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Iran-Turkey Close Cooperation is Mutually Beneficial

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Interview

Syria will attend the next Arab summit in Algeria, Syrian politician predicts

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A member of the Syrian National Reconciliation Committee says his country will be present at the next Arab summit in Algeria.

"In my estimation, Syria will be present at the next Arab summit in Algeria," Omar Rahmoun tells the Tehran Times.

It seems that the ice between Damascus and Arab countries are thawing.

United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan met Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on Tuesday in a sign of reestablishing ties between Syria and the Persian Gulf states.

"There is no doubt that the UAE did not take this step until after the approval of the entire influential Arab states," Rahmoun remarked.

Bin Zayed is the most senior Emirati official to visit Syria in a decade since the eruption of a terrorist war in the country in which several Arab states backed mainly extremist insurgents against the Assad government.

The visit is widely seen as a sign of regional efforts to restore diplomatic ties with Syria, a country grappling with a spiraling economic crisis caused by years of conflict and compounded by Western sanctions.

"Today, Syria is looking forward to reconstruction, and rebuilding what was destroyed during the war, in an effort to turn the page of the 'black decade,'" Rahmoun notes.

To that end, Syria relies on the role of allies such as Russia, China and Iran in limiting the effects of Caesar's law, the Syrian politician emphasizes. ▶ Page 5

Report

Desertification intensifies: will management policies be revised?

By Farnak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – While Iran is facing an intensifying trend of desertification, desert greening operations should be carried out across more than one million hectares of land according to the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021), but the progress has been much less than projected.

In the meantime, experts have proposed solutions such as refraining from improper dam construction and reforming water and soil management policies.

Parviz Garshasbi, deputy head of the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), said that according to the Sixth National Development Plan, desert greening measures were to be carried out in 1,140,000 hectares of the country's deserts, but so far, the operations have been conducted in only 350,000 hectares of deserts.

An estimated 2 billion tons of soil is lost due to erosion in Iran annually, it takes an average of 400 years to form a centimeter of soil on the planet, he said, adding, in Iran's climate, this time is between 700 and 1000 years. ▶ Page 7

U.S. killed "64 civilians," that's just tip of the iceberg



TEHRAN – The United States military covered up, what most legal experts will view as war crimes, by killing at least 64 women and children during two back-to-back airstrikes in the Eastern Syrian town of Baghuz, Deir al-Zour province. These include confidential documents and descriptions of classified reports,

as well as interviews with military personnel directly involved, and officials with top secret security clearances who discussed the incident on the condition they remain anonymous. ▶ Page 5

Iran, Kyrgyzstan discuss expansion of trade, transport ties

TEHRAN – A high-ranking Kyrgyz delegation headed by the country's Economy and Commerce Minister Daniyar Amangeldiev arrived in Tehran on Saturday to hold talks with Iranian officials and discuss expanding trade and transport ties.

During his visit to Tehran, Amangeldiev met with Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi and Transport and Urban Development Minister Roshtam Qasemi.

During the meeting with Khandouzi, the Kyrgyz minister underlined the need to develop economic and trade relations between the two countries and stressed the unique capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of freight transport, especially from Bandar Abbas to the Caspian Sea coastal nations, saying that Central Asian countries are eager to strengthen the North-South corridor.

Amangeldiev also pointed to Kyrgyzstan and Iran's membership in the Eurasian Eco-

nomie Union (EAEU) and underlined the union's capacity to develop trade relations between the two countries.

Khandouzi for his part referred to the determination of the Iranian government for developing relations with neighboring countries as well as the countries in the region and emphasized the need to create the necessary facilities to promote and improve the activities of businessmen and traders of the two countries. ▶ Page 4

Ghasemi confirmed as London 2012 gold medalist

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Komeil Ghasemi has officially been confirmed as the London 2012 gold medalist, after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) ratified new rankings.

Two podium finishers in the men's 120kg were stripped of medals due to doping, with Uzbekistan's Artur Taymazov and Georgia's Davit Modzmanashvili losing their gold and silver medals respectively.

The final rankings will see two gold medalists, with Komeil Ghasemi and Russia's Bilyal Makhov now topping the standings respectively.

The two wrestlers had lost in the semifinals.

Ghasemi also won a silver medal four years later in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

He lost to Turkey's wrestler Taha Akgül in the final match of the 125kg.



House of late illustrious poet now open to public

Wax figures of contemporary Iranian literary figures Nima Yushij, Sohrab Sepehri, Simin Daneshvar, and Jalal Al-e-Ahmad have been put on show at the newly-restored house of Yushij in northern Tehran, November 13, 2021. Purchased by Tehran Municipality, the house of Yushij, who is famed as the father of modern Persian poetry, was officially unveiled on Saturday. It is situated near the home of the celebrated couple Al-e-Ahmad and Daneshvar who were novelists and short-story writers. The municipality is set to make a "cultural passage" that connects the two houses.

Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System closed amid safety concerns

TEHRAN – The UNESCO-registered Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System has been closed to visitors amid safety concerns after its western side was announced to be "unstable".

"Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System was closed to the public until further notice due to the unstable conditions of the western wall," Mehr reported on Sunday.

"Cultural heritage experts have warned for years about the instability of this part of the World Heritage," the report said.

Earlier in October, a local official announced that leakage of the site, which is known globally as a masterpiece of creative genius, is an immediate concern and needs to be restored. "To prevent water leakage in the historical structure, which could result in its destruc-

tion, short-term measures are taken," the official said, Mehr reported.

Studies and research are being conducted and meetings with consulting engineers are underway to find a way to cause the least damage to this ensemble, the official added.

The ancient hydraulic system comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series of ancient watermills powered by ▶ Page 6

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Op-ed

A view from the peanut gallery in the U.S.

By Martin Love

Few outside Iran's government probably know exactly what the country's leaders are primed to focus on around the alleged upcoming resumption of the JCPOA negotiations in Vienna. But a couple smart commentators outside Iran in West Asia have claimed this past week that Iran will focus almost exclusively on trying to get the U.S. sanctions lifted so that it can again resume exporting oil widely.

At first glance this suggests that Iran is not going to renegotiate the JCPOA, and this may be concerning but it's not – because the nuclear deal of 2015 which was adhered to faithfully by Iran was working until Donald Trump, completely captured by the Zionists, scuttled the deal in 2018 and the Europeans did nothing to try to work around the U.S. cancellation and the re-imposition of horrific sanctions.

Yes, the first order of business by Iran's leaders, and this is sensible, is correctly to insist on a return to the status quo prior to Trump's moronic and dangerous move. And demand that the resumption of the JCPOA cannot be cancelled again by Biden or anyone else who becomes the U.S. president in 2024. The U.S. must show good faith and stick to it, and then, maybe, at the margin some details of the deal might be modified in future to satisfy the hardliners in Washington. Biden may or may not be keen enough to do what he should and what the world wants to see, but there are some pressures of him to do the right thing. ▶ Page 2

Spanish teens climb rungs of "The Ladder to the World" to learn about creation of universe

TEHRAN – Iranian writer Mohammadreza Sarshar's "The Ladder to the World" ("La Escalera del Mundo"), which presents a beautiful narration about the creation of the universe for young adults, has been published in Spanish.

The El Faro International Publishing House has published the book in collaboration with Sureh-Mehr, the publisher of the original book.

Sarshar, Several managers of El Faro and Sureh-Mehr, Cuban Ambassador Alexis Bandrich Vega and Bolivian Ambassador Romina Guadalupe attended a session organized on Saturday at the Mehr News Agency in Tehran to introduce the Spanish translation of the book.

In this book, Sarshar tells a story from his youth when his grandfather left behind nothing for his heirs except a heavy box full of old historical books, which sank into oblivion as it was assigned to the basement of the house. ▶ Page 8

Brilliance comes from struggle, the future arises from the past

By Chang Hua, Ambassador of China to Iran

The 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) convened its sixth plenary session in Beijing from November 8 to 11, 2021. At the session, the Central Committee considered and adopted the Resolution on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century. The CPC is a Marxist ruling party that attaches great importance to and is also good at reviewing historical experience. At every important historical moment and critical juncture, the CPC must review history, sum up experience, and draw wisdom and strength to move forward. The session was an important and milestone meeting held on the occasion of the CPC's centenary and during a critical period for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The session summed up valuable historical experience of the CPC in the past century, mainly covering ten aspects: upholding the CPC's leadership, putting the people first, advancing theoretical innovation, staying independent, following the Chinese path, maintaining a global vision, breaking new ground, standing up for ourselves, promoting the united front, and remaining committed to self-reform. The ten aspects are a complete and interconnected unity, a "golden key" to interpret "Why is China successful", and a spiritual wealth created by the CPC and the Chinese people.

The past century witnessed great strides and continued struggles by the CPC, which leads the Chinese people to find a development path that suits their own national realities, achieving national independence, national prosperity and people's happiness. The CPC has fundamentally changed the future and destiny of the Chinese people and opened up the right path to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China's political civilization and political system must be deeply rooted in China's social soil. Copying other countries' political systems will not work, and will even ruin the country's future and destiny. Democracy is not the patent owned by Western countries, nor can it be defined by Western countries. It is undemocratic in itself to measure the colorful political systems in the world with a single ruler and to examine the colorful political civilization of mankind with a monotonous eye. People of the world have seen it more and more clearly that some countries blatantly impose its so-called model of democracy on others, which can hardly fit or stand and cause severe disasters and sufferings to the countries and peoples. The Chinese people have a high degree of self-confidence in China's political system, and the fundamental reason is that the whole-process people's democracy in China is a democracy with high democratic content, sufficient democratic quality, and endorsement of the Chinese people. This is the true people's democracy.

Bahadori Jahromi named Iranian govt. spokesperson



TEHRAN — In a decree issued on Sunday afternoon, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi appointed Ali Bahadori Jahromi as the cabinet spokesperson.

Bahadori is the youngest cabinet member, who holds a PhD in public law from the University of Tehran. He is also a faculty member of Tarbiat Modares University.

President Raisi meets heads of Parliament, Judiciary

TEHRAN — President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has met with the heads of the legislative and judicial branches of the government.

At the meeting, which was held on Saturday evening, and was hosted by Hojjatolleslam val-Moslemin Mohseni Eje'i, the head of the Judiciary, the most important issues of the country, especially economic issues were discussed.

The continuation of efforts by all state

bodies was emphasized during the weekly meeting of the heads of the three branches of government to improve the livelihood of the people.

President Raisi, Mohseni Eje'i and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf underlined the need to continue their coordinated efforts to improve people's livelihood, according to a statement by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

In recent years, major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has been promoted on all fronts, the concept of a human community with a shared future has become a banner leading trend of the times and human progress, and China's international influence, appeal, and power to shape have increased significantly. The great achievements made by the Chinese people under the leadership of the CPC have provided tremendous opportunities and strong impetus to development of the world. As China's iconic initiative, BRI has become a popular international public product and cooperation platform. BRI is not China's solo, but a symphony by all relevant countries. At present, there is a huge shortfall in infrastructure investment in the world, especially in developing countries. China welcomes all countries to participate in the BRI cooperation, and is open to international cooperation initiatives that are conducive to strengthening connectivity and achieving common development. China believes that the BRI cooperation is suitable for the countries along the routes, has unique advantages and attractiveness, and will surely move more steadily and sustainably as well as bear more mutually beneficial outcomes.

China will continue to uphold the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind and the purpose of maintaining world peace

Looking forward, the CPC will have a precise grasp of historical trends, fully implement Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, stand firm in ideals and convictions, and stay true to its founding mission. CPC will remain modest and prudent, guard against arrogance and rashness, and work hard, while not be intimidated by any risks or led astray by any distraction. With the determination to never let up until the goals reached and the attitude that the last leg of the journey marks the halfway point only, CPC will make unremitting efforts to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In the new era, China will continue to uphold the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind and the purpose of maintaining world peace and promoting common development, continue to promote independent major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and unswervingly promote high-quality BRI cooperation. China will always strive for being a builder of world peace, contributor to global development, and the defender of the international order.

China's historical achievements are inseparable from the support of international friends, and China's future development will also go with partners from other countries. China is willing to share governance experience with friends from all over the world, deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and work together to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity to promote the building of a community with a shared future of mankind.

From page 1 ▶ Consider for example the matter of rampant inflation in the U.S. and the West. It looks like a redux of the late 1970s, and oil prices could well get out of hand if they have not already and such prices ARE huge factors boosting inflationary forces. Saudi Arabia, for one, has not at Biden's request opened the oil spigot to lower prices to benefit the U.S. and tamp down inflation. The Saudis and its "allies" along the Persian Gulf are hurting these days especially so because they are close to losing the war on Yemen and it appears the Houthis are close to capturing the oil rich and strategic area around Marib. The Saudis have allegedly already spent some \$300 billion or more on its war on Yemen and nothing has been gained. Indeed, if Ansarullah controls Marib, it could control all of Yemen and as well some of the most strategic waterways off its coasts.

As for the U.S., unlike around 1980 when Paul Volcker was Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, Washington literally cannot raise short term interest rates (Volcker raised them to just over 20 percent in 1980) because that would crash the entire economy and the capital markets and the U.S. debt load, approaching \$30 trillion, would quickly reveal the U.S. to be utterly bankrupt and incapable of even paying interest expenses on its paper.

Meanwhile, the American public's perception of Biden's performance almost ensures he will not win a second term as President, and his VP Kamala Harris sports even worst popularity. She has the least popularity of ANY Vice President ever,

A view from the peanut gallery in the U.S.



and seems entirely incapable of doing an adequate job. The Democrats for now appear to be doomed not just in

Americans are just insane enough to give him a chance of winning the election.

One has to be impressed by what Iran did in attacking the U.S. air base after Qassim Soleimani's assassination.

It is no wonder Iran wants the U.S. to guarantee the perpetuity of a revived JCPOA no matter who gets in the White House in 2024.

Moreover, even while one hears that Apartheid Israel has ramped up military spending and alleged preparations for an attack on Iran's nuclear assets should the JCPOA not be revived as it had been (or maybe because it has

Iran's capacities examined at working group on transportation and transit diplomacy

TEHRAN - The fifth meeting of the "national working group on transportation and transit diplomacy" was held on Sunday with the presence of senior executives from transit agencies.

The meeting was chaired by Mehdi Safari, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy.

According to ISNA, the participants first examined the recent national, regional and international developments in the field of transport and transit.

Then, the representative of Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone Organization presented a report on the latest measures related to the development of transit capacities of Chabahar port.

Throughout the meeting, issues such as the

need to establish direct international shipping lines to Chabahar, accelerating the completion of Chabahar to Zahedan railway project, facilitating the presence of foreign investors in Chabahar and continuing cooperation with the Indian operator were among the issues discussed and emphasized by the national working group.

Representatives of the Trade Promotion Organization and the Ports and Maritime Organization also presented a report on the latest measures to expand the transit of goods through the Caspian Sea and equip northern ports with mooring facilities for Ro-Ro ships, as well as connecting the Caspian port railway to the country's rail network to the national working group and decisions were taken in that regard.

Representatives of Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) and the Oil Ministry submitted a report on the arrangements taken to solve the fuel problems of foreign trucks in Pakistan-Iran-Turkey road corridor. The corridor has been recently set up within ECO framework and is expected to have a transit capacity of 15,000 trucks per year.

Safari, who served as Iran's ambassador in China and Russia and Iran's special envoy on Caspian Sea Affairs, reiterated the importance of transit for national economy and its role in developing and deepening relations with neighboring countries.

The job taken by Safari is new in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

IRGC says has mastered modern naval technology

TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has mastered modern naval technologies, the IRGC chief said while paying a visit to a naval base in the northern province of Gilan on Sunday.

Major General Hossein Salami also said the IRGC has expanded its capabilities in the sea and managed to enhance the quality of combat vessels, according to Tasnim.

Calling military boats as the dynamic infrastructure of Iran's naval power, the commander said, "The (military) vessels that constitute the real nature of our tactic have strategic messages in the sea."

The process for enhancing the IRGC's capabilities is unstoppable, the top general added.

The remarks by the IRGC chief

came a few days after the Iranian Army staged a large-scale military exercise in southern coasts which involved naval, air force, air defense, and ground force units. The drills stretched from the eastern part of the strategic Strait of Hormuz to the northern tip of the Indian Ocean and parts of the Red Sea.

In remarks last month, Salami said the IRGC naval forces are fully

been revived and the Zionists have always been against the nuclear deal), the U.S. to be clear is in no position to condone such an attack even while it could be dragged into yet another war in West Asia. If it comes to the latter, neither the U.S. nor the Israelis are likely to "win" a war on Iran. The collateral damage all across West Asia would be catastrophic for the U.S. at home and abroad and for the Israelis. As long said, Iran can easily become THE disastrous donnybrook of both countries and their allies.

One has to be impressed by what Iran did in attacking the U.S. air base in Iraq after Qassim Soleimani's assassination by Trump. There were pinpoint strikes on al-Asad air base with several missiles each carrying 1600 pounds of explosives. By some miracle or just careful calibration by Iran NO American troops died despite significant damage to the base. It was the biggest ballistic missile attack ever on the U.S. What the attack did was demonstrate Iran's military capabilities like nothing else ever has. A number of U.S. soldiers at the base suffered mental and some physical damage such as PTSD and oddly enough the U.S. has refused to give the soldiers U.S. "Purple Heart" awards to honor them for the "sacrifices" they suffered.

Biden, who has failed to follow through so far on many of his campaign promises to such a degree that many regular Democratic Party devotees are not keen on him, appears lost, incapable and perhaps doomed. Few Americans would applaud an attack on Iran by the U.S. or the Zionists. Empire of Chaos indeed.

Child-Rearing Costs by Income

Raising a child has become a primary challenge for American couples. On a hand, they want to form a family. On the other hand, they need to sustain their economic status.

As your income level increases, so will the amount you spend on your child. This chart reveals how much you will be spending on your child each year from 2009 to 2026.

| Age | Year | Expense |
|---------------|------|------------------|
| <1 | 2009 | 19500 |
| 1 | 2010 | 20000 |
| 2 | 2011 | 20500 |
| 3 | 2012 | 21000 |
| 4 | 2013 | 21500 |
| 5 | 2014 | 23000 |
| 6 | 2015 | 24000 |
| 7 | 2016 | 24500 |
| 8 | 2017 | 25000 |
| 9 | 2018 | 26000 |
| 10 | 2019 | 22000 |
| 11 | 2020 | 24000 |
| 12 | 2021 | 30000 |
| 13 | 2022 | 31000 |
| 14 | 2023 | 34000 |
| 15 | 2024 | 35000 |
| 16 | 2025 | 36000 |
| 17 | 2026 | 37000 |
| Total: | | 475,680\$ |

*Income Brackets (Figures Before Taxes)



Source: TMS

Iran-Turkey close cooperation is mutually beneficial

TEHRAN – The Turkish foreign minister will arrive in Tehran on Monday on an official visit that is expected to result in the strengthening of ties between Tehran and Ankara.

The Turkish foreign ministry confirmed the visit taking place on Monday. "H.E. Mevlut Cavusoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey will pay an official visit to Iran on 15 November 2021, upon the invitation of H.E. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran," it said in a statement on Sunday.

The visit comes at a time when relations between Tehran and Ankara enjoy relative stability after a period of pent-up unease over the situation in the war-torn Karabakh region.

The Turkish foreign ministry also said that during Cavusoglu's visit a range of bilateral, regional, and international issues would be discussed.

"During the visit, all aspects of our bilateral relations will be discussed and views on regional and international issues will be exchanged," the statement added.

Perhaps Syria and Karabakh are the most important regional issues that will feature high during the visit



along with bilateral issues ranging from trade to border cooperation.

Over the last few weeks, Iranian-Turkish relations were strained over the developments in the newly liberated region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Ever since Azerbaijan retook Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia in a 44-day war last year, the mountainous region has seen a remarkable increase in military activities involving the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey, and in some cases Pakistan.

These activities were coupled with bellicose remarks by Azerbaijani media and officials regarding what the Azerbaijanis call "the Zangezur corridor" connecting mainland Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhichevan.

On several occasions, high-level Azerbaijani officials vowed to establish the corridor based on

their interpretation of a provision in the Russian brokered ceasefire deal between Yerevan and Baku that put an end to the 44-day war.

Iran, as a country directly affected by the corridor in question, said it will not allow a change in international borders in the south Caucasus region. To this end, Iran staged its biggest military drills in decades along the border with Armenia.

However, Iran sought to defuse tension with Azerbaijan despite hostile remarks from Baku. The Iranian foreign minister spoke with his Azerbaijani counterpart several times and then tensions began to abate.

In the meantime, Turkey appeared the main backer of Azerbaijan. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan even went so far as to signal that Tehran won't escalate tensions

with Baku because the latter has relations with Israel and Iran is home to a sizable ethnic Azeri Turk population, a position that elicited a scathing response from Iran's top security official Ali Shamkhani.

But tensions between Iran and Turkey were soon contained and the two countries' foreign ministers held phone conversation that helped facilitate Cavusoglu's visit to Iran.

Tehran and Ankara have long managed to contain tensions in their relations despite having differing views on a number of regional issues such as the crisis in Syria. The two countries have developed a kind of *modus vivendi* that allows them to work together even in times of difficulty. Both countries recognize that escalation of tensions does not serve their interests.

The visit of the Turkish foreign minister to Tehran is another opportunity to further build on the good record of relations between the two countries and raise the bilateral cooperation to a new level. Iran and Turkey possess great potential in various areas and their cooperation can be mutually beneficial. Tehran has already expressed its readiness to shore up relations with Ankara and Baku and now it's up to Turkey to reciprocate Iran's goodwill with positive measures.

MP underlines the need for removal of U.S. sanctions

TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker has reiterated Tehran's position that U.S. sanctions on Iran should be abrogated, calling lifting of sanctions the only way to revive a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and major world powers.

The lawmaker, Yacub Rezazadeh, told the Islamic Consultative News Agency (ICANA), that the U.S. unconditional return to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the removal of sanctions are the only way to salvage the nuclear deal.

"Parliament and the government explicitly emphasize the nullification and rapid lifting of Western sanctions. Given the good diplomacy of the foreign minister and the emphasis of the president, we hope that the sanctions will be lifted," the lawmaker said.

He added, "We must pursue the issue of lifting sanctions seriously through the Europeans; on the other hand, we must not back down from our demands in such a way that the Europeans eventually ask the U.S. government to return to negotiations as soon as possible."

He noted, "The visit of the head of our country's negotiating team to European countries is for consultations on how to fulfill the obligations. Iran must continue negotiations and talks with strength and vigor."

Rezazadeh was referring to the recent European tour of Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani, who leads the country's negotiating team.



Bagheri Kani has toured a number of European countries in a bid to set the stage for what Iranian officials have called "result-oriented" talks whose success would only be measured with their effectiveness in lifting the U.S. sanctions on Iran.

The deputy foreign minister of Iran met with his counterparts in France, Germany, and the UK ahead of the seventh round of the Vienna talks scheduled to take place on November 29.

Prior to Bagheri Kani's visit, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held telephone conversations with the foreign ministers of the countries participating in the Vienna talks, including the European trio of France, Germany, and the UK.

"The only way for the JCPOA to continue is for the United States to return unconditionally to the obligations of the nuclear deal. The best way is to lift all sanctions imposed by the United States. The Iranian assets blocked in European countries, etc. must also be released," Rezazadeh added.

Rezazadeh, who sits on the National Security

and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament, stated that through perseverance and diplomacy, a good result can be obtained from the negotiations.

"Western countries should know that Iran is a powerful country in the region, and if they want the security of the Middle East (West Asia) to be stable, our country's role in these issues must be taken seriously," he concluded.

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian has said the Vienna talks should result in tangible results in terms of lifting the U.S. sanctions.

The foreign minister reiterated Iran's position again on Instagram. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is entering the talks with a pragmatic and result-oriented approach and it is determined to reach a good deal, but this entails effective and verifiable removal of sanctions and the return of all sides to full compliance with their commitments," he said.

Hinting at Iran's new approach, Amir Abdollahian pointed out that "Iran does not intend to remain stuck in the stalemate of previous talks, as we already have access to those negotiations."

The Iranian foreign minister reiterated this message in an earlier phone call with his British counterpart. "The Vienna talks' success is contingent on the removal of all sanctions, the return of all sides to their obligations, giving necessary assurances about the implementation of all talks' results, and verification of actions by the other sides," Amir Abdollahian told Liz Truss.

Qaani visited Baghdad to help bring political stability to Iraq

TEHRAN — An expert on West Asia says that the visit by Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, commander of the IRGC Quds Force, to Baghdad was intended to bring back political stability to Iraq.

"Due to the negative effects of insecurity in Iraq on Iran's security, the Iranian officials have always tried to establish stability and security in Iraq," Hassan Hanizadeh said in an interview with IRNA published on Saturday.

Qaani's visit, according to the expert, occurred in a very important and sensitive situation.

He also believes that the trip took place in the framework of Tehran's efforts to strengthen political stability in Iraq.

"Iran does not want a Shiite-Shiite or Shiite-Sunni or Arab-Kurdish conflict to take place in this brotherly and neighboring country and has made every effort to build harmony and empathy between political groups and tribes and followers of different religions in Iraq," he reiterated.

The expert on Iraq added that the visit by the Quds Force chief

was primarily intended to create harmony and empathy between all political spectrums of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds.

"In fact, this trip was made to extinguish the fire of sedition that was ignited by the Americans," Hanizadeh added.

He said, "The positive consequences (of the trip) will be revealed in the Iraqi political scene in the coming days and weeks."

Hanizadeh noted that all political factions in Iraq, including Sairoon (the political party led by Muqtada Sadr), will show goodwill and will not be influenced by the propaganda and seditious atmosphere created by the United States, the Zionist regime and some countries in the region.

Regarding the composition of the seats in the new Iraqi parliament,

Hanizadeh said, "The majority faction in the Iraqi parliament needs 165 seats to form a government, which is half plus one seat. The Sairoon coalition, led by Muqtada Sadr, has 73 seats, the Sunni coalition, led by Mohammed al-Halbousi, has 37 seats, and the Kurdish coalition, including the Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, have a total of 61 seats."

The regional affairs expert added that because of Muqtada Sadr's differences with movements such as the State of Law bloc led by Nouri Maliki and Fatah alliance led by Hade Ameri, Muqtada Sadr will naturally turn to Sunni and Kurdish movements by trying to attract all Iraqi tribes so that he can win the majority and take over the parliament.

"Muqtada Sadr is not willing to form the next government under the

umbrella of the State of Law bloc and Fatah Alliance, so he is trying to form a triple alliance with the Sunnis and the Kurds in order to form the next government," the expert predicted.

The veteran expert also pointed to cultural, religious and historical affinities between Iran and Iraq, saying that Iran's spiritual influence in Iraq has always been a concern of Western countries, especially the United States and the Zionist regime, and at the same time, some Arab countries.

"In today's Iraq, where there are divisions between the country's political groups, the Islamic Republic encourages all religious, ethnic and political groups in the country to maintain unity and form a government of national unity," Hanizadeh explained.

He also said that Iran wants to form a government in Baghdad that is the result of the will of the Iraqi people and that Iran does not want to escalate the differences between the Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish currents in Iraq.

SPORTS

Shahrdari Sirjan runners-up at AFC Women's Club Championship

TEHRAN - Shahrdari Sirjan of Iran became runners-up at the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship on Saturday.

The Iranian team lost to Jordan's Amman 2-1 in the final match.

Goals by captain Maysa Jbarah and Shahnaz Jebreen secured Amman the title.

Amman conceded a penalty just before the halftime whistle after Fahimeh Arzani's foul on Jebreen inside the box with Jbarah coolly finding the back of the net.

Amman sealed the victory when Jebreen finished off a fine team move with a curling effort past a diving Sirjan goalkeeper Arefeh Kazemi in the 84th minute with Afsaneh Chatreanor's penalty conversion in stoppage time a consolation for Shahrdari Sirjan.

Nejati lauds Shahrdari Sirjan for fighting spirit

TEHRAN – Shahrdari Sirjan coach Maryam Nejati praised her charges for their fighting spirit despite not lifting the title.

Shahrdari Sirjan failed to lift 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship title after suffering a 2-1 loss against Amman.

"I think the girls from Iran are the champions of this game," said Nejati. "We went through many challenges to get here. The average age of our players is 20 and yes, sometimes we struggled. It was just not our day."

Several of the players will now turn their attention to the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup India, where Iran will be making its debut.

"The AFC Women's Asian Cup will be a great opportunity for my whole team and we have come a long way to be here. I hope we can achieve the desired result, which is to win the tournament," she added.

Zvonimir Soldo takes charge of Tractor

TEHRAN – Former Croatia football team defender Zvonimir Soldo was appointed as coach of Tractor on Sunday.

The 54-year-old coach has signed a two-year contract with the Iranian football club.

Fabijan Komljenovic has been named as Soldo's assistant. Soldo began his coaching career in 2008 with Dinamo Zagreb and joined German club FC Cologne a year later.

He also worked as Felix Magath's assistant in Chinese club Shandong Luneng Taishan in 2017.

Most recently, Soldo has worked as head coach in Austrian club Admira Wacker.

Soldo has replaced Firouz Karimi in Tabriz based football club.

Zvonimir Soldo won a bronze medal with Croatia football team in the 1998 FIFA World Cup.

Ma Ning appointed referee for Syria vs Iran

TEHRAN – Chinese referee Ma Ning has been chosen as the referee for Syria and Iran match in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification.

Syria will host Iran in neutral field in Amman, Jordan on Tuesday.

Ma Ning, 42, has been a full international referee for FIFA since 2011.

Ma Ning will be assisted by his countrymen Shi Xiang and Cao Yi.

Iran lead Group A with 13 points, while Syria sit at bottom of the table with two points.

Saeedimadani wins bronze at World Sambo Championships

TEHRAN – Mohammad Reza Saeedimadani claimed a bronze medal in the 2021 World Sambo Championships.

In the men's under-88kg final, Uzbekistan's Ikhtiyor Eshmurodov triumphed against Sergey Ryabov of Russia to win the gold medal, Tasnimnews.com reported.

Saeedimadani claimed Iran's first medal of the event, winning a bronze along with Stetsenko Dmytro of Ukraine.

The World Sambo Championships are the main championships in Sambo and Combat Sambo, organized by the Fédération Internationale de Sambo (FIAS).

The competition took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Sports minister Sajadi to attend Iran and Syria match

TEHRAN – Iran's Sports and Youth Minister Hamid Sajadi will attend the match between Syria and Iran on Tuesday.

The match will be held in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Iran will take a big step toward advancing to the World Cup with a win against the Syrian team.

Dragan Skocic's team sit top of the group with 13 points.

Syria are the rock-bottom with just two points from five matches.

Iran, Hungary Olympic committees sign MoU on sports coop.

TEHRAN – The presidents of Iranian and Hungarian Olympic committees signed an MoU on sports cooperation, including coach and sports delegation exchanges.

Krisztián Kulcsár, the president and Balint Vékássy, secretary-general of the Hungarian Olympic Committee traveled to Tehran to meet with officials of the Iranian National Olympic Committee (NOC).

Reza Salehi Amiri, Head of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC), said on the sidelines of this meeting that the sports body has decided to cooperate with some European countries.

In this regard, the chair and several officials of the Hungarian National Olympic Committee visited Tehran and had a meeting with Iranian counterparts, according to Salehi Amiri.

He also said that Iran's NOC has chosen Hungary as one of the countries to send coaches and champions for training and the body would annually provide funds for the people selected for the program.

Iran and Hungary also agreed to exchange coaches on specific sports fields, said the official, adding that Iran could train Hungarian coaches in wrestling, taekwondo, and karate and Hungary can give training in fencing and water polo.

The President of Hungarian NOC Krisztián Kulcsár, for his part, said that the MoU was aimed at leveraging the countries' capacities in sports.

He said that each country is competent in specific sports fields and they can use each other's capacities.

1,600 new industrial units established in Iran since late Mar.



Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi (R) and Kyrgyzstan's Economy and Commerce Minister Daniyar Amangeldiev

Iran, Kyrgyzstan discuss expansion of trade, transport ties

From page 1 ► **Facilitation of Iran's rail access to China through Kyrgyzstan**

The Kyrgyz delegation also met with Iran's Transport Minister Rostam Qasemi during which the two sides mainly discussed the development of the North-South corridor and the capacities for the expansion of transport cooperation between the two countries.

In this meeting, Qasemi said Iran-Kyrgyzstan railway cooperation is a very important issue that can make it easier for Iran to access China.

Referring to the importance of joint cooperation between the two countries,

Qasemi said that various issues, including the transit of goods, trade, joint ventures, the establishment of a mutual fund between the two countries and mutual investment in Iran and Kyrgyzstan had also been discussed at the meeting.

"There is currently direct rail access from Bandar Abbas [in southern Iran] to Kyrgyzstan; This capacity was one of the important issues that we discussed and the Kyrgyz minister decided to go to Bandar Abbas this afternoon and visit the port of Shahid Rajaei," Qasemi told the press following his meeting with the Kyrgyz minister.

CBI allocates \$1b for import of basic goods



TEHRAN - Central Bank of Iran (CBI) allocated \$1 billion for the import of basic goods on Saturday, Mostafa Qamari-Vafa, the new head of the CBI's public relations department, wrote on the social media.

The CBI has supplied \$9.5 billion for importing basic goods as well as medicine in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), another official with the bank has previously announced.

As reported by IRIB, Shiva Raveshi said the government allocated \$8 billion for the supply of basic goods and medicine in the current fiscal year's budget bill, all of which

has been supplied in the first half of the year and \$1.5 billion has also been supplied for the imports of Covid-19 vaccine.

"The \$9.5 billion that has been provided this year is almost equal to the total currency provided for the imports of basic goods in the previous calendar year (ended on March 20); this shows that this year we performed better in terms of meeting the real needs of the country," she said.

Raveshi pointed to the achievements of the bank despite the difficulties created by the U.S. sanctions, saying: "In the conditions of sanctions and reduction of oil revenues, we were able to meet the basic needs of the country and even the necessary materials for the production units, which is considered a success for the country and shows that the capacity of the country's non-oil exports is increasing."

Meanwhile, back in September, Mehrdad Jamal Orounaqi, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) for technical affairs, had said that the clearance of basic commodities from the customs has been expedited.

TEHRAN - The head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has said 1,600 new industrial units have been put into operation in industrial parks across Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), ISNA reported.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of two industrial units in Khorasan Razavi Province, Ali Rasoulia noted that the mentioned units have created jobs for over 30,000 people.

Rasoulia mentioned ISIPO's new program for the construction of small workshops for companies that do not have a high financial capacity and said: "The small industries organization has started a new program for the development of small workshops in industrial parks and zones, based on which establishing 1,800 workshops



is on the agenda."

According to the official, completion of semi-finished industrial units, especially those that are in the process of installing machinery is also among ISIPO's major priorities.

He noted that currently, over 60 trillion rials (about \$1.47 billion) worth of infrastructure projects are underway in the country's industrial parks.

887 idle industrial units revived

Rasoulia further mentioned his organization's plans for reviving idle industrial units and said more than 887 units have been revived since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year.

The official noted that the new phase of the program for assessing the units in industrial parks was started two months

ago and 60 major issues that the country's industrial units are currently facing have been identified and reported to ISIPO.

Back in September, Rasoulia had announced the allocation of 10,000 hectares of land for the development and construction of industrial parks across the country.

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

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

Iran pursuing expansion of transport co-op with neighbors

TEHRAN - Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi said on Sunday that positive agreements have been reached with neighboring countries, for expansion of transportation cooperation, especially in aviation sector, IRNA reported.

Speaking in the ceremony on introducing the new head of Civil Aviation Organization (CAO), Qasemi said: "We recently reached agreements with Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, part of which is related to the development of aviation."

According to the official, the expansion of transportation cooperation with other countries will lead to the expansion of trade ties and eventually will increase the country's revenues.

"We have made plans for upgrading our transportation fleet; however, we need

effective measures to be taken for the development of the aviation industry," he stressed.

He further stated that the most important factor in the development of the aviation industry is the use of specialists to promote it, adding: "In order to empower the aviation industry to meet the needs of the country, we need more work to be done, and this capability exists inside the country."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Qasemi mentioned the needs of other transportation sectors including road, maritime and rail, and said: "The transport sector needs to modernize its fleet, and we have not yet achieved the goals of the program in the rail, sea and land sectors."

Ghasemi pointed to the existing problems in the railway fleet and also the



incompleteness of the country's railway corridors and said: "Conditions in the railway sector are not favorable, the average life of the road transportation fleet is high and in the sea sector, despite high capacities, the capacity of the country's ports has not been used well."

Tehran, Dushanbe eye boosting trade level to €500m

TEHRAN - Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, in a meeting with Tajikistan's Ambassador to Tehran Nizamuddin Zahedi on Sunday, stressed the need to take the necessary measures for boosting the two countries' trade level up to €500 million.

As IRIB reported, in this meeting, Khandouzi referred to Iran's determination for promoting relations with neighboring countries and stressed the importance of planning for developing long-term cooperation in economic and technical fields.

It was also decided in the meeting that in the upcoming meetings of the two countries' officials, issues such as the signing of a memorandum of



Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi (R) and Tajikistan's Ambassador to Tehran Nizamuddin Zahedi

understanding for technical and economic cooperation would be on the agenda.

Back in September, President Ebrahim Raisi visited Dushanbe on top of a high-ranking delegation to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO) summit and held talks with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon.

Speaking with the Tajik leader, Raisi stressed that Iran and Tajikistan enjoy good capacities to expand ties. He said an increase in ties will pave the way

for regional cooperation.

On the sidelines of Raisi's visit to Tajikistan, officials from both sides had also met and set the goal for promoting trade ties to €500 million per year.

The delegations also signed eight cooperation documents, in different areas including tourism, labor and energy.

Earlier in June, Dushanbe had hosted the 14th meeting of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee.

Promoting economic relations was the major focus of the mentioned meeting which was co-chaired by Former Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian and Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma.

Commodities worth \$454m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 1.782 million tons of commodities worth \$454 million was traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange experienced trade of 1.474 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$242 million on its metals and mineral trading floor.

On this floor, the IME's customers purchased 1,000,060

tons of cement, 269,529 tons of steel, 100,000 tons of iron ore, 20,800 tons of zinc, 15,500 tons of sponge iron, 6,520 tons of copper, 3,585 tons of aluminum, 18 tons of precious metals concentrate and 24 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw trade 387,350 tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued more than \$209 million.

Commodities sold on this floor included 182,900 tons of vacuum



bottom, 81,033 tons of polymeric products, 68,844 tons of bitumen, 33,927 tons of chemicals, 16,000 tons of lube cut, 2,817 tons of base oil, 990 tons of sulfur and 230 tons of insulation.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 10,081 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, 7.222 million tons of commodities worth \$2.008 billion was traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month (September 23-October 22).

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

points, and the second market's index gained 3,911 points.

TEDPIX rose 58,000 points (4.1 percent) to 1.456 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Refining Company, National

Iranian Copper Industries Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, Bandar Abbas Refining Company, Iran Khodro Group, and Saipa Company were the most widely followed ones.

Capital market analyst, Soheil

Kolahchi, believes the stock market is going to be able to compete with other parallel markets for bringing positive returns to investors in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22, 2021-March 20, 2022), IRNA reported.

TEDPIX climbs 3,300 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 3,343 points to 1.442 million on Sunday.

As reported, 7.279 billion securities worth 57.7 trillion rials (about \$1.373 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 3,346

Syria will attend the next Arab summit in Algeria, Syrian politician predicts

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

What are the messages of UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed's visit to Syria for Arab countries and the region as a whole?

The messages of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed's visit to Syria for the region are many; the first of which is an official Arab recognition of Syria's victory over the Muslim Brotherhood plots led by Turkey and Qatar.

The second message is that Syria constitutes the northern front line for the Arab countries, and it is necessary to communicate with it and return it to the Arab League to counter Turkish ambitions. It also includes closing the page of the Arab Spring and opening the page of curing the Arab world's wounds after the fragments that befell it through this so-called Arab Spring.

How do you assess the role of the Persian Gulf states in the exacerbation of the Syrian crisis during the past years?

The Arabs in general were not in one position, and even the (Persian) Gulf states didn't share the same view regarding the Syrian crisis, and everyone knows that Qatar financed and supported the Arab Spring whereas the UAE led the project of counter-revolutions in all the Arab world, from overthrowing Mohammed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to bringing down Rached Ghannouchi in Tunisia and pursuing the Brotherhood in Libya and Yemen and finally extending a friendship hand to Syria to restore a bridge between Damascus and other Arab capitals.

Regarding the crisis in Syria, the role of Qatar and Saudi Arabia until 2014 was different from the role of countries like the UAE, and it is not possible to read the whole scene in the same way.

Do you think that the UAE



can play the role of a locomotive for Syria's return to the arms of the Arab world, especially the Arab League?

The UAE has a leading role in the Arab axis today alongside Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and certainly this visit is a prelude to Syria's return to the Arab League with Emirati efforts.

There is no doubt that the UAE did not take this step until after the approval of the entire influential Arab states, and in my estimation, Syria will be present at the next Arab summit in Algeria.

Some Arab countries, including Persian Gulf states, urge Syria to break alliance with Iran in exchange for a return to the Arab world? What

was Syria's answer to that?

No one required Syria to break its alliance with Iran, because everyone knows that Syria's coalition and partnership with Iran aims to contain Israel and protect Syria from terrorism.

The Arab interests have not been harmed by the Iranian presence in Syria. Therefore, no one asked Syria to break its alliance with Iran because there is no reason, and Syria will not accept this suggestion from anyone because it is a sovereign affair that no one has to do with it.

What is Syria's plan when it comes to rebuilding its economy and entering the post-war era with the help of its allies such as Iran and Russia

as well as collaboration with some Arab countries such as Egypt and the UAE?

Today, Syria is looking forward to reconstruction, and rebuilding what was destroyed during the war, in an effort to turn the page of the black decade, and this depends on several things:

- 1- End of war.
- 2- Completion of the reconciliation project to head towards a reconstruction on a larger scale.
- 3- Relying on the role of allies such as Russia, China and Iran in limiting the effects of Caesar's law.
- 4- Relying on the Arab role, especially the (Persian) Gulf, because it has an effective role, and Syria has had a distinguished experience with it in the past.

Syria hopes a lot of benefits via opening the connection line with the Arabs, especially in terms of attracting investors, pumping the dollar into its central bank, and rebuilding its economy.

Bloody clashes between rival Turkish-backed militants in northern Syria

Rival Turkish-based Takfiri militants have turned against each other and engaged in fierce exchanges of fire in Syria's northern provinces of Hasakah and Raqqah, as they seek to consolidate their grip on areas under their control, have a lion share of stolen assets, and be in charge of smuggling routes.

Syria's official news agency SANA, citing local sources, said bloody infighting has been going on between militants affiliated with the Hamza Division, which is affiliated with the so-called Free Syrian Army and trained and equipped by the United States and Turkey, on the outskirts of Ras al-Ayn city in Hasakah province over the past few days.

The report added that rival militants have been attacking each other's positions intensely, using heavy and semi-heavy weapons.

SANA noted that while the reason behind the clashes remained unknown, several Takfiri terrorists had been killed and injured as a result.

The development comes a few days after fierce clashes erupted between Turkish-affiliated militant groups in Syria's northern province of Raqqah.

SANA said clashes broke out between elements of the Turkish-backed Ahrar al-Sharqiya and Sham Legion militant groups in Ayn Issa, al-Sharkarak and Hamam al-Turkman areas on Friday.

Turkey has deployed forces in Syria in violation of the Arab country's territorial integrity.

Ankara-backed militants were deployed to northeastern Syria in October 2019 after Turkish military forces launched a long-threatened cross-border invasion in a declared attempt to push fighters of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) away from border areas.

Ankara views the US-backed YPG as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and



other senior officials have said Damascus will respond through all legitimate means available to the ongoing ground offensive by Turkish forces in the northern part of the Arab country.

Moreover, US forces have deployed new military equipment in Syria's northeastern province of Hasakah, amid Washington's attempts to further loot natural resources in the war-ravaged Arab country.

Local sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told SANA that US occupation forces removed part of the earthen berm near al-Ya'rubiya town on Saturday, and brought in 8 armored vehicles to support their bases in the region.

The source added that the deployment took place as a number of US military aircraft were flying overhead.

The US military has stationed forces and equipment in eastern and northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, says the unlawful deployment is meant to plunder the country's resources.

Former US president Donald Trump admitted on several occasions that American forces were in Syria for its oil.

After failing to oust the Syrian government with the help of its proxies and direct involvement in the conflict, the US government has now stepped up its economic war on the Arab country.

U.S. killed "64 civilians," that's just tip of the iceberg

From page 1 ▶ A U.S. drone had circled overhead and only saw a large crowd of women and children gathered next to a river bank. An American F-15 warplane then flew over the drone and dropped a 500-pound bomb on the women and children. As the smoke cleared, some of the civilians stumbled away in search of cover, when an American warplane struck again, this time dropping a 2,000-pound bomb, killing the survivors.

It's actually a similar method that has been used by Daesh and other terrorist groups over the past two decades. They detonate a bomb where civilians are located and then blow up rescuers trying to save the injured with a follow up second bomb.

This attack occurred on March 18, 2019 when, according to the NYT report, uniformed personnel at the U.S. military's Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, viewing the live drone footage stream watched on with "stunned disbelief. On the records of a secure chat system that was used by those monitoring the live drone footage, a confused military personal typed "who dropped that?" Another responded "we just dropped on 50 women and children."

The initial battle damage assessment quickly found out the number of dead was actually about 70.

The Baghuz strike has never been publicly acknowledged by the U.S., despite the fact that the investigation shows that American military officials were immediately aware of the death toll.

The report also notes a legal officer flagging the strike as a possible war crime that required



an investigation. But the military made moves that concealed the lethal attack with the the death toll downplayed, reports delayed, sanitized and kept secret.

U.S. forces even went to the extent of bulldozing the site of the explosions.

An inquiry by the U.S. Defense Department's independent inspector general was stalled and meddled with leading to no mention of the strike.

The investigation cites Gene Tate, an evaluator who worked on the case for the inspector general's office and agreed to discuss the aspects that "were not classified." He says, "Leadership just seemed so set on burying this. No one wanted anything to do with it. It makes you lose faith in the system when people are trying to do what's right but no one in positions of leadership wants to hear it."

Tate, a former Navy officer, worked for years as an analyst with U.S. intelligence agencies be-

fore moving to the inspector general's office, says he denounced the lack of action and was eventually forced out of his job.

The investigation found that the airstrikes had been requested by a secret American special operations unit, called Task Force 9, operating in Syria. Task Force 9 is said to have operated with so much secrecy that it did not even inform its own military partners of its actions. In the case of the Baghuz bombing, an officer who served at the command center claims the American Air Force command in Qatar had absolutely no idea the strike was coming.

In the minutes after the strike, an Air Force lawyer ordered the F-15 squadron and the drone crew to safe guard all video and other evidence. He reported the strike to his chain of command, saying the attack was a possible war crime which meant a thorough, independent investigation was required. However, that never happened.

The New York Times says it has sent its findings to U.S. Central Command which acknowledged the strikes for the first time and added that 80 people were killed but justified the airstrikes by making a claim that the bombs allegedly killed some 18 fighters and four civilians. As for the other 60 people killed, the statement received by the newspaper claims it was not clear whether they were civilians.

The terrorist attack in Baghuz that killed at least 68 civilians is nothing new or rare.

The attack is just the tip of the iceberg.

The reality is the United States has conducted tens of thousands of airstrikes in its alleged war against Daesh in Iraq and Syria without any transparency on civilian casualties.

For instance, in 2017 residents and security sources in the Iraqi city of Mosul said American airstrikes in the neighborhood of Jidideh killed some 200 civilians after U.S. warplanes bombed a residential area and flattened family homes.

But the fact of the matter is America did not flatten family homes in Mosul's Jidideh neighborhood. America flattened all the neighborhoods in Mosul. America carpet-bombed Mosul and leveled Iraq's second largest city to the ground.

Nobody knows the precise figure of civilian fatalities in Iraq or Syria. It could number in the hun-

dreds, it could be thousands, it could be tens of thousands and it could be hundreds of thousands. No probe has been conducted. No internal American investigation has been carried out and no international investigation ever took place.

Drone footage of the aftermath following the bombing campaign in Mosul just showed what one would imagine the apocalypse will kind of look like.

The same goes for the Syrian city of Raqqah. Again, an entire city flattened to the ground by American warplanes. No details on the exact number of civilian deaths by those airstrikes.

The U.S. acknowledges it carried out around 35,000 airstrikes in its alleged war against Daesh in Iraq and Syria. Monitoring groups say the number is much higher.

The number of civilian fatalities in Iraq and Syria grew after former U.S. President Donald Trump took office. Trump was so eager to ensure Daesh was defeated during his tenure that he loosened the rules of engagement by allowing personnel with much lower military ranks to authorize airstrikes. For example, In March 2017, the Syrian Network for Human Rights reported that U.S. airstrikes killed more civilians than the number of civilians killed by Daesh terrorists.

That change in strategy by Trump did not lead to the defeat of Daesh. It has been well documented by military experts that terror groups cannot be defeat-

ed by airstrikes. For territorial gains or the liberation of territory ground troops must be present; and for two countries (Iraq and Syria) they must be present in large numbers. On the battlefield itself in Syria, the Syrian army and its allies Russia, Iranian military advisers and Hezbollah forces took on Daesh in street battles that significantly limited the damage to a city's infrastructure or the death of civilians. Airstrikes were called in only after the safe passage of civilians away from the battle.

In Iraq, the Popular Mobilization Units, formed in the summer of 2017 by volunteers, after the U.S. trained Iraqi army collapsed, spearheaded the battle against Daesh. Again, civilian deaths and infrastructure was very limited in comparison with American airstrikes. For example, in the battle for Tikrit, the Popular Mobilization Units spearheaded the battle and liberated the city with officials saying 3% of Tikrit's infrastructure had been damaged. That allowed for the quick return of civilians to their homes. In Mosul, civilians are still internally displaced waiting for their neighborhoods to be repaired.

One of the most tragic casualties of U.S. airstrikes in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Somalia or anywhere else in the Muslim world is that they tend to kill civilians and destroy family lives. This is one of the fastest methods to turn ordinary people into extremist elements that go on to pose a security threat to their own country and even internationally.

It would be daft for Washington not to have realized this pattern. But critics would argue maybe that's what the Pentagon wants.

Drone footage of the aftermath just showed what one would imagine of the apocalypse.



Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System closed amid safety concerns

From page 1 ► human-made waterfalls. It is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius the Great, the Achaemenid king.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2009, the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System may testify to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian knowhow. According to UNESCO, the ensemble was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

The property is as rich in its diversity of civil engineering structures and its constructions as in the diversity of its uses (urban water supply, mills, irrigation, river transport, and defensive system). The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System testifies to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian knowhow; it was probably influenced by

the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

"The hydraulic system has been considered a Wonder of the World not only by the Persians but also by the Arab-Muslims at the peak of their civilization," according to the UN cultural body.

Furthermore, one of its main canals is a veritable artificial watercourse that made possible the construction of a new town and the irrigation of a vast plain, at the time semi-desert.

UNESCO says that the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System demonstrates outstanding universal value as in its present form, it dates from the 3rd century CE, probably on older bases from the 5th century BC. It is complete, with numerous functions, and large-scale, making it exceptional.

Iran tourism needs to rebuild global trust, expert says

TEHRAN – Iran must rebuild trust with the global tourism market, the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators said on Sunday.

The level of Iran's health security and vaccination against coronavirus should be advertised internationally to gain further trust from the global tourism market, Ebrahim Pourfaraj said.

The health and safety level in Iran is a concern for foreign tourists, he noted, ISNA reported.

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, embassies, economic and cultural attaches, and ministries of health and tourism to inform the world about Iran's [great achievements

in] public vaccinations, the official added.

During the pandemic, Iran has maintained contact with global tourism markets and companies that worked with the country in the past, especially since virtual communication and meetings have been held, he mentioned.

"Following the resumption of the tourist visa, visitors from Russia and France have traveled to Iran and we are currently expecting a smaller number of tourists in Iran due to the current situation in the world," he explained.

There is, however, speculation that in the spring of 2022, the next high season of travel to Iran, the



number of tourists and trips will increase, he added.

In January, the official announced that international tourism flow to Iran will return to normal in 2022.

Although there are requests for traveling to Iran in the current year (2021), most travel agencies and tour operators believe that the flow will go back to normal in the next year, he said.

Beginning mass vaccination against the coronavirus will provide better and safe conditions for international travels in 2022, he added.

Last November, the World Tourism Organization announced that

international tourist arrivals to Iran plunged 72% during the first eight months of 2020 when compared to 2019, highlighting the severe impact of COVID-19 as the main factor.

Some experts believe Iran is still somehow "unknown" for many potential travelers due to Western "media war".

The ancient land 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.

Fence wall completed around Sassanid fortress

TEHRAN – The construction of a fence wall has been completed around Falak-ol-Aflak fortress, an imposing monument of Sassanids, which dominates the capital city of Khorramabad in western Iran.

"The wall has been constructed based on the original model and historical documents," Lorestan province's tourism chief said on Sunday.

"Moreover, traditional materials have been used in the recent construction that has harmony with the fortress."

The unmissable eight-towered monument seems particularly dramatic when floodlit at



night, offering picturesque views of its encircling crenelated battlements.

Lorestan is a region of raw beauty that an

avid nature lover could spend weeks exploring. The region was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

One of the most prominent archaeological findings of the fertile region is the ancient "Luristan Bronzes", which are noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Iranian, German archaeologists discuss further cooperation

TEHRAN – Panels of Iranian and German archaeologists and cultural heritage experts on Saturday discussed ways to expand cooperation in the realm of ancient mining.

Archaeologists from the Ruhr University Bochum exchanged views with Iranian counterparts to conduct further studies/excavations at Chehrabad Salt Mine of Zanjan, CHTN quoted provincial tourism chief Amir Arjmand as saying on Sunday.

The experts met in Zanjan, whose ancient salt mine has so far yielded several salt mummies, personal belongings, and tools from the early 1990s onwards.

What was a catastrophe for the ancient miners has become a sensation for science. Sporting a long white beard, iron knives, and a single gold earring, the first salt mummy was discovered in 1993. He is estimated to be trapped in the mine in ca. 300 CE. In 2004



another mummy was discovered only 50 feet away, followed by another in 2005 and a "teenage" boy mummy later that year.

Currently, the National Museum of Iran is holding joint exhibits titled "Human Search for Resources, Highlights of Ancient Mining from the German Mining Museum Bochum" and "Death in Salt, Archaeological Research at the Chehrabad Mine in Zanjan".

The exhibit puts the spotlight on the appropriation of humans

to mineral resources and the development of the history of human experiences and achievements in mining, which led to the development of technologies, the formation of professions, trade, and specialization of industries. Moreover, similar loan exhibitions have already been staged in Iran and Germany.

According to Jebrael Nokandeh, the director of the National Museum, the museum and the German Mining Museum in Bochum have

made considerable cooperation in line with an agreement they signed in 2017, based on which the two institutions are set to hold exhibitions of each other's historical and cultural artifacts related to the subject of ancient mining.

Last year, a team of experts from the two countries started a project for purifying, cleansing, and restoring garments and personal belongings of the mummies which were first found in the salt mine in 1993.

The oldest-known mine on archaeological record is believed to be the Ngwenya Mine in Eswatini (Swaziland), which radiocarbon dating shows to be about 43,000 years old. At this site, Paleolithic humans mined hematite to make the red pigment ochre. Moreover, mines of a similar age in Hungary are believed to be sites where Neanderthals may have mined flint for weapons and tools.

Bathroom to be repurposed into heritage museum

TEHRAN – The Safavid-era (1501-1736) Haj Saleh public bathroom in the western Iranian city of Saqqez, Kordestan province will be repurposed into a museum, a local tourism official has announced.

The historical structure has been completely restored and is ready to open as a museum that focuses on history and archaeology, Bahram Nasrollahi said on Saturday.

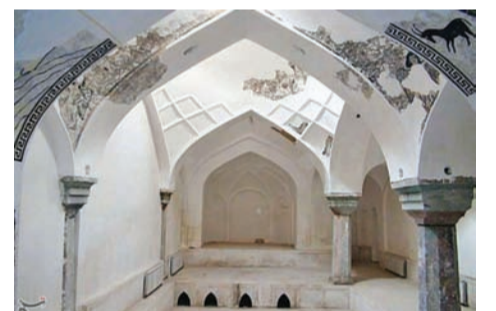
The project will be carried out in collaboration with Saqqez Municipality, the official added.

The monument, which is the oldest bathroom in the region, has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

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

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men



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

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Children with hemophilia toured attractions in Qom

TEHRAN – Qom authorities have taken a group of children with hemophilia on a sightseeing tour across the holy Iranian city.

"Unfortunately, some people, due to certain diseases, cannot go on tourism tours and benefit from healthy recreation as they should," Qom tourism chief said on Saturday.

"Tours dedicated to special patients requires special equipment and special care. . . and perhaps due to these difficulties many [tour operators] refuse to hold such excursions," Alireza Arjmandi added.

The tour for children with hemophilia was conducted by the Qom tourism directorate in collaboration with Qom Municipality, the official explained.

Situated adjacent to salt-covered deserts, golden dunes, running sands, and jagged mountains, Qom is home to the shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and major religious madrasas (schools).

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage, it is also a top destination for Shia scholars and stu-



dents who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

One of the most visited natural spots of Qom is Hoz-e Soltan, an eye-catching salt lake in the middle of the desert. The visitors could easily walk in the shallow parts and enjoy the shapes created by the salt, however, the center of the lake could be dangerous, as it is muddy and could easily trap people.

COVID tests offered at Astara border terminal

TEHRAN – A team for coronavirus testing is onsite at Astara border terminal in northern Iran, Astara's tourism chief has announced.

Foreign tourists are required to provide proof of negative COVID-19 test or vaccination certificate to enter the country, so medical personnel is present at the border terminal to prevent suspicious visitors from entering, Mojtaba Abroshan said on Sunday.

During the last ten days, and after performing coronavirus tests on foreign nationals upon arrival, 16 of them tested positive and they have been returned to their countries of origin, the official added.

The city's accommodation centers are also closely monitored, he mentioned.

Earlier in October, Iranian officials announced new rules for foreign tourists interested in



visiting the country.

According to the rules, direct and indirect entry and exit of nationals of Iran and other countries (both groups and individuals) from/to air and land borders are no longer restricted by presenting a valid vaccination card and following protocols approved by the Ministry of Health.

A health certificate with a negative coronavirus PCR test result, issued at most 96 hours before arrival, is required for travelers.

Direct or indirect travel from/to high-risk countries designated by the World Health Organization is excluded from this regulation.

The Ministry of Tourism is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this instruction, and if any violations are observed, the authorities will be notified.

In early October, the deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian announced that 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.

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, he noted.

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

The port city of Astara is a major tourist and economic center on the west coast of the Caspian Sea, in Gilan province. It is the last point of the border between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Iran, Romania seeking enhanced scientific, technological co-op

TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Science Minister Hashem Dadashpour and Romanian Ambassador to Tehran Mirreza Carmen Greco discussed ways to develop scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

During a meeting in Tehran on Sunday, the officials exchanged views in order to promote scientific, academic, and student interactions, as well as mutual cooperation, to introduce the study capacities in Iranian and Romanian universities, and award scholarships to students.

Evaluating the universities of the two countries and launching study opportunities for students were other topics of the meeting.

Dadashpour expressed readiness to enhance cooperation regarding the exchange of professors and students.

"Considering the 120-year relationship between the two countries, the most important request of Romania from is more cooperation



between the universities of the two countries, exchange of students, professors and cultural exchanges," Carmen Greco said.

Due to the fact that Romanian universities have suitable conditions and standards for foreign students, in the evaluation of universities, which is done every year by the Ministry of Science of Iran, more Romanian universities should

be evaluated, she added. **Iranian universities making progress**

Most recently, fifteen universities from Iran have been listed among the best institutions worldwide, by the U.S. News and World Report Best Global Universities rankings 2022.

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings

2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

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

It also has introduced 59 Iranian universities among the top institutions in World University Rankings 2022.

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

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

Cov Pars causes 9-12 months immunity to COVID-19

TEHRAN – Studies show that Cov Pars vaccine, developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute of Iran, makes immunity for 9-12 months against the coronavirus, Reza Bani-Hashemi, the director for research and development at the institute, said on Sunday.

Razi Cov Pars is among the vaccines which activates the body's cellular immune system, causing long-term immunity, IRNA quoted Bani-Hashemi as saying.

The inhaled dose of COV Pars vaccine reduces the transmission of delta and alpha coronavirus variants by up to 90 percent, Ali Es'haqi, head of Razi Vaccine and Serum Institute, said in October.

Razi Cov Pars is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

The vaccine is protein-based, which employs recombinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by producing antibodies.

It is developed in 3 doses. The first two doses



are injectable and the third dose is intranasal. The second dose of the vaccine will be injected into the volunteers 21 days later and the third dose will be inhaled 51 days later.

The results of the research show that people who received COV Pars did not have any side effects, he stated, adding, even after the shot, none of those who were infected with the virus were hospitalized.

In the second phase of the study, we exam-

ined the immunogenicity very closely, and the evidence suggests that the COV Pars vaccine can not only induce antibodies but can also activate cellular immunity, he noted.

In the first to third phases of the trial, 14,000 people received the shot that was completely resistant to the Wuhan variant, but with the advent of the delta strain, the effectiveness of the vaccine was slightly reduced and 20 percent of those who received the vaccine had mild symptoms of the disease, which disappeared within one to two days.

Fortunately, we did not have any cases of death or hospitalization among these people, and this is a sign of the effectiveness on the delta strain, he added.

According to Es'haqi, the third dose of COV Pars complements other vaccines. Pregnant women and people under the age of 18 can also receive the vaccine.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in the country which are in different study phases.

National diabetes week highlighting "care, now more than ever"

TEHRAN – The national diabetes week is being held from November 13-19 with the theme of "diabetes care, now more than ever."

In Iran, the latest data published in 2016 shows that some 11 percent of the people aged over 25 (around 5.5 million persons) are suffering from diabetes, ISNA quoted Alireza Mahdavi, a health ministry official, as saying on Sunday.

Taking the prevalence of coronavirus in society, we expect that diabetes will affect more people in the future, he added.

The prevalence of diabetes among people has increased by 95 percent from 1990 to 2020, Baqer Larijani, head of the Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism, has said.

Studies show that some 14 percent of Iranians aged over 20 years are suffering from diabetes type 2, IRNA quoted Larijani as saying.

More than 90 percent of people affected by diabetes have pretty

good access to physicians, medicine, laboratories, and insurance services, he noted, adding that the figure is about 50 percent on the average in the world.

In September, Larijani said that over 8.5 percent of the total health expenditures of the country are spent on diabetes.

"Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71 percent of all deaths globally.

Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and respiratory diseases are the cause of more than 80 percent of premature deaths due to non-communicable diseases. Unhealthy diet, smoking, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption are the main related risk factors.

Reducing risk factors as well as screening, early diagnosis and timely treatment of non-communicable diseases can reduce a large part of their damage," he said.

In Iran, 25 percent of people are not aware of their diabetes. The figure is 50 percent in the world and 60 percent in West Asia and North Africa region.

World Diabetes Day

World Diabetes Day (WDD) was created in 1991 in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2006. It is marked every year on 14 November, the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922.

Every year, the World Diabetes Day campaign focuses on a dedicated theme that runs for one or more years. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2021-23 is Access to Diabetes Care – If Not Now, When?

Facts and figures

Nearly 463 million adults (1-in-11) were living with diabetes in 2019. The number of people living with



diabetes is expected to rise to 578 million by 2030.

Two-thirds of people with diabetes live in urban areas and three-quarters are of working age.

One in 5 people with diabetes (136 million) is above 65 years old.

Diabetes caused 4.2 million deaths in 2019. Diabetes was responsible for at least \$760 billion in health expenditure in 2019 – 10% of the global total spent on healthcare.

Over 802,000 travelers tested for coronavirus at borders

TEHRAN – A total of 802,421 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus by thermal tests at the country's official borders since March 10, Mehdi Valipour, head of Relief and Rescue Organization affiliated to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), said.

During the aforesaid period, IRCS forces have conducted 105,190 PCR tests and 127,346 rapid tests, he added, IRNA reported on Sunday.

He went on to say that 213 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined, under a plan to rapidly identify suspected cases of coronavirus and prevent the spread of new strains.

A total of 471 members of the IRCS cooperate for carrying out the plan in 16 provinces across the country, Valipour concluded.

With the cooperation of ministries of health and transport, a plan is being implemented with the goal of rapidly identifying and testing incoming passengers and keeping them in quarantine facilities, if necessary.

Thirty border checkpoints have been selected, including 18 land borders, nine air borders, and three sea borders, all incoming passengers will be tested and referred to the quarantine facilities in case of necessity.



Around 8,000 individuals enter the country via borders on a daily basis.

On August 22, Iran announced that all travelers must have a negative PCR test certificate or a health card to enter the country during the Covid-19 pandemic, IRINN reported.

Due to the prevalence of delta variant, negative PCR test is also mandatory for vaccinated passengers, Mohammad Reza Seif, head of safety and quality assurance department of Imam Khomeini Airport Town Co, said.

All passengers entering Iran, even if they have been vaccinated and have a vaccination card, must have a negative test result, he noted.

Desertification intensifies: will management policies be revised?

From page 1 ▶ Wind erosion brings an annual economic and environmental damage of 30 trillion rials (nearly \$714 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to the country, according to the latest studies in 2019.

"Over 88 percent of the country can be affected by desertification. According to the 2018 survey, 37 million hectares of the country are exposed to land degradation and 23 percent of the total area is subject to severe degradation in terms of reduction of vegetation and soil fertility.

Also, 22 provinces of the country with an area of 29.5 million hectares in 187 regions are affected by wind erosion and there are 237 crisis centers with an area of 13.9 million hectares and due to the influx of annual quicksand to the railway infrastructure, roads, agriculture, and other parts are damaged," he explained.

Excessive dam construction

Garshasbi said that the crisis is caused by the imbalance of available water and consumption and the lack of a comprehensive program in the field of sustainable management of water and soil resources and the lack of approaches based on promoting resilience and adaptation to water scarcity.

If there is no change in current policies and we continue the expansion of dams, increasing the area under cultivation and lack of water management in the country, in the near future we will not only move towards desertification but also large and productive plains of the country will be out of cycle, he highlighted.

"Rapid slope and human factors, especially over-exploitation of land in pastures, forests, agricultural lands, and deserts are other causes of high soil erosion in Iran.



Unfortunately, over the past decade, about one million hectares of sand and dust hotspots have been added to the country's desert due to the wrong policies in the field of water and agricultural resource management and in total due to climate change and human intervention," he explained.

Masoud Mansour, head of the FRWMO, referring to the development of a policy for the conservation and management of rehabilitated areas, said that policies were approved and communicated to all provinces. Since then, management based on the participation of locals through desert ecotourism, camel breeding, wind, and solar power plants is on agenda.

According to him, currently, the methods of rehabilitating desert areas are based on the pattern of prevention of factors of destruction and implementation of projects such as grazing control, development of compatible native species, and use of wastewater management.

Measures against wind erosion depend on a series of external factors so that vegetation and sensitive ecosystems in desert areas will be the first victims of inefficiency and improper performance of water and soil resources management.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 14

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| New cases | 6,143 |
| New deaths | 125 |
| Total cases | 6,037,718 |
| Total deaths | 128,167 |
| New hospitalized patients | 904 |
| Patients in critical condition | 3,510 |
| Total recovered patients | 5,695,949 |
| Diagnostic tests conducted | 37,038,991 |
| Doses of vaccine injected | 98,440,590 |

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Mental health screening scheme to be launched at schools

A scheme to determine the prevalence and incidence of psychiatric disorders in students will be implemented at schools across the country by the next school year (starting on September 23), director for education department at the Ministry of Education has said.

Since last year, all students on seventh to ninth grades have undergone the mental health screening, so, we decided to conduct the tests on students on all grades, ISNA quoted Masoud Shokouhi as saying on Saturday.

"The scheme will be launched by the beginning of the next school year," he added.

For the current school year, screening of mental health was carried out in February and the results were presented to consultants for in-school or individual counseling, he said.

غربالگری «سلامت روان دانش آموزان» کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی از مهرماه

مدیرکل امور تربیتی و مشاوره وزارت آموزش و پرورش، اعلام کرد که از مهرماه آینده غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان در کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی انجام می شود. مسعود شکوهی در گفت و گو با ایسنا افزود: تا سال گذشته همه دانش آموزان پایه هفتم، هشتم و نهم از دانش آموزان پایه نهم مورد سنجش قرار گرفتند.

وی اظهار کرد: غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان از سال تحصیلی جدید آغاز می شود.

مدیرکل امور تربیتی و مشاوره وزارت آموزش و پرورش ادامه داد: برای سال تحصیلی جاری غربالگری اولیه سلامت روان بهمن ماه سال ۹۷ انجام شد و نتایج آن جهت استفاده مشاورین در برنامه ریزی های درون مدرسه ای و فردی در اختیارشان قرار گرفت.



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NOVEMBER 15, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who says unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target of their scandal.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:49 Evening: 17:17 Dawn: 5:14 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:41 (tomorrow)

Iran: Myths and legends

Part 5

Nature myths

Most ancient cultures have nature myths. These can be of two types: myths about nature or myths deploying key images from nature. The former are prominent in the creation myths below, and they occur in the cosmological myth discussed above. They explain how the cycle of nature functions.

It is inevitable that a pre-industrial society will utilize nature as the major source of imagery. An example of this is in the Mithra Yasht, which has a striking blend of nature and warrior imagery.

Mithra is the first god to travel across Hara, in front of the immortal, swift-horsed sun, who is the first to seize the beautiful, gold-painted mountain tops; from there the most mighty surveys the land inhabited by Iranians ... where high, sheltering mountains provide ample pasture ... for the cattle, where deep lakes stand with surging waves" (all quotations are from Gershevitch).

Similarly, Mithra is described as "the very great god who in the morning brings into evidence the many shapes, the creatures of the Incremental spirit, as he lights up his body, being endowed with [his] own light like the moon".

As in the morning so in the evening "[Mithra] goes along the whole width of the earth after the setting of the glow of the sun". He is described as the replenisher of waters "thanks to whom water [= rain] falls and plants grow".

Another example of nature symbolism is the use of animal imagery to depict powerful force of divine entities—Verethraghna (Victory) "in the shape of a wild, aggressive, male boar with sharp fangs and sharp tusks, a boar that kills at one blow, is un-approachable ... and strong, has iron hind feet, iron fore-feet, iron tendons, and iron tail and iron jaws."

A stronger theme in the Mithra Yasht, however, is that of the warrior. Mithra it is whom "the warriors worship at the manes of their horses, requesting strength for their teams, health for themselves, much watchfulness against antagonists, ability to strike back at enemies, ability to rout lawless, hostile opponents"; he is "the skilful warrior who has white horses and pointed spears with long shafts, who shoots afar with swift arrows"; he "sets the battle in motion, who takes his stand in the battle, who smashes the regiments; the center of the blood-thirsty army is quaking".

He drives in a "supernaturally fashioned, high wheeled chariot ..." "holding his mace in his hand; with its hundred bosses and hundred blades"; "whose pike is of silver, whose armor is of gold", "when the whips are tossing, the bow-strings twanging, the sharp arrows darting ..."; and he protects his worshippers "from the evil armies of the owners of Falsehood".

He is also the judge, who watches to see that people observe their contracts/agreements and does so with "a thousand ears and ten thousand eyes".

Other sources indicate that he was particularly associated with the priesthood, for the symbol of priesthood is the gurz, the mace of Mithra, and temples are known as dar-e Mehrs, courts of Mithra.

Categorizing, or producing typologies of, myths can be helpful, but there is a danger in assuming that there are watertight divisions, as though a myth belongs to either one type or another.

One myth can have diversity of features and levels of meaning, as the Mithra Yasht illustrates. Mithra exemplifies another feature of Iranian mythology, namely, that in comparison with Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Indian mythology there are few stories about the lives and deeds of the gods.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued



Mithra, detail from the investiture-relief of Shapur II, Taq-e Bostan, Kermanshah, Iran.

In Iranian tradition mythological imagery is used to highlight details or express abstract ideas, but there is little in the way of narrative, a theme discussed below.

An interesting nature myth with important theological implications concerns Tishtrya and the demon of drought, Apaosha (Mid. Pers. Aposh).

The main text is Yt. 8, but also important is G. Bd., where Tishtrya is identified as Sirius (both being producers of the waters) in V.A.2, 3, V.B.12, VI.B.1-21, VI.D.1, VIII. 2.

The texts (particularly VI.B) integrate the myth of the former with astrology. There Tishtrya is said to have produced the waters at creation. Each raindrop he produced was as big as a bowl, so the earth was covered with water to the height of a man, washing noxious creatures off the face of the earth.

The fourth month of the year is dedicated to Tishtrya; in the first ten days he takes the form of a fifteen-year-old male—the perfect age in ancient Iranian thought.

In the second period of ten days he takes the form of a bull, and in the last ten days the form of a horse. It is in the last that the main myth is related, the conflict with Apaosha.

Tishtrya charged to the cosmic ocean as a beautiful white horse with golden ears and trappings, whereas Apaosha was in the form of a black horse, with black ears, back, and tail. The two fought, hoof against hoof, for three days and nights until Apaosha overcame Tishtrya, who cried to the creator that he was weak because he had not received the proper prayers and sacrifices duly offered in his name by humanity.

The creator himself then sacrificed and offered the proper prayers, so that Tishtrya gained the strength of ten horses, camels, and bulls—as well as of ten mountains and rivers. When Tishtrya returned thus fortified to the fray, he triumphed over the demon of drought, so the rains fell and fertilized the seven regions of the earth.

Spanish teens climb rungs of “The Ladder to the World” to learn about creation of universe

From Page 1 ▶ The grandfather was also forgotten a few years after his death. However, one night, Sarshar dreamed that his grandpa was annoyed with the situation and was searching for his old box of books in the basement.

Sarshar sought to solve the puzzle of the dream. Therefore, he brought out the heavy box with the help of his mother and brother. Inside, he found an old, dilapidated, small, coverless manuscript.

Reading the story in the manuscript for the first time, he realized that it would still be attractive for young adults. After further consideration, he decided that teens should read this story, for it told how the universe was created; the story of how water, man, mountains, animals, etc. were created and how God controls the whole universe.

Sarshar streamlined the narrative of the manuscript in a new book entitled “The Ladder to the World” that Suresh-Mehr published in 2009.

The Persian book has been republished several times. Early editions were embellished with illustrations by Parviz Mahallati and



Photo: Writer Mohammadreza Sarshar (5th L), some El Faro and Suresh-Mehr managers and the Bolivian and Cuban envoys in Tehran attend a session at the MNA office on November 13, 2021 to unveil the Spanish translation of “The Ladder to the World”. (Mehr/Ali Haddadi-Asl)

the new editions were illustrated by Mansureh Mohammadi.

68-year-old Sarshar, who is also known as Reza Rahgozar, has written about 30 books, whose target audience is mainly children and young adults. Most of his books feature stories written based on Islamic teachings.

He is the author of “If Dad Dies”, “Rooster and the King”, “A Rope of Fire”, “Tiger Tales”, “Everybody Chanted Down with the Shah”, “Our Sad Stories” and several other books.

Sarshar worked for Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) as a storyteller on the program “A Story for Friday Noon”, which was aired on the

radio every Friday during the 1980s.

The IRIB organized a ceremony in July 2006 to celebrate Sarshar for his achievements. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei sent a message to the ceremony that read, “The revolution’s fiction stories are greatly indebted to Mr. Sarshar.”

Audience impressed by “Orca” at Ajyal Film Festival

TEHRAN – “Orca”, the true story of the Iranian swimmer Elham Sadat Asghari who earned a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, has won the audience award at the Ajyal Film Festival in Qatar.

The Iranian-Qatari co-production directed by Sahar Mossayebi follows the divorced Elham, who survives a horrific beating at the hands of her husband. Haunted by the traumatic experience and seeking to rediscover herself, she finds solace and salvation in the open expanse of water. Courageous, determined and encouraged by her father, Elham soon makes her mark as a formidable endurance swimmer. In the fight of her life, Elham faces obstacles in search of her ultimate goal, the Guinness world record for swimming the longest distance with her hands bound.

Attending the festival to promote her film, Mossayebi said in a press conference, “All the incidents in the film are true; they are real and Elham went through it all. With this film, we are stating facts not criticizing

or condemning anyone.”

“Orcas are like human beings; they are very family-oriented and close to each other as well as emotional and sensitive. So naming the film after it was a natural choice,” she added.

Taraneh Alidoosti, the star of Iran’s Oscar-winning movies “A Separation” and “The Salesman”, stars as Elham in “Orca”.

The winners of the Ajyal Film Festival were announced on Saturday as the Bader Best Feature Film Award went to “Little Palestine, Diary of a Siege” by Abdallah El Khatib.

The documentary has been co-produced by Lebanon, France and Qatar. During the Syrian civil war, the district of Yarmouk, home to thousands of Palestinians, became the scene of dramatic and ferocious fighting. This film follows the destiny of civilians during the brutal sieges imposed by the Syrian government, which took place in the wake of the battles.

“Captains of Zaatar” by Egyptian filmmaker Ali



Taraneh Alidoosti acts in a scene from “Orca” directed by Sahar Mossayebi.

El Arabi won the Hilal Best Feature Film Award.

In this documentary, El Arabi examines the lives of two soccer-obsessed Syrian friends living in Jordan’s Zaatar Refugee Camp.

Iranian movies honored at Ojai Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian movies “Sfumato”, “Faranak” and “Am I a Wolf?” have won honorable mentions at the Ojai Film Festival.

The festival organized in Oak View, California, announced the winners on Sunday, on the eve of the closing day of its virtual edition.

“Sfumato” by Amir-Ali Mirderikvand won the mention in the documentary short competition, which honored “Lion on the Mat” by American filmmaker Asali Echols as best film.

“Sfumato” is about a modern rural family in Iran with two teenage children. Their daughter and older child, Fatemeh, helps them a lot in their daily lives, but repeatedly faces difficulties and obstacles, mostly resulting from the confining gender roles that are placed on daughters in their society.

In the process of documenting



A scene from the Iranian animation “Am I a Wolf?”

these challenges, the film explores Iranian culture, the role of children in the Iranian family dynamic, and the role of females in Iranian society.

This docudrama shows how one family is breaking free of those traditional constraints by encouraging their daughter in her effort to obtain a license and drive a motorcycle.

“Faranak” by Mehrush Alia was praised in the narrative short competition.

In this film, a new Uber driver receives a request to deliver a golden retriever named Faranak. Knowing too well that having a dog in the car is against Iranian law, he is reluctant to accept the ride, but is obliged after learning that the dog belongs to a blind man.

“Undercut” by Kelly Pike from the U.S. was selected as best narrative short.

“Am I a Wolf?” directed by Amir-Hushang Moin received the

honorable mention in the animated short category, which picked “Yes- People” by Gisli Darri Halldorsson from Iceland as best short animation.

The acclaimed movie produced at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults tells the story of a group of children who perform the familiar story of the wolf and the yearlings in school as a puppet show. The nanny goat grieving for its yearlings and the angry wolf in its solitude face each other.

“Am I a Wolf?” received several awards in Iranian and international events, including the Grand Prix at the 12th Paris International Animation Film Festival and the Light of Asia Grand Prize at the 15th Indie-AniFest Korea Independent Animation Film Festival in September 2019.

The film also won the Golden Dove for best animated film at the 62nd DOK Leipzig in Germany in 2019.

“The Comfort Book” published for Persian readers



This combination photo shows English writer Matt Haig and the front cover of his non-fiction work “The Comfort Book”.

TEHRAN – English writer Matt Haig’s non-fiction work “The Comfort Book” has been published in Persian.

Maryam Fattahzadeh has translated the book published by Chatrang.

It is a small book for anyone in search of hope, looking for a path to a more meaningful life, or in need of encouragement.

Happiness occurs when you forget who you’re expected to be. And what you’re expected to do. Happiness is an accident of self-acceptance. It’s the warm breeze you feel when you open the door to who you are.

Years ago, Matt Haig began writing notes to his future self. These notes were meant as gifts to his future self: offerings of hope to help himself through anything from the darkest periods of his life to a not-so-great day.

As time went on, he added new thoughts and

stories, and he turned them into “The Comfort Book” so that everyone could draw on this well of reassurance and encouragement.

Each of its short meditations gives a new perspective on life and all of its highs and lows, small islands of hope for anyone looking for a more fulfilling, more uplifting way through life.

Incorporating a diverse array of sources from across the world, history, science and his own experiences, Haig offers warmth and reassurance, reminding us to slow down and appreciate the beauty and unpredictability of existence.

Haig is also a novelist. His multi-award winning, popular first novel for children, “Shadow Forest”, was published in 2007 and its sequel, “The Runaway Troll”, in 2009. His most recent children’s novel, “To Be A Cat” was published in 2012.