Many domestic experts believe that medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Iran's two most popular medical tourist cities are Tehran and Mashhad, but the coronavirus outbreak has significantly reduced the number of travelers.

Iran is one of the major destinations for health tourism in the region, and patients with 55 different nationalities, mostly from neighboring countries including Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are seeking to use Iran's services and facilities in this field.

Iranian hospitals admitted nearly 70,000 foreign patients over the Iranian calendar year 1397 (March



ery, smartness, and slender body. Many locals believe that breeding such horses is one of the tough-

2018 – March 2019) and it made an economic contribution of around \$1.2 billion to the country, according to the medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

In April 2018, the rotating presidency of the International Health Tourism Conference of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was handed to the Islamic Republic for a three-year term.

Mohammad Jahangiri who presides over a national center for developing health tourism said in May 2018 that Iran can annually earn \$7 billion in medical and health tourism, though the sector now brings in only one-seventh or even lesser of the sum.

The Islamic Republic has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in the Iranian calendar year 1404.

Expo 2020, an opportunity to promote Iran's tourism, handicrafts

The Expo 2020 Dubai opened on September 30 with a lavish ceremony of fireworks, music, and messaging about the power of global collaboration for a more sustainable future.

Iran's pavilion in the world fair is planned to showcase each Iranian province's strengths and assets in tourism, cultural heritage, handicrafts, as well as its natural sites, traditional ceremonial practices, and historical significance.

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.

est jobs in the world.

Local travel insiders believe that traveling in North Khorasan is gaining momentum by degrees, creating lucrative opportunities for the tourism industry.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, towards Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein some 20km north.

Climate change impact on drought intensification

TEHRAN – Climate change is one of the most important problems in Iran that can exacerbate drought and water stress, so it is necessary to make serious plans at the national level to address the phenomenon.

Increasing consumption of fossil fuels by humans, especially after the Industrial Revolution, has led to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately climate change, and now tackling this phenomenon has become one of the most important concerns worldwide.

Elham Azizi, an official with the Department of Environment, made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day against Climate Change held on October 24.

“Based on research and assessments conducted by Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and using scenarios proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), if the concentration of carbon dioxide doubles by 2100, Iran’s average temperature will increase by 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius.

Temperature change, sea-level rise, coastal degradation, destruction of agricultural and food products, deforestation, depletion of freshwater resources, regional climate change in the high and northern hemispheres, changes in rainfall and wind direction, rising natural disasters such as tornadoes and floods, intensifying droughts and developing desert areas, increasing air pollution due to rising hot winds and the poten-



tial impact on the spread of diseases such as malaria are some of the known consequences of climate change.

According to scientists, global warming due to climate change is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

This phenomenon has very destructive effects all over the world, especially for developing countries and countries in the middle of the world and the dry belt. As a threat to water resources and food security, it will lead to extreme phenomena such as floods and droughts, leading to local, regional and international conflicts, as well as widespread ecological migration.”

Following the increase in greenhouse gas emissions and changes in the Earth’s climate system,

which has led to an increase in the average global temperature in the 21st century by 0.6 degrees Celsius, governments have adopted the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In 1992, it was adopted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases to the extent that it prevents dangerous interference of human activities with the climate system. The law of accession of Iran to this convention was approved by the Guardian Council in 1996.

In 1997, at the Third Session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto, Japan, the Kyoto Protocol to the Commitments of Industrialized Countries, was drawn up, according to which industrialized States

committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent below the amount recorded in 1990, during 2008 to 2012.

Iran has also been a member of the Kyoto Protocol since 2005, but due to the fact that the greenhouse emission was still increasing in the world and the financial mechanisms envisaged in the Kyoto Protocol did not meet the current situation and the world continues to suffer from rising temperatures. In 2015 the Paris Agreement was formed on future climate change strategies, which our country has not yet joined.

Iran among top 10 countries in greenhouse gas emissions

According to the latest reports from global sources, Iran is among the top 10 countries in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

“This indicates the need for serious planning at the national level, however, climate change knows no political or geographical borders and is a phenomenon that affects the entire planet and the way to deal with or adapt to climate change is to reform human activities.

Awareness-raising for people to treat nature properly plays an important role in preventing climate change impact. People can take measures such as saving water and energy, using renewable energy, reducing water consumption in irrigation and agriculture, reducing the volume of waste through optimal consumption and recycling, etc. in order to tackle or adapt to climatic conditions,” she suggested.

By 2100,
Iran’s average
temperature will
increase by 1.5 to
4.5 degrees Celsius.

Health Ministry develops program to contain osteoporosis

TEHRAN – Providing the required medicine, insurance coverage, bone densitometry in deprived areas and appropriate treatment in hospitals for people suffering from osteoporotic fractures are among the programs of the Ministry of Health for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis.

Afshin Ostovar, head of the NCDs management department of the Ministry of Health, made the remarks in a press conference held virtually on Saturday on the occasion of World Osteoporosis Day, observed annually on October 20.

Over 170,000 cases of fractures are caused by osteoporosis in the country, 20 to 50 percent of the cases die, he lamented, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Osteoporosis and its resulting fractures cost the health system over 30 trillion rials (nearly \$714 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) a year, he noted, adding, in fact, in 80 percent of cases, the disease causes an inability to walk and in 50 percent of cases, it causes difficulty in walking.

Due to the fact that osteoporotic fractures are common in the country, but early diagnosis and use of effective drugs that can cure this disease, he further highlighted.

Referring to improper nutrition, inadequate consumption of dairy products, lack

of calcium and vitamin D, inadequate use of fruits and vegetables as risk factors, he stated that smoking, alcohol, and drugs are also effective in the development of this disease.

Currently, it has been estimated that more than 200 million people are suffering from osteoporosis. According to recent statistics from the International Osteoporosis Foundation, worldwide, 1 in 3 women over the age of 50 years and 1 in 5 men will experience osteoporotic fractures in their lifetime.

As the country’s aging population grows, the Ministry of Health has plans to prevent osteoporosis, namely, provision of the required medicine, insurance coverage, bone densitometry in deprived areas, and

appropriate treatment in hospitals for people suffering from osteoporotic fractures, he explained.

80% of Iranian women above 75 suffering from osteoporosis

Ostovar earlier in May said that 80 percent of women over the age of 75 across the country are suffering from osteoporosis.

Women are more exposed to osteoporosis than men, he said elaborating that averagely, all over the country, one in three women and one in five men aged over 50 get fractures due to osteoporotic each year, but now one in two



women and one in four men over the age of 50.

In other words, half of the women aged 50 or above experience osteoporosis fractures, 20 to 50 percent of pelvic fractures lead to death, he lamented.

Seventeen percent of Iranians over the age of 30 and 20 percent of women aged over 50 are suffering from osteoporosis, Ahmad Raeisodadat, secretary of the association of physical medicine and rehabilitation, said in October 2019.

Mina Kermani, a rheumatologist, announced in February 2019 that about seven million Iranian people were suffering from osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is a condition that weakens bones, making them fragile and more likely to break. It develops slowly over several years and is often only diagnosed when a minor fall or sudden impact causes a bone fracture.

The most common injuries in people with osteoporosis are wrist fractures and hip fractures.

Worldwide, more
than 200 million
people are suffering
from osteoporosis.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran urges Afghanistan to resume talks on Hamoun wetlands

Iran and Afghanistan should resume negotiations on the water rights of Hamoun wetlands, YJC quoted Masoud Tajrishi, deputy chief of the Department of Environment, as saying on Friday.

Commenting on Afghanistan’s injudicious dam construction on its tributaries Tajrishi also noted that low precipitation levels in the region has added insult to the injury.

“Iran and Afghanistan should reopen talks over the remaining water in Helmand River and discuss the water rights of the wetlands in Iran.”

He further underscored the importance of reaching a formal agreement with Afghanistan as the exposed lake bed is the main hotspot for debilitating sand and dust storms which cause great discomfort both for Iranians and Afghans as well.

افغانستان برای دادن حقایق هامون باید به میز مذاکره بازگردد

به گزارش روز جمعه باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان مسعود تجریشی معاون محیط زیست انسانی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: ایران و افغانستان برای دادن حقایق هامون باید به میز مذاکره بازگردند. تجریشی با اشاره به سیاست های مسئولان افغانستان برای سد سازی در بالادست تالاب اظهار کرد: متأسفانه وضعیت بارش ها در منطقه در شرایط مطلوبی نبود و به همین علت شرایط وخیم تر شده است. ایران و افغانستان برای حل مشکل آب باید به میز مذاکره بازگردند تا برای آب باقی مانده در رود هیرمند مذاکره کنند. وی ادامه داد: ما باید پیگیر این آب باشیم و به یک تفاهمی برسیم چرا که این گرد و غباری که در سیستان و بلوچستان وجود دارد، حتی مردم افغانستان را نیز تحت تأثیر قرار می دهد.

SOCIETY

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

UN continues to support Iran in fight against coronavirus

TEHRAN – The United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric has expressed readiness to continue support for Iran in the fight against the global pandemic.

The UN team in Iran continues to support the nation in addressing the health, human, and socio-economic needs of those affected by COVID-19, he said on Friday.

“We also focus on helping the most vulnerable, including immigrants, undocumented Afghans who have lived in Iran for many years, and thousands who have recently entered Iran,” Dujarric noted, IRNA reported.



With the increase in vaccination pace, the daily number of victims in Iran is decreasing. The World Health Organization says 72 million people have so far been vaccinated in Iran, reducing pressure on hospitals and the health system, he also stated.

Dujarric stated that the UN team has so far delivered 12 million vaccines to the country under the COVAX initiative. Iran has also received one million vaccines bilaterally.

We are working to allocate more vaccines to Iran through COVAX, including for a significant number of Afghan migrants, he concluded.

On May 24, Indrika Ratwatte, Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said that Iran has generously considered refugees over the age of 75 for vaccination against coronavirus, appreciating Iran for over four decades of hosting refugees.

Vaccination in Iran progressing well

Earlier in October, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain said that the process of vaccination against coronavirus in Iran is progressing well.

Iran’s health system can be a model for other countries in the region, especially in the field of health and the use of valuable forces such as healthcare providers (called Behvarz in Iran), he stated, IRNA reported.

Iranian health centers have good experience to meet the needs of society, he noted, highlighting, In Iran, despite sanctions, most health indicators, such as the health of infants, pregnant women, access to health services, and health insurance coverage, are in good condition.

Vaccination up, mortality down

Iran has recently accelerated its vaccination rollout and is now administering in the range of one million doses per day. So far, 20 percent of the population has received both doses. However, the pandemic continues to strongly affect the country’s unvaccinated population.

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

500 international philanthropists participate in Mustafa Prize

From page 1 ► The Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation has provided the opportunity for the development of scientific and technological cooperation by establishing a network of nearly 6,500 science and technology experts from 50 countries and interacting with 910 prestigious international centers.

Boosting friendship, collaboration

During the event, Sourena Sattari, head of the Mustafa Prize policy-making council, said that the prize has built a new ecosystem, which connects universities, VCs, students, and tech parks to each other.

He said that Iran yearns for further cooperation with other countries in the field of science and technology.

Sattari appreciated a friendly relationship set up between Muslim countries based on science and technology, adding that the Islamic countries have common cultural fields to have joint projects.

According to the experiences of Iran, transforming into an innovative society can overcome challenges with international collaboration in the field of science and technology, he added.

He said that the Mustafa Prize aims to use science and technology as a factor to make opportunities for boosting friendship and collaboration in Islamic society.

Science knows no border

Kamran Vafa, who won the prize for developing F-theory, stated that “Mustafa Prize is a reminder that there are no boundaries in the realm of science and technology, and that these belong to all humanity.”

Vafa pointed out that the Prize is “a reminder that the Islamic countries, making up one-quarter of the world’s population, must revive their importance and play their critical role in this realm.”

Zahid Hasan, laureate for “Weyl fermion semimetals”, stated that the scientists should connect their science with industry to improve their countries, emphasizing fundamental science as an important part of knowledge, which is unfortunately ignored in Islamic countries.

History and awards

In order to appreciate prominent scientists and provide the ground for scientific cooperation and development worldwide, the Mustafa Prize was established in 2012 as a symbol of scientific excellence at the international level.

The Mustafa Prize, a top science and technology award, is granted biennially to the top researchers and scientists of the Islamic world in four categories: “Life and Medical Science and Technology”, “Nanoscience and Nanotechnology”, “Information and Communication Science and Technology”, and “All areas of science and technology”.

The Prize is granted to works deemed to have improved human life, have made tangible and cutting-edge innovations on the boundaries of science, or have presented new scientific methodology.

The laureates in each category will be awarded \$500,000 which is financed through the endowments made to the Prize. The laureates will also be adorned with a special Medal and a certificate.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 24

New cases	9,174
New deaths	171
Total cases	5,860,844
Total deaths	125,223
New hospitalized patients	1,783
Patients in critical condition	4,294
Total recovered patients	5,416,691
Diagnostic tests conducted	34,765,163
Doses of vaccine injected	80,406,788

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Value of each man depends upon the art and skill which he has attained.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:45 Dawn: 4:56 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:21 (tomorrow)

History of music in Iranian lands: Pre-Islamic Iran

Part 2
(3) Oxus trumpets in eastern Iran, 2200-1750 BCE

About 40 small trumpets from oases in Bactria and Margiana have recently been brought to light by looters in southern Uzbekistan and northern Afghanistan.

They are much shorter than modern instruments despite their similar shape: a pipe that has a narrow mouthpiece and ends with a wide flaring bell. Most are made of silver, some of gold, and a few of copper.

Fortunately, similar trumpets were also found in scientific excavations in the large region between Margiana in the north and Shahdad in southern Iran.

These instruments have an archeological context, and the trumpets are now associated with the Bactrian-Margiana Archeological Complex (BMAC) and dated 2200-1750 BCE. The objects in the assemblage were probably introduced in Bactria and Margiana, and some spread south into Iran proper.

Only three distinct types are known for these trumpets. The first is a plain trumpet that has a pipe with conical or exponential flare. The mouthpiece is set off from the narrow pipe. The total length is 6 to 16 cm, the wide end is 2 to 6 cm.

The second is called bulb trumpet because a bulbous expansion is placed halfway between mouth-piece and bell. Otherwise it is similar to the plain model.

The third type is the face trumpet. It resembles the last type, but has one or several faces modeled on top of the bulb, though the faces can also be placed at the mouthpiece.

On one instrument, the three bulb faces have a hair-like structure at the back, and show a young, middle-aged, and old man. The most complex composition has three bison faces on a bulb made of one-millimeter thick gold sheet and mounted on top of a copper body.

Most likely, the copper served to strengthen the gold. It is a masterpiece of extraordinary technique and life-like character.

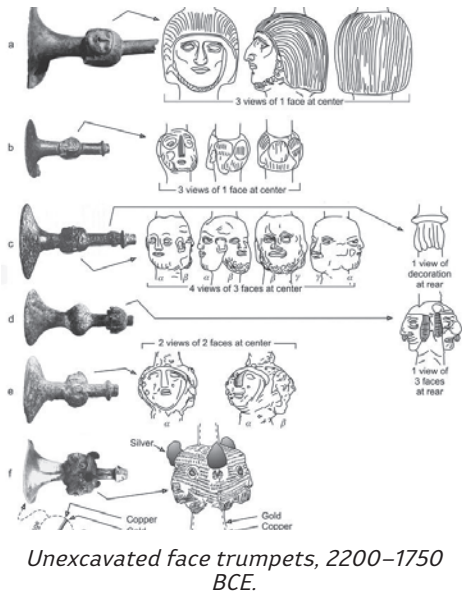
Since the instruments are much smaller than today's trumpets, some scholars have given alternative interpretations, arguing that these objects were stands, funnels, or sprouts. But such mundane objects would hardly use precious materials and extraordinary workmanship.

A. Hakemi considers an instrument that he excavated the front piece joined to a now decayed long wooden tube. The composite object would have a steady and powerful tone like a modern trumpet.

There is, however, no need to introduce this speculative construction because the short trumpets function well without such extension. If pressed against the lips and blown, the instrument produces a high-pitched sound near C, two octaves higher than the so-called middle-C.

Because the air mass inside this short trumpet is small, lip vibrations influence the sound more easily than on a modern long instrument, and lip tension can easily change the pitch.

The trumpet can imitate the sliding character of animal calls, in particular that of deer. During the rutting season, female deer



utter attract male deer with such sounds. If these trumpets were used to call male deer, they would be utilitarian tools rather than musical instruments.

The clue to their use lies in the Zoroastrian text Vendidad, which tells of Yima, mankind's first king. He reigned during the golden age when weather was fair, and sickness or death unknown.

But a severe winter set in, and Yima's god Ahura Mazda ordered him to bring plants, animals and humans to an underground shelter, while providing two implements to accomplish this task: a golden sufra and a gold-plated asotra.

These terms are usually translated as "goat" and "whip," respectively, though J. Duchesne-Guillemin has shown that the sufra was, in fact, a trumpet.

The myth implies that a trumpet was used to call animals, and Oxus trumpets did indeed possess that power. Another link to Yima is that gold was used for some Oxus trumpets.

The Yima story is set in an early mythological time, perhaps the time just prior to the date of Zoroaster, whom Boyce considers to have lived ca. 1000 BCE. Yet at that date Oxus trumpets were no longer in use, though distant memories may have survived. It also seems likely that Zoroastrianism arose near the regions of Bactria and Margiana.

(4) Bone scrapers

They were common in the Near East, having been introduced in the 8th millennium (Dunham). One bone is indented with a series of evenly spaced notches, and when another bone is scraped across them, the notches emit a percussive sound.

II. Second Millennium BCE

(1) Early angular harps of Elam

Arched harps had disappeared from the Near East around 1900 BCE, and in Mesopotamia they were replaced by angular harps which spread throughout the Near East.

During succeeding millennia, Iranian harps could be played with vertical or horizontal strings; they had similar bodies but vastly different numbers of strings and playing techniques.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Book tracing Hafez influence on Goethe, Uecker introduced at Frankfurt fair

TEHRAN – A book studying Persian poet Hafez's influence on German poet Goethe and his fellow artist Gunther Uecker 200 years later was introduced in a special session at the Frankfurt Book Fair on Saturday.

Published in German by the Goethe Museum Dusseldorf in 2020, the book "Orient und Okcident Sind Nicht Mehr zu Trennen: Uecker, Hafis, Goethe" ("Orient and Occident Can No Longer Be Separated: Uecker, Hafez, Goethe") has been written by Barbara von Steingießer.

A group of German and Iranian literati and artists attended the session that took place at Iran's pavilion at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

The session was organized by the Iran Book and Literature House and Islamic Culture and Relations Organization in collaboration with the Goethe Museum in Dusseldorf.

"Poetry can be so powerful that it almost inevitably inspires other artists to create their own work, across geographical, historical and cultural boundaries," says an introduction to the book.

"When Gunther Uecker says, 'As soon as I read, I also have to paint' and Goethe explains, 'I had to react



A copy of the book "Orient und Okcident Sind Nicht Mehr zu Trennen: Uecker, Hafis, Goethe".

productively because otherwise I would not have been able to stand before the mighty apparition; both refer to the same work.

"Both the Weimar classic and the contemporary artist could not escape the creative energy of the poems from the Divan of the Persian poet Hafez from the 14th century. Rather, one and then the other got into a creative frenzy through reading. This is how the West-Eastern Divan, Goethe's largest collection of poems, and 200 years later Uecker's homage

to Hafez, a cycle of 42 prints, came into existence.

"Inspired by the wealth of images in the over 650-year-old poems of the Persian poet, Uecker brings his sweeping handwriting together with luminous paintings in a spirited dance."

Since 2016, Sculptor and op artist Uecker has exhibited his works in an exhibition under the title "Tribute to Hafez", traveling through all parts of Iran.

The exhibition renamed "Orient and Occident Can No Longer Be

Separated: Uecker, Hafez, Goethe" was organized at the Goethe Museum Dusseldorf in 2020.

"Tribute to Hafez" has been inspired by the ghazals of Persian poet Hafez. Uecker has created a collection of graphical works, in which the ghazals are transformed into colors and the sound of the poems into written images.

This method to translate spoken language into pictorial expressions has characterized the artist's oeuvre since the 1970s.

Uecker is a member of the ZERO movement, best known for his signature use of nails arranged into tactile, sculptural paintings.

His oeuvre includes paintings, art objects and installations as well as stage designs and films. He is mainly interested in the Eastern European avant-garde of the 1920s and 1930s, but he is likewise fascinated by Asian cultures and their ideas.

Uecker's works can be seen in collections and at large fairs in both the West and the East. His artistic creativity reached a climax in 2000 with the prayer room he designed for the rebuilt Reichstag building in Berlin.

Iran's Oscar submission "A Hero" to get domestic premiere in Shiraz

TEHRAN – Asghar Farhadi's latest drama "A Hero", Iran's submission to the 2022 Academy Awards in the best international feature category, will have its domestic premiere on Tuesday in Shiraz, where the film was produced.

Movie theaters across the country are scheduled to screen the Iranian-French co-production on Wednesday.

The film, which won the Grand Prix (ex aequo) at Cannes 2021, is viewed by critics as having the potential to win a historic third Oscar for Iranian cinema.

"A Hero" tells the story of Rahim, who is in prison because he was unable to pay a debt. During a two-day leave of absence from prison, he attempts to have his creditor withdraw his

complaint over part of the sum owed. But things don't go as planned.

The shortlist for the 2022 Oscars will be unveiled on December 21. Nominations will be announced on February 8, 2022 and the 94th Academy Awards will be held on March 27, 2022.

"A Hero" has received nominations in four categories, including best film and best director, at the 14th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA), which will be held on November 11 on Australia's Gold Coast.

Farhadi's two previous movies, "A Separation" and "The Salesman", won Oscars in 2011 and 2016.

Starring Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem, his Spanish-set "Everybody Knows" won both the Grand Prix and the François Chalais Prize at Cannes 2018.



"A Hero" directed by Asghar Farhadi.

Parvin Bahmani, Qashqai vocalist known as mother of Iranian lullabies, dies at 72

TEHRAN – Qashqai music vocalist Parvin Bahmani, who was considered the mother of Iranian lullabies, died at Tehran's Sajjad Hospital on Thursday. She was 72.

She was suffering from serious lung and heart problems, Persian news websites announced.

Born in Shiraz, Bahmani gained admission to the Teacher Training University in the city. She pursued a teaching career, which spanned 16 years.

She also attended traditional music courses taught by masters such as Mohammad-Hossein Kiani, Habib Khan Gorgin, Gholamreza Bahmani and Mohammad-Qoli KHorshid.

Due to her Qashqai origin, Bahmani centered on the Qashqai music, gathering a great variety of lullabies sung by the women of the nomadic community and other Iranian



Qashqai music vocalist Parvin Bahmani in an undated photo.

nomadic tribes.

Bahmani was gradually considered the mother of Iranian lullabies due to her painstaking studies on the lullabies and her impressive performances of folksongs.

She made one of her masterpieces for Iranian filmmaker Manijeh Hekmat's 2008 drama "Three Women", which earned her additional fame.

She moved to Tehran the same year, however, she never ignored her family origin so that she always wore her Qashqai attire in public and at official ceremonies.

Bahmani was invited to perform at several international music festivals across the world. One of her latest performances was organized during the Voice of East Festival at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky

"Enchanted Night" comes to Iranian bookstores



Front cover of the Persian translation of Steven Millhauser's novella "Enchanted Night".

TEHRAN – American writer Steven Millhauser's novella "Enchanted Night" has been published in Persian.

Javad Homayunpur is the translator of the book

published by Salees.

This is a stunningly original new book set in a Connecticut town over one incredible summer night from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Martin Dressler".

The delicious cast of characters includes a band of teenage girls who break into homes and simply leave notes reading "We Are Your Daughters", a young woman who meets a phantom lover on the tree swing in her back yard, a beautiful mannequin who steps down from her department store window, and all the dolls "no longer believed in," left abandoned in the attic, who magically come to life.

With each new book, Millhauser radically stretches not only the limits of fiction but also of his seemingly limitless abilities.

"Enchanted Night" is a remarkable piece of fiction, a compact tale of loneliness and desire that is as hypnotic and rich as the language Millhauser uses to weave it.

Millhauser was born in New York City, grew up in Connecticut, and earned a B.A. from Columbia University in 1965.

He then pursued a doctorate in English at Brown University. He never completed his dissertation but wrote parts of "Edwin Mullhouse" and "From the Realm of Morpheus" in two separate stays at Brown.

His story "The Invention of Robert Herendeen" (in The Barnum Museum) features a failed student who has moved back in with his parents; the story is loosely based on this period of Millhauser's life.

Until the Pulitzer Prize, Millhauser was best known for his 1972 debut novel, "Edwin Mullhouse". This novel, about a precocious writer whose career ends abruptly with his death at age eleven, features the fictional Jeffrey Cartwright playing Boswell to Edwin's Johnson.

Millhauser lives in Saratoga Springs, New York and teaches at Skidmore College.