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Over 100m Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine Injected

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Report 

Saudi-Israeli propaganda against Iran and Syria fails

TEHRAN— Last week, Al Arabiya, a Saudi TV channel, said that Iran's advisor in Syria, Brigadier General Mustafa Javad Ghaffari, has been expelled from Syria, following a dispute with Syrian President Bashar Assad. Why did the Saudi-Israeli plot surfaced at such complicated time? The Tehran Times explores why.

Last week, the Saudi-owned Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper claimed that it has seen a Jordanian-drafted document outlining a quid pro quo process under which Arab states would normalize ties with Syria in exchange for concessions from the war-torn country.

The Arab Normalization Document lays out a step-by-step process that would begin with "reducing Iran's influence in certain parts of Syria," according to the Saudi newspaper.

The Saudis seized the opportunity to undermine Iran's role in Syria by portraying that Tehran-Damascus relations have hit a dead-end in order to bring Syria to the so-called Arab fold.

On the contrary, Iran has welcomed normalization of relations between Damascus and other Arab capitals. But this Iranian openness seems to have fallen on deaf ears in Saudi Arabia and its regional allies.

But what is the truth behind Javad Ghaffari's return to Iran?

In response to a question about the commander of Iran's advisory group in Syria and some articles published in the Zionist and Saudi media outlets in this regard, Saeed Khatibzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, said on November 15 that such news coverage by the Zionist media are not new.

"Iran-Syria relations at different levels have a very wide depth and scope and are pursued at strategic levels," he added. ► Page 2

Iran's priority is to expand trade with neighbors, senior diplomat says

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari has said it is a priority to expand economic and trade cooperation with neighbors, saying the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) can help achieve this goal.

Safari made the remarks at a meeting with ECO Secretary-General Khosrow Nazeri on the eve of the ECO summit in Turkmenistan, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

ECO includes Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

At the meeting, the ECO chief presented a report on the process to prepare for the summit in Ashgabat and hailed Iran for its assistance in this regard.

Safari said expansion of economic and trade cooperation with neighbors is a priority of the new Iranian administration and stressed the role of ECO in achieving the goals of member countries.

The top diplomat said a plan by Iran to send a high-level team to the forthcoming summit signifies the prominent position of ECO.

Safari said Iran is ready help ECO members to implement important decisions at the ECO summit in Ashgabat.

Quoting the Turkmen ambassador to Tehran, the IRIB news agency reported on October 20 that the summit will be held in late November.



Ayatollah Khamenei outlines blueprint for scientific leap

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday morning laid out the contours of scientific progress for Iran in a meeting with distinguished scientific scholars and academic elites.

The Leader underlined that Iran enjoyed God-given talents and minds that are capable of bringing about a brighter future for the country.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei addressed a variety of issues mostly relat-

ed to the status of science in Iranian society. Underlining the importance of scientific progress, the Leader called for a kind of scientific leap that would elevate Persian as a language of paramount importance in terms of making scientific references. ► Page 3

Govt. approves Finance Ministry's roadmap for economic development

TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi announced on Wednesday that the government Economic Coordination Headquarters has approved a roadmap proposed by his ministry for economic development and curbing inflation.

According to Khandouzi, the roadmap which mainly focuses on production growth and curbing inflation has been reviewed and approved in a meeting of the mentioned headquarters, IRIB reported.

"[based on this roadmap] It is decided to help increase productivity and improve the business environment through two categories of measures. First, removing barriers to the production and business by chain financing of businesses, and raising corporate tax while reducing the production tax rates," the minister explained.

The second category of government economic measures includes serious support for pioneering projects that have multiple chains and will generate large revenues and create

employment, Khandouzi added.

Pointing to the ways for financing pioneering projects, the official noted that the participation of foreign partners mainly from neighboring countries, the issuance of project shares and offering them at the stock market, and finally using the capacity of large holdings and subsidiaries of the country's banks and large state and public companies are among the ways through which the government plans to fund these projects. ► Page 4



Tehran hosting intl. home appliance exhibit

Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds is hosting the 21st edition of Iran's International Home Appliance Manufacturers Exhibition (HAMex 2021).

The four-day event, which will wrap up on Friday, showcases the latest products and achievements of Iranian home appliance manufactures.

Fort remnants associated with Median empire discovered in northeast Iran

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian and German archaeologists has recently unearthed vestiges of a prehistorical military fortress in northeast Iran.

Discovered in Tepe Rivi, an ancient hill in North Khorasan province, the fortress is estimated to date from some 2700 years ago when the mighty Median empire ruled parts of the greater Iran.

Furthermore, the team discovered other objects including a piece of engraved pottery that bears Sassanid Pahlavi scripts in the joint survey which marks the ninth archaeological season on the ancient site.

The discovery of the military fortress may indicate the existence of a regional government related to the northeast corner of the empire, a senior Iranian archaeologist Mo-

hammad-Javad Jafari said.

"Discovered in the northern parts of the site and among the brick buildings left from this period [Median era], indicates the continuation of the political and economic importance of Tepe Rivi until the Sassanid period," Jafari added.

Over the past seasons, Tepe Rivi has so far revealed magnificent remains of the Bronze Age up to the Sassanid period. ► Page 6

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Op-ed 

Gholizadeh proved Art of Dribbling has not lost in football

By Morteza Mohases

TEHRAN – After watching the skill of Iranian players Vahid Amiri and Ali Gholizadeh against Syria, I was convinced that as long as these players are active, we will enjoy football.

Gholizadeh scored Iran's last goal single-handedly, a clever player on the ball used his sudden acceleration changes that wrong-footed three Syrian defenders and converted a low drive in the 89th minute.

Iran, with impressive match stats throughout the game, defeated Syria 3-0. The result confirmed Iran as the top team in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualification.

Iran adopted a 1-4-2-3-1 formation, dominating the match with 459 passes and 60% of ball possession. Their game model was a logical positional play with effective off-the-ball movement and passing combination in attack and early pressing and aggressive tackling in defense. The attacking block consisted of Sardar Azmoun, Ehsan Hajisafi, Gholizade, and Vahid Amiri were spectacular, always on the move and creating space in and around the Syrian penalty area. The out-and-out striker Azmoun opened the scoring after receiving a pinpoint long pass from Amiri in the 33rd minute in the first half. ► Page 3

Report 

Overcoming aging crisis with family support incentives

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The decline in the marriage rate, followed by a dramatic decrease in childbearing, has sounded the alarm of the aging population, an issue that has forced government officials to enact legislation to support the population growth and the youth.

By a decree issued by President Ebrahim Raisi, the "Law on Family and Youth Support" approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) was notified to the Ministry of Health and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.

The Guardian Council approved the law on Monday to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing. ► Page 7

Why is the U.S. really punishing Nicaragua?

TEHRAN – U.S. President Joe President has announced new punitive measures against the Nicaraguan government following the country's Presidential election that saw Daniel Ortega win a fourth consecutive term.

The new measures include a travel ban which has been applied to all of Nicaragua's elected officials, reports left including President Ortega, the Vice President, in addition to security force members, judges, mayors and others. They are all barred from entering the United States.

Biden had pledged a wide variety of sanctions in response to the election that Washington has denounced as rigged in favor of Ortega; as has become the norm now, the accusations lacked any evidence.

Just a day after Biden's fresh decree, in co-ordinated action, the United States, Britain and Canada imposed targeted sanctions on Nicaraguan officials in response to the November 7 election; in which the three countries and some of their allies echoed Washington's labeling of the vote as a sham. The Biden administration slapped sanctioned ok nine Nicaraguans, while the UK targeted eight and Canada rolled out sanctions against 11 Nicaraguan officials. ► Page 5

Foreign Ministry and Cinema Organization can promote Iran's global status through cooperation



TEHRAN - The head of the Cinema Organization of Iran and the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a meeting recently to foster comprehensive cooperation programs to strengthen a strong presence of the Iranian cinema in regional and global markets.

At the meeting, ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh pointed out that cinema could play a significant role in the field of "cultural Iran".

"Regarding the axis of resistance and cultural Iran, we must produce more cinematic products with good quality. For example, we have only produced one film called 'survivor' in this field."

Highlighting that today "we should have a leading view" in the field of cultural Iran, the diplomat stated, "The view of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on cinema and the cinema organization is a strategic and content-oriented view, and we are ready for any cooperation to promote Iranian cinema."

The spokesman said that the foreign ministry's inherent duty is to pave the way for cooperation of domestic institutions with their international counterparts to meet the needs of the country, but it is necessary to outline the needs and demands of the cinema organization and filmmakers.

"Also, we ask the filmmakers to help and support us in important regional and international events. We hail any filmmaker who makes a work about an important cultural figure such as Nezami Ganjavi, Rumi or Rudaki," the Foreign Ministry official remarked.

Noting that every decision needs a plan to achieve the right result, Khatibzadeh said, "For joint cooperation, we can design a joint plan entitled 'strategic project to strengthen the strong presence of Iranian cinema overseas' and based on this plan develop an upstream document and make the necessary plans."

For his part, Mohammad Khazaei, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the head of the Cinema Organization, commended cooperation between the foreign ministry and his organization, saying, "Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian cinema has found a unique cultural, spiritual and poetic status with which the world knows us today."

"Apart from advancement of military technology and scientific developments, the growth of Iranian cultural cinema is one of the important features of the Islamic Republic," Khazaei noted, stating that the cinema has been "an influential ambassador and an opportunity to introduce and explain the Iranian Islamic culture in the world."

The deputy minister stated that Iranian films are known in the world, adding that in his personal foreign trips he has realized that Iran is famous for its cinema.

This of course does not mean the situation is ideal, he stressed, adding that the Iranian cinema has not yet found its rightful place in public and cultural diplomacy.

"Good activities have been done in different periods of Fajr International Festival and other international film festivals. We hope that with more focused and coherent planning... we will witness a wider and more influential impact of the Iranian festivals and cinema on national and international scenes in the coming years," Khazaei pointed out.

Khazaei said he believes that officials still have a lot of work to do internationally in the field of cinema and great efforts should be made in the areas of culture and tradition, especially with countries with whom Iran shares affinities.

The deputy minister said unfortunately, for various reasons, the level of influence of the Iranian cinema on regional countries is too low compared to other countries due to different

reasons. Of course, he said, part of the problem is related to the country's performance and the cultural structure of those countries.

Suggesting that the private sector should be strengthened, he said, "Unfortunately, the economic cycle and turnover of the Iranian cinema is very low and many producers in the private sector are not even able to introduce their works in global markets. The government, on the other hand, has not had the opportunity for joint production programs."

Noting that cultural activities should strengthen and develop relations with neighboring countries, Khazaei underscored that what is important in cinema, like other fields, is the issue of supply and demand, and if a film has this quality, it can be greatly welcomed by the people, it will definitely be noticed by domestic film companies.

The official added, "Today, cinema has become an important issue of interest and political officials can call for cooperation and interaction between countries in showing Iranian films and joint productions. If we can be present in the markets and cinemas of other countries such as China, in addition to the influence of the cultural sphere, we can also earn good income economically for the prosperity of the Iranian cinema."

Referring to the joint concerns of the foreign ministry and the cinema organization, he said it is natural that making cinematic works on some political, regional and global issues can help resolve problems and advance goals. He also announced that the cinema organization is ready for any kind of cooperation.

Khazaei noted that cinema could show the rightfulness of Iran in the world through cinema. "There are many issues and subjects about the problems of Iranians in the world and their punishment by the United States and some countries, which if put on screen they can reflect the voice of the Iranian people."

The official stated that the role of ambassadors and cultural advisors in the relations between countries is very important.

"If the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assists the cinema in international interactions, presence in regional markets and making joint films, we can take more effective steps."

Khazaei called cinema a public diplomacy for countries in the world.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs knows the capacities of different countries well and can help us and say with which countries we can have more interaction and cooperation and we should work for this cooperation and reach a comprehensive plan," he stated.

The diplomat said a joint working group is being formed by the Cinema Organization of Iran, and in this working group the desired plan for the prominent presence of the Iranian cinema in the next four years is being planned at international level, and the foreign ministry is ready for any kind of assistance and cooperation.

Khatibzadeh, referring to Iran's share of the regional and global market for cultural products, said: "Unfortunately, Iran's share in this sector is very small and we are trying to strengthen the presence of Iranian cultural and artistic works in international markets by forming cultural markets."

"We need to make the right decisions for the international sections, and I think nominating 'Hero' for the Oscars was a good choice," the spokesman said.

The diplomat concluded: "It is very important to hold film weeks abroad and we expect these film weeks to be held vigorously. In this regard, you can count on our help and the ambassadors."

From page 1 ▶ The diplomat stated that the brigadier general's mission in Syria was terminated. He added, "Incidentally, the commander of the Iranian advisory group in Syria was honored by the Syrian Minister of Defense at the end of his successful mission in Syria and received a medal from him."

Khatibzadeh continued by saying that everyone is aware of the level of the relations between Iran and Syria.

Syria has been one of the most important actors in the Arab world, the spokesman said.

He elaborated by saying that it is gratifying that the countries which secretly sought to normalize ties with Syria, have now acknowledged the realities on the ground and they seek to normalize their relations with Syria openly.

"This is in the interest of all the nations of the region. Iran not only welcomes this process, but also makes every effort to accelerate it for the Arab and Syrian countries to resume their relations," Khatibzadeh noted.

Syrian officials deny Al-Arabiya's claim regarding Iranian commander

Informed sources and political figures in Syria and Iran, in interviews with the Tasnim News Agency, denied the recent claim by Al-Arabiya that there is a dispute between Iran and Syria, and explained why the network made such a claim at this juncture.

An informed source in Syria denied the claims of the Saudi media, including Al-Arabiya, about what was called the "expulsion" of one of the commanders of the IRGC from Syria, who was on advisory mission in the Arab state.

Saudi-Israeli propaganda against Iran and Syria fails



The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, in an interview with a Tasnim correspondent in Damascus on November 14 denied the claim that President Assad and other senior Syrian officials had expelled Ghaffari.

The source said Al-Arabiya's claim that the Syrian president is "not content with Ghaffari's actions" is not true, and that Gen. Ghaffari had a good performance in Syria, both in giving military advices and providing humanitarian aid.

"Mr. Ghaffari has not created a rift between himself and any of Syria's political leaders and military

commanders, or between himself and a group in another country," he stressed.

What is Riyadh's purpose in making such claims?

However, the informed source told Tasnim, "Al-Arabiya's purpose in making such claims is to say that there are differences between Iran and Syria in order to justify halting its attacks on Bashar Assad. In particular, this is due to the positive developments regarding the positions of the Persian Gulf Arab states on Syria."

Recently, UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed traveled to Damascus to meet with the Syrian

President. Observers and analysts say Abu Dhabi has taken on the mission of returning Syria to the Arab League and normalizing relations between Damascus and other Arab capitals.

According to Syrian experts, the reason behind Al Arabiya's move is that Saudi Arabia has made the Al Arabiya network as a ladder in the case of normalization to come down from its anti-Syria position and is trying to justify its steps for getting closer to Syria and make a positive change in its policies towards Damascus.

These experts are also on the belief that the Saudis also pretend that this policy was formed after the alleged differences between Syria and Iran.

In an interview with Tasnim, Ahmed Jamil Ibrahim, a former Syrian army brigadier general and a member of the Syrian Parliament's National Security Committee, said that Al-Arabiya's claim was not worth reacting to.

"Al-Arabiya's claim is just one new example of biased news that the world has become accustomed to," Jamil Ibrahim said.

At the same time, one of Iran's leading ambassadors to the region also denied Al-Arabiya's claim and said that the news was not true and was fundamentally false.

Seyyed Hadi Afqahi, a former Iranian diplomat, confirmed the remarks of an informed Syrian source in this regard, saying that Gen. Ghaffari, prior to completing his mission in Syria, had been honored in the best possible way not only from the Syrian military and security institutions but also by President Assad.

The Saudi-Israeli-Emirati plot to detach Syria from one of its most important and loyal friends failed.

Iran reprimands sanctions as 'blunt and blind instruments'

Sanctions measures 'must be applied only as a last resort,' Iran's ambassador to UN notes



TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN on Tuesday censured the use of sanctions as "blunt and blind instruments" to exert pressure on countries.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi said reforms are needed to prevent the United Nations Security Council from resorting to embargos that merely punish an entire nation but fail to contribute to international peace.

"The use of sanctions as blunt and blind instruments has raised fundamental ethical questions about whether sufferings inflicted on vulnerable groups is a legitimate means of exerting pressure on the targeted country," Press TV quoted Takht-Ravanchi as telling the UN General Assembly.

Takht-Ravanchi said certain Security Council sanctions had been used in the past only to collectively punish an entire nation, without any actual positive impact on the maintenance of international peace and security, emphasizing that enforcement measures must be applied only as a last resort.

Sanctions, Takht-Ravanchi added, "must be applied very rarely, in an actually smart and targeted manner, with limited scope and duration, and only when all 'measures not involving the use of armed force' are exhausted and have truly 'proven to be inadequate' to 'maintain or restore international peace and security.'"

The Iranian diplomat said the Security Council's increasing deficiencies had "resulted in its legitimacy and credibility crisis as well as its serious trust and confidence deficit, making its reform inevitable."

"The ultimate goal of the Security Council's reform must be to address all its current challenges and deficiencies and to evolve the Council into a truly representative, effective, transparent, accountable and above all, rules-based body," the senior diplomat insisted.

Iran calls on countries not to issue hasty statements on IAEA claims

TEHRAN — Speaking to reporters on Wednesday afternoon, acting representative of Iran in international organizations in Vienna Mohammad Reza Ghaebi said that the IAEA's new quarterly report on the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal states that the UN nuclear watchdog has been continuing its verification and oversight activities regarding Iran's related commitments, urging the countries not to make hasty remarks about the report.

According to the IAEA report, Iran has increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium. The report

He said the ongoing attempts focused on the Council's enlargement, equating it with its reform and efficiency, but this cannot continue at the expense of neglecting or underestimating other issues.

Takht-Ravanchi stressed the importance of considering the Council's enlargement as only one out of many objectives in reforming the body, saying, "Improving the Council's working methods and accountability and ensuring that all its decisions are taken in full accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and international law are in no way less important than the Council's enlargement."

"The Council's reform must be considered as a comprehensive process, in which all five core issues under consideration must be treated equally, discussed thoroughly, and addressed in a package as they are interlinked and, as a whole, are greater than the sum of their parts. Therefore, any selective approach must be avoided," the official added.

He said Iran attached great importance to ensuring "equitable representation" in an expanded council and strongly believed this could not be realized only through safeguarding "geographical representation."

The Iranian ambassador criticized the West's strong presence and influence in the Council, saying three members of the body have veto power, "while the main regions are poorly represented in terms of both the number as well as privileges, including veto power."

"This means inequality 'among the regions... The existing inequalities must therefore be addressed both 'among' and 'within' the regions as they are both necessary and complementary," he said.

The diplomat voiced Iran's support for addressing historical injustice towards the developing world, particularly Africa, in ensuring equitable regional representation.

"We also fully support ensuring equal opportunities for each State within a given region, which, inter alia, can be done through limiting chances for those who have served more in the Council and, instead, provide more advantages to those who have never served in

the Council or served lesser," he said.

He said a combination of factors like population, economic power and regional position could play a role in achieving such a goal.

Takht-Ravanchi rejected as unacceptable any reform that serves the interests of only certain regions or a few states, stressing the need to seriously avoid any proposal that would "literally deepen the current imbalances or reduce the equal chance for states to become a Council member or contradict such intrinsic principles as sovereign equality and equal rights of states, transparency and accountability."

Iran backs reforms to the Council's working methods that would ensure that it acts "in full compliance with international law, particularly the UN Charter," he said.

Takht-Ravanchi further pointed to the Council's political and moral responsibility to act properly and responsibly and said its members must avoid taking decisions based on their own national interests or that of the geopolitical or geographical groups they belong to "but based on the common interests of the entire membership of the Organization."

"The Council must never be used as a tool to pursue national political interests and agendas. The Council is responsible before the Member States on behalf of whom it acts and must therefore remain accountable to them," the Iranian diplomat stated. "The Council shall also not consider issues which do not fall within its purview or are conferred by the Charter to other UN organs, and in particular it must stop encroaching upon the functions and powers of the General Assembly."

He warned that making hasty decisions or setting artificial deadlines for its work will be counter-productive, saying any possible decision, procedural or substantive, at any stage must be adopted only by consensus.

"We also do not support text-based negotiations at this stage. Moreover, changing the rules or format of the process or its informal nature seems to be unconstructive and must therefore be avoided," Takht-Ravanchi said.

Sanctions must be applied very rarely, in an actually smart and targeted manner, with limited scope and duration.

Iranian nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami called the sabotage act "a terrorist attack," blaming it on Israel.

In that regard, Ghaebi also said that Iran has asked IAEA to help investigate the sabotage act.

The Iranian representative also said that all the activities are being done with the IAEA knowledge, including the installation of new centrifuge machines and enrichment to purity of 60% beyond the JCPOA-permitted level of 3.67%.

Iran increased its nuclear activities a year after the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2018.

SPORTS

Gholizadeh proved Art of Dribbling has not lost in football

From Page 1 ▶ Syria employed a 1-4-4-1-1 system of play. They formed a Low-Block defending style and played counterattack. They had two experienced and talented forwards namely, Omar Al Somah and Mohamad Al Mawas.

With Dragan Skocic's philosophy of using versatile players and giving players freedom of movement and expression, Amiri is now what Italian called a new "Trequartista" in Iranian football.

In his new role as the attacking midfielder, Amiri was instrumental in the first two goals and a reliable link between defending and attacking movements. He was mobile, a quick-thinker, and the focal point of counterattacks.

The 3-0 result against Syria proved the conclusion to a successful campaign of Skocic and his side. Iran rattled, harassed, and outplayed the opposition throughout the game.

Women's goalkeeper Koudaei to lodge complaint against Jordan's FA

TEHRAN – Iran's women's football team goalkeeper Zohreh Koudaei will be lodging a formal complaint against Jordan Football Association.

Jordan's FA has accused the Iranian goalie of being a man.

On Sept. 25, Koudaei saved two penalties as Iran defeated Jordan 4-2 in a shoot-out to qualify for the 2022 Women's Asian Cup for the first time in their history. The match ended in a goalless draw but was decided on penalties.

The president of Jordan's FA, Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, tweeted a letter "requesting a gender verification check" on the Iranian goalkeeper.

"We duly acknowledge article 47 of the AFC Women's Asia Cup India 2022 Competition Regulations, and understand that gender verification is not mandatory for participating players," the letter reads.

"However, the article reserves the right for AFC to initiate a transparent and clear investigation by a panel of independent medical experts to investigate the eligibility of the player in question and others on the team."

Now, Koudaei is going to file a complaint to FIFA against Jordan's FA, restoring her dignity.



Iran coach Tot praises performance against Syria

TEHRAN - Iran assistant coach Marijo Tot heaped praise on his players after an emphatic 3-0 victory over Syria on Matchday Six of the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to Qatar Group A on Tuesday.

Team Melli needed just over half an hour to open the scoring at King Abdullah II Stadium after Vahid Amiri supplied a fine overhead pass for Sardar Azmoun to give IR Iran the lead. Ehsan Hajisafi doubled the advantage from the spot just before the break and Ali Gholizadeh sealed the victory late on with an impressive solo goal.

Head coach Dragan Skocic's men extended their unbeaten run in the final stage of the AFC Asian Qualifiers to six games, reaching point 16 at the summit of the group despite the absence of their coach who was suspended for a previous dismissal, with Tot taking duty in his place on the night.

"Working with players like those with extraordinary footballing ability, character and commitment makes your job as a coach easier," said Tot.

"It was a very important game for us, and before we reached this stage we knew we had to show our quality to be able to handle this match. Winning these two games against Lebanon and Syria showed our character."

Iran have edged ever closer to reaching the FIFA World Cup for the third time in a row, with the gap between them and third-place UAE now up to 10 points with four games to go, meaning they need a single win from their remaining four matches to officially qualify.

"The boys are playing with passion and enthusiasm in every game. I hope we can continue the same way to secure qualification to the 2022 FIFA World Cup."

Syria football federation sacks Nizar Mahrous

TEHRAN – Syria Football Federation sacked coach Nizar Mahrous following poor results in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification.

The Syrian FA announced the termination of Mahrous's contract immediately after 3-2 defeat against Iran.

It has confirmed in a statement that a replacement will be appointed within 48 hours.

Syria has a difficult task ahead to book a place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The Syrian team have just two points in Group A.

Iran's NPC Women's Commission meeting held

TEHRAN – Members of Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Women's Commission was convened on Wednesday at the NPC headquarters to discuss the 2020 Paralympic Games' success and the opportunities ahead of them.

During this meeting, which was attended by the Tokyo gold medalists Zahra Nemati and Hashemeh Motaghiyan along with retired athletes Masoumeh Karegar Zoghi, Behnaz Kazemi, Mansoureh Asvadi and Sarah Azizi, NPC vice president and the head of the Commission Sima Limoochi delivered a short report on the performance of Iran's female Paralympians at the Tokyo 2020.

The members, also, discussed the role that female Paralympians played in the successful performance of the leading NPCs at the Games. To this end, experts in the relative field will be introduced by IR Sports Federation for the Disabled, Visually Impaired and other stakeholders in order to plan more development in female participation at the upcoming events including Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games and Paris 2024 Paralympics. Besides, actions to identify more sports with podium potentials will also be taken to make more opportunities for the young athletes.

Iran's female Paralympic medalists at the Tokyo 2020 were praised at the end of the meeting by the members of NPC Women's Commission for their successful performance.

Iran consolidates place with win against Syria: FIFA

TEHRAN – Iran consolidated their place in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification with a 3-0 win over Syria.

Iran furthered distancing themselves from the chasing pack with four games left, FIFA.com wrote.

Leading third-placed United Arab Emirates by 10 points, Iran can seal early qualification with three games to spare if they defeat Iraq in the next outing in January and the other results also go its way.

Iran had also earned a dramatic 2-1 win over Lebanon last week.



Bagheri briefs parliamentary committee on result of talks with Europeans

TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani presented a report on the results of his nuclear talks with his European counterparts, the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee spokesman Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini said in an interview with Mehr published on Tuesday.

Bagheri Kani, Iran's new chief nuclear negotiator, visited the capitals of France, Germany and Britain – three countries party to the 2015 nuclear deal – for dialogue on lifting sanctions on Iran in the runup to the resumption of talks in Vienna on November 29. Bagheri Kani also visited Madrid, Spain, during his European tour. Enrique Mora, the European Union political director who acts as coordinator in talks between Iran and the remaining parties to the nuclear deal, also left Brussels for Madrid for talks with Bagheri Kani.

The spokesman also said the MPs sitting on the parliamentary committee discussed the JCPOA and the forthcoming talks with the P4+1 countries as well as the framework and expectations from the talks.

Abbaszadeh Meshkini said lifting of sanctions and Iran's proper response to the negotiating partners for their lack of adherence to their commitments under the JCPOA were the main demands raised at the meeting.

Ayatollah Khamenei outlines blueprint for scientific leap

From Page 1 ▶ "The momentum of our scientific growth should be such that in 50 years' time, Iran will become a global source of science and other nations will feel the need to learn Persian to access new sciences. This was once the case, our scientists topped in science and this can happen again," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

He pointed out that such progress should also contribute to solving the country's problems. "The country's scientific community should aim at solving the nation's issues. The ruling body should get help from the universities to solve the nation's issues," The Leader stated.

The remarks come at a time when science and technology increasingly take on huge importance and have become the linchpin of any sustainable economic development. New technologies such as artificial intelligence are reshaping the history of the world. This is not lost on the Leader. "Artificial Intelligence will play a role in managing the future of the world. This should be seriously taken into consideration. We should at least be among the top 10 countries of the world in this field," he suggested.

Knowledge-based companies' share in Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) has also been in the spotlight during the Wednesday meeting. The Leader pointed to a report by Sourena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology, that contribution of knowledge-based companies to the country's GDP is less than 1%. Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that the contribution of these companies

should certainly be increased to at least 5% in 3-4 years.

Such a remarkable increase requires more or less great scientific progress. But how can Iran achieve such progress?

The Leader drew a plan for progress. According to Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran needs to make three strides to achieve a science-based, bright future: First, extensive efforts should be made to bridge the gap between Iran and the front lines of global science. Second, Iranians should cross the borders of world knowledge and present their new scientific discoveries to human society. Third, a new Islamic civilization should be built based on beneficial science.

"If the young elites of the homeland look to this bright horizon, their scientific movement will be in the right direction and the problems will be solved," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

Also, the Leader touched on the responsibilities of elites in putting the country on a path of progress and development. In this regard, he pointed to three main responsibilities on scientific elites' shoulders. First, elites should feel responsibility toward the country. "Young elites should feel responsibility toward the country," the Leader said, underlining officials should also feel their share of responsibility toward the highly-talented persons.

Second, young elites and talented scholars should pay attention to the planned and targeted future for the country.

Third, the highly-talented individuals should not be negligent of their own assets, something that enemies want it to happen.

"When a nation becomes negligent of its capabilities, it becomes easy to plunder that nation," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

He also underlined the destructive role colonialism has always played in keeping other nations back by trying to persuade them "to ignore their talents."

The Leader added, "An important part of the colonizers' soft warfare is causing nations to ignore their talents. They keep repeating to a nation that it cannot do anything until that nation itself denies its talents."

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed the great civilizations in Africa that were destroyed by the colonizers through soft war. "There were great civilizations in Africa that were completely destroyed due to their neglect of their capabilities and due to the soft war the colonizers waged against them. In his memoirs, Nehru points to this fact and how the British destroyed the industry of self-reliant India," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

The Leader said the enemy wants Iranians to be negligent of their arms and assets so that they can be defeated easily. "God warns in the holy book [Quran] that the enemy wants you to neglect your weapons and assets in order to attack easily, which is significant today given the pressures and controversies in the world over the issue of drones and missiles," Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized.

Diplomat seeks removing border obstacles to up trade with Iraq

TEHRAN — Mehdi Safari, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy, has said it is possible to expand trade between Tehran and Baghdad by two times provided that the existing border problems are resolved, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Safari, a career diplomat, made the comments in the seventh meeting of the Foreign Economic Relations Coordination Headquarters. The agenda of the meeting was "reviewing the latest economic relations with Iraq".

The new Iranian administration is bent on developing economic relations with neighbors. It has

adopted "the neighbors first policy".

During the meeting, Safari presented a report on his recent visits to Baghdad and the Iraqi Kurdistan region to identify and remove obstacles to increase economic relations and elaborate on the conditions governing bilateral relations, and a possibility to double trade ties.

The participants put forward their suggestions at the meeting.

It is the first time in the history of the Islamic Revolution that the Foreign Ministry has created a department for economic diplomacy. Safari has served as Iran's ambassador to China and Russia.



He also served as Iran's special envoy for the Caspian Sea legal regime.

President says he is hopeful about future

TEHRAN — President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday pointed to important issues of the country, saying that he is quite hopeful about the future.

He referred to the measures taken in the field of widespread vaccination and facilitating public access to medicine and COVID-19 treatment, saying, "I repeat that as time goes by, my hope for the future grows."

"83 days have passed since the beginning of the government, and with all the financial problems, the government payments, especially the payment of employees' salaries, have been made without delay and

without borrowing from the central bank," Raisi said during a parliament session held to review the qualifications of the proposed education minister.

The president said that the volume of oil sales has increased and the process of financing has been facilitated and accelerated. He added, "Concerns about the supply and storage of essential goods have been eliminated and the work for implementing the parliamentary law for constructing 4 million housing units has begun by holding the meeting of the Supreme Council of Housing."



Raisi stated, "Today, the country's diplomacy and international interactions, based on mutual respect and the principles of dignity, wisdom and expediency, have come out of the passive state and become active."

Referring to his meetings with the provincial assemblies, the President stated, "In the past 83 days, I have travelled to one third of the provinces of the country, and despite the rumors and talks about these trips, I insist on following on the problems in the field."

"Today, the country's international interactions are pursued with the priority of diplomacy with neighbors and based on mutual respect and the principles of dignity, wisdom and expediency, and the country's diplomacy has turned from passive to active," he said.

Yousef Nouri proposed as new education minister

TEHRAN – In a letter to the Majlis (Parliament) on Wednesday, President Ebrahim Raisi proposed Yousef Nouri as new education minister.

Nouri a native of Ilam aged 60, has PhD in tourism management from Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU)

and has authored five books.

The nomination came one day after the Majlis refused to confirm Masoud Fayazi as education minister. Out of 260 legislators present in the 290-seat parliament, 140 voted against Fayazi and 115 voted in favor.

Five MPs also abstained.

Nouri is the third person proposed as education minister. The first nominated person was Hossein Baghgoji, who only got 76 votes on August 25.

Nouri enjoys teaching career at elementary, secondary and high school

levels. He also taught at Iranian schools in Bahrain and Qatar.

In addition, he has been teaching at Allameh Tabataba'i University, Payam-e Nour University, Tehran Applied Sciences University, Islamic Azad University, and teacher training centers.

Govt. approves Finance Ministry's roadmap for economic development

From page 1 ▶ Khandouzi also pointed to his ministry's plan for curbing inflation based on monetary and credit measures and budgets centered steps in collaboration with the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the country's Budget and Planning Organization (BPO), saying: "Budget measures and the use of monetary instruments such as controlling banks' balance sheets on a monthly basis,

controlling interbank market rates and open market operations will be among these programs."

Preventing tax evasion, controlling government spending, selling surplus assets of government-owned entities and generating revenue by the government-owned companies were also mentioned as ways for reducing budget deficit in the current year.

Iran eyeing expansion of trade ties with Russia under EAEU agreement

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman Pak has stressed the need for establishing export consortia between Iran and Russia for accelerating mutual trade under the framework of the agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Peyman Pak made the remarks in a meeting with the Russian Ambassador to Tehran Levan Dzhagaryan on Tuesday, the TPO portal reported.

In this meeting, major Russian companies were introduced to the Iranian side to cooperate in various sectors including production, trade, and export, while the issue of extraterrestrial cultivation and establishing joint plants for food processing were also discussed.

The need for cooperation between the two countries to facilitate the transit of goods and the removal of customs barriers by the Russian side as well as facilitating

the issuance of visas to traders and drivers were also among the issues discussed in the meeting.

According to the official customs data, the value of trade between Iran and Russia stood at \$1.168 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), of which \$317 million was Iran's exports to Russia and \$851 million was the share of imports from Russia.

The presidents of Iran and Russia had an "in-depth" telephone conversation on Tuesday in which they discussed a number of issues ranging from Afghanistan and Syria to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and a cooperation document expected to raise Tehran-Moscow ties to a new level.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi appreciated the phone call of his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and expressed Iran's willingness to develop trade and economic relations with Russia.

'Portuguese private sector eager for resuming activities in Iran'



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Portuguese Ambassador to Tehran Carlos Costa Neves

TEHRAN - Portuguese Ambassador to Tehran Carlos Costa Neves has said his country's private sector is eager for the resumption of trade relations with Iran after the U.S. sanctions are lifted, the portal of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported.

As reported, Neves made the remarks in a meeting with the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie on Wednesday.

Speaking in this meeting, the ambassador referred to five centuries of historical

relations between Iran and Portugal, saying: "Fortunately, the two countries have good relations, especially in the political dimension, however, in addition to the importance of political relations, we should not overlook economic and cultural cooperation."

"We look forward to the positive developments of the Vienna talks that are to take place soon. We hope the sanctions will be lifted. This is especially important for large companies. Fortunately, we heard positive news in the first half of this year and this has created a positive economic outlook, and our companies hope to be able to return to Iran and start investing," the official said.

Further in the meeting, Shafeie mentioned the great capacities for economic cooperation between Iran and Portugal, saying that Portugal has the capacity to meet the needs of the Iranian market in a variety of areas including cork, textiles, fisheries and aquaculture.

By Mahnaz Abdi

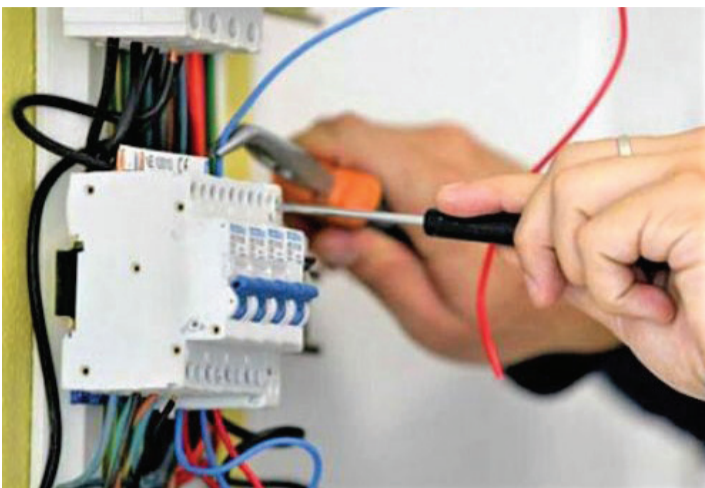
TEHRAN- Iran has been facing some serious challenges regarding electricity supply over the past decade mainly due to the temperature rising and decrease of rainfalls.

Some other factors, such as high illegal cryptocurrency mining, have even worsened the situation in the country this year, as the citizens suffered a lot from the constant power outages, while it also caused serious damages to the activities of industries.

Although every year nearly 3,000 MW is added to the country's power generation capacity, the reduction in the rainfalls and the decline in the water storage behind the dams has reduced the electricity generation offsetting the added capacity.

Back in May, warning about a difficult peak consumption period in this year, Mohammad-Hassan Motevalizadeh, the managing director of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir), had mentioned three major factors creating some severe condition in terms of power supply in this year, and explained, "This year, we are facing three issues. First, there was a very severe drought during which we saw a reduction in the water supply of the country's hydropower plants to less than half. In this way, we lose the generation of

Replacing worn-out equipment to reduce electricity consumption



about 4,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity from hydropower sources."

On the other hand, due to the intense premature heat, the cooling equipment entered the consumption circuit earlier than usual, he mentioned.

"And a new problem we are facing this year is the power consumption of illegal cryptocurrency mining units", Motevalizadeh added.

Such condition made electricity supply one of the major

concerns of the government, so the Energy Ministry and related organizations took various measures to tackle the problem.

Consumption management was one of those measures, as the ministry offered incentives to the low-electricity consumers, while it set some penalties for the high-electricity consumers.

The other measure was to renovate the electricity network and equipment, as it is necessary to prevent power

loss by replacing high-efficiency equipment with low-efficiency ones and renovating worn-out electricity distribution networks.

This is true for all electrical equipment, which consumes a lot of energy when worn out, therefore it should be definitely renovated.

For example, renovation of electrical panel can lead to economizing on power consumption by 40 to 50 percent.

To renovate the electrical equipment, some budget has been allocated.

On Tuesday, Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said that the use of worn-out electrical equipment is one of the important factors in increasing electricity consumption, so it is planned to renovate such equipment with the help of government resources and resources obtained from the government's subsidy reform plan.

"One of the most effective ways to reduce power consumption is to replace electrical equipment that is not efficient due to wear and tear", he noted, adding, "Replacing this type of equipment and replacing it with up-to-date equipment has a great effect on reducing energy consumption".

At the end, the official announced that it's being tried to replace such equipment with some new ones based on a plan.

Construction of 700,000 affordable housing units underway across Iran

TEHRAN –Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi said the construction of 700,000 affordable housing units has begun across the country under the framework of the new phase of the National Housing Plan Action.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the second meeting of the government's Supreme Housing Council, Qasemi said the land for the construction of 2.4 million housing units has been prepared and allocated, Mehr News Agency reported.

Pursuing the National Housing Plan Action, which is aimed to provide people with affordable housing units, the new government has defined a comprehensive program to construct such housing units all over the country.

The official noted that in the first phase of

our new program for the National Housing Plan Action, the construction of two million housing units has been started across the country and the share of each province has been determined.

"In today's meeting, which was attended by governors of different provinces in the form of video conferences, it was decided that the land allocations for the construction of four million housing units will be determined by the end of the current [Iranian calendar year] year (late March 2022)," the minister said.

He further mentioned a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with the Mostazafan Foundation, noting: "According to the signed memorandum, 900 hectares of the foundation's lands throughout the country will be handed over [to the Transport

Ministry] free of charge to be allocated for the National Housing Action Plan."

Commenced in winter 2018, the National Housing Action Plan aims to construct 400,000 small and medium-size apartments (70-100 square meters in size) across the country and particularly in Tehran, where housing prices have risen most sharply.

Nearly half of the total number of the said houses will be constructed in Tehran's suburban "new towns" such as Parand and Pardis, respectively located in the west and east of the city.

Back in March, former Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami had announced that 510,000 residential units will be provided for the applicants under the framework of the National Housing Action Plan during the current year.

Iran, Tunisia stress reviving economic ties

TEHRAN – Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Masoud Khansari and Tunisia's Ambassador to Tehran Samir Al-Mansar stressed the need for reviving trade relations between the two countries in a meeting on Tuesday.

In this meeting, Khansari expressed TCCIMA's readiness to start a new chapter in economic relations between the two countries, and in this regard considered it necessary to create a platform for introducing Iranian and Tunisian businessmen and entrepreneurs to each other and raise awareness about the economic capacities of the two countries.

He noted that direct communication between



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (L) and Tunisia's Ambassador to Tehran Samir Al-Mansar

the traders of the two countries can be revived through holding bilateral meetings and webinars, and in this due noted that the TCCIMA is ready to

hold a webinar on the development of economic cooperation between Iran and Tunisia.

Al-Mansar for his part noted that the political relations between Iran and Tunisia are at a great level, however, the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries is not favorable.

He said that the leap in economic relations between the two sides depends on the relationship and interaction between the private sectors of the two countries, and in this regard, announced the readiness of the Tunisian embassy in Tehran to connect the two countries' businessmen through cooperation with the TCCIMA.

Renewables prevent emission of 100,000 tons of GHG in a month

TEHRAN – Generating electricity from renewable sources prevented the emission of Green House Gases (GHG) in Iran by 100,000 tons during the seventh Iranian calendar month Mehr (September 23-October 22), IRNA reported.

Electricity generation from renewables in the mentioned period has led to economizing on the consumption of natural gas by 44 million cubic meters and water by 34 million liters in the said month.

As reported, 156 million kilowatts of electricity has been generated from the renewable sources in the seventh month.

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

Based on Iran's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), the country was aiming for 5,000 megawatts (MW) increase in

renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

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

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

After the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal, in July 2015, many foreign delegations came to

Iran for making investments and constructing renewable power plants in the country.

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

In mid-October, Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian said his ministry welcomes foreign investment in the country's renewable energy industry.

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

Iran has great potentials in the field of renewable energies

TEDPIX gains 2,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 2,155 points to 1.41 million on Wednesday.

Over 5.37 billion securities worth 42.806 trillion rials (about \$1.019 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 832 points, and the second market's index gained 6,692 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.

In a meeting with the representatives of over 30 major companies active in the capital market, on November 1, to exchange ideas for resolving issues and developing the economy, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said his ministry plans to make the economy more predictable and eliminate pricing systems that are harmful to the capital market and the stock exchange industry.

From page 1 ► The U.S. sanctions, included the energy minister, vice minister of finance and an entire government ministry. Biden had accused Ortega of organizing a “pantomime” election in the Central American nation, and U.S. officials have pledged to work with allies to ratchet up the pressure. Last week, a senior State Department official said that a sanctions announcement would be the first in a series of steps the U.S. administration will “ramp up over time.”

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken says, “I don’t want to leave people the impression that it’s going to be kind of one announcement and done... This will continue to go over time.”

Ortega has ridiculed his U.S. critics as “Yankee imperialists” and has accused them of trying to undermine Nicaragua’s electoral process. Cuba, Venezuela and Russia among others have offered Ortega their support and backing. In any case, previous sanctions imposed by Biden and his predecessor, Donald Trump, failed to change Ortega’s government, and many observers are skeptical whether new measures will have much impact.

Behind the scenes, Washington has been working hard on trying to get the Organization of American States on board.

Last month, twenty-six OAS members voted on a resolution regarding Ortega but there was no unanimous agreement and seven countries abstained. Washington is working to build a more united stand at the bloc’s general assembly. Asked if Nicaragua could be kicked out, a State Department official said it would be important for OAS members to make their next moves in unity. Nicaragua expulsion from the OAS is reportedly not on the Biden agenda because his aides are wary similar action against Cuba in the 1960s failed to change Havana’s policies.

Why Washington is talking on behalf of and advising the Organization of American States on what action to take is something that ought to raise serious eyebrows and questions marks.

The main question is does Nicaragua pose a threat to the United States or anyone else to even warrant being sanctioned?

Another question observers would cite concerns Washington’s interference in Latin America or Central America. Wherever there is a country that opposes U.S. meddling in their internal affairs, nations that are sovereign and independent of the U.S. or oppose the U.S. intervening in the region,

Why is U.S. really punishing Nicaragua?



facts suggest Washington tends to interfere in those countries’ internal affairs.

In the lead up to Nicaragua’s election the country witnessed a surprise bout of violence and protests that turned deadly in some areas. Ortega has blamed the unrest on coup plotters backed by the United States. It’s not the first attempt by Washington to infiltrate Nicaragua and plot a coup.

In the 1980s, the CIA secretly created a terrorist group, known as the contras, with the aim of overthrowing Ortega’s government. The Nicaraguan President says he has neutralized the current threat against the sovereignty of his country and security officials had regained control and stability over all cities.

The same can be said about other nations in the region such as Cuba, Bolivia, Venezuela and others. If they oppose Washington’s policies, the U.S. will try to take those government’s down. If they welcome U.S. interference or Washington running their affairs... well, as they say, “you can’t invade the invaded.”

Cuba has been under U.S. embargo for over six decades costing Havana \$130 billion in the process (according to the UN) but it refuses to surrender.

According to experts, America

orchestrated the military coup against the government of former Bolivian President Evo Morales (the country’s first indigenous leader) and install a puppet regime. Only for the Bolivian people to take matters into their own hands at the ballot boxes and vote back Morales’s party into power.

In Venezuela, Washington tried multiple times to topple the elected government of Nicolas Maduro but all to no avail.

In Brazil, the socialists may have suspiciously lost popularity but top U.S. ally President Bolsonaro has lost popularity and experts say the much-loved President Lula would return to power if there was an election today.

Ortega’s and his senior aides have repeatedly argued that they are victims of a campaign funded by the Washington to topple their government. After all, in the 1970s a young Ortega helped topple the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, whose family had ruled Nicaragua since 1936.

After toppling Somoza, Ortega went on to become the first post-revolutionary president; and it was a popular revolution, the people’s revolution. A nation that had enough with decades being ruled by an American backed military regime. He lost a reelection bid in 1990 but returned to the post in 2007. Analysts say he is very

Ortega has ridiculed his U.S. critics as “Yankee imperialists,” accusing them of trying to undermine Nicaragua’s election.

popular among voters.

He won the November 2021 election with 75 percent of the ballot boxes and an impressive 68 percent voter turnout.

Over the years, the ruling socialist Sandinista National Liberation Front party invested heavily in energy, oil distribution to the poor and working class, food exports, media outlets, timber, cattle and even tourism. One of the important investments has been on agriculture which the country relies heavily on. The investment increased Ortega’s popularity both politically and also economically.

It has also helped the country’s President preserve the popular revolution.

The other question that should be raised here is how much legitimacy does the U.S. have left to lecture others about elections following the last American President election where half the country believes the vote was rigged and an insurrection took place on January 6th.

According to four current and former law enforcement officials, the FBI has found evidence that the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was the result of an organized plot to overturn the alleged presidential election result. 570 alleged participants have been arrested but the FBI is reported to believe the violence was not centrally coordinated by far-right groups or prominent supporters of then-President Donald Trump, according to the sources, who have been either directly involved in or have been briefed regularly on the wide-ranging investigations.

Plus, in a survey conducted as recently as June, 47 million American adults (that is nearly 1 in 5) agree with this following statement that “the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump and Joe Biden is an illegitimate president.” Of that number, 21 million also agree that “use of force is justified to restore Donald Trump to the presidency.”

The research found that many of these 21 million people with insurrectionist sentiments have the capacity for violent mobilization. At least 7 million of them are already in possession of a firearm, while at least 3 million have served in the U.S. military and therefore have lethal experience. Of those 21 million, 6 million say they support right-wing militias and extremist groups, and 1 million acknowledged they are themselves or personally know a member of such a group, including the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers militia groups.

Talk about the need to clean your own house first.

Remembrance Day: The nauseating hypocrisy of British war machine

By John Wight

The ritual of tribute to fallen soldiers is a tradition that stretches back to ancient times. From antiquity to the present day the exaltation of those who have died fighting in a given tribe, city state or nation’s wars has played a crucial role in uniting any of the aforementioned or around a narrative of shared purpose and values.

Remembrance Day in the UK
Here in the UK or Britain we have the annual tribute of Remembrance Day, observed each year on the closest Sunday to 11 November, the anniversary of Armistice Day, which brought the First World War to an end in 1918.

Young and old, rich and poor, the message embraced on this day is that we are joined in common cause by nationality, heritage and history, and that those who died fighting in the ‘our’ wars did so in the interests of all of us and as such are worthy of our admiration, gratitude and honor.

There is, however, an insidious side to this annual ritual in Britain, one that has taken on the mantle of a national shibboleth. It is that at bottom the trumpets, monuments, and fanfare are not only designed to mourn the nation’s war dead but also, and more importantly, to glorify the nature of their deaths and, by extension, extol the virtues of militarism and the nation’s martial might.

This is even more relevant when we consider Britain’s recent participation in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – wars in which countless thousands of civilians have been killed or maimed, and for whom there is no monument or ritual of remembrance. This does not include the numerous other colonial wars this country has waged throughout the history of an empire that should be a source of shame rather than the celebration it is in the hearts of minds of the country’s elites.

Hypocrisy
The sight of the nation’s political leaders, former prime ministers, members of the royal family, and various other dignitaries laying wreaths at the cenotaph to commemorate the deaths and slaughter of the untold thousands of predominately working class men, used as cannon fodder to maintain the class privileges which they and theirs enjoy, is an act of nauseating hypocrisy to behold.

No amount of national propaganda can conceal the truth that lies behind this hypocrisy – namely that Britain’s role in the world as a colonial power is an ignoble and eminently dishonorable one, and that the apotheosis of militarism which this annual ritual engenders acts as a recruiting sergeant to encourage succeeding generations of young working class men, starved of opportunity and prospects at home, to join up and likewise make themselves available to be sacrificed on the altar of national prestige and degeneracy.

The inescapable truth is that the thousands of working class young men who have gone to their deaths in Britain’s wars and military adventures up to now, have done so in the interests of a political establishment that has demonstrated little desire to offer them anything at home apart from poverty, alienation and perennial despair.

Hard truths surrounding WWII
Even when it comes to the one war in Britain’s recent history that was necessary, WWII, there are truths attached that dare not speak their name.

Firstly, Churchill’s primary objective in waging war against Hitler was not to defeat fascism but to save the British Empire, particularly India, from which at the time his class derived most of the enormous wealth required to maintain



and sustain the class privileges they enjoyed. The destruction of fascism, an ideology that Winston Churchill previously evinced admiration of in the late 1920s, specifically with regard to Mussolini’s fascist order in Italy, was a by-product of this objective.

Secondly, Hitler was himself an admirer of the British Empire, which he sought to emulate in Eastern Europe under the rubric of ‘lebensraum’ (living space), envisioning the replacement of the indigenous Slav peoples with German/Aryan settlers.

Addiction to war
Ultimately, Remembrance Day is an annual reminder that Britain is nation and a society suffering from an addiction to war and conflict. Breaking this addiction requires that we first undergo a sea change in our attitude to war and how we view those who’ve died in past wars.

The liberal bandying around of words such as ‘sacrifice’ and ‘heroism’ at this time of year, usually by well fed, privileged politicians and commentators who’ve probably never experienced as much as a punch in the face much less combat, reveals an atrocious lack of understanding of the terror these young men experience and deliver in places like Afghanistan and Iraq.

The notion that an 18-year-old from an under privileged background signs up with the resolve to sacrifice his life for his country is a lie. They sign up looking to escape the drab and dim prospects offered them at home, seduced by the illusion of excitement and adventure.

No amount of training could ever prepare these young men for the horrors of war, for the sight of their comrades being blown apart beside them, the sight of women and children slaughtered, and no amount of bugles and parades could ever compensate those who return maimed and/or psychologically damaged as a consequence, whereupon they are left to the mercy of charity.

The main enemy
The main enemy of the young men sent to kill and be killed overseas in illegal and unjust wars of aggression waged by ruling elite currently mired in sleaze and corruption are those who send them.

On Sunday past they were be standing in front of the cenotaph in central London with poppies the size of tennis balls pinned to their chests, serving up the fake and faux sincerity, solemnity and respect which they have perfected over time.

War should be made a crime, and those who instigate it should be punished as criminals. For in the last analysis war does not determine who is right, only who is left. At this time of year we in Britain are left in no doubt that we still have a long way to travel before we can lay claim to the word ‘civilized.’

John Wight is an author and political commentator based in Scotland.

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

Long-time jail sentence for ‘Horn Man’ of U.S. Capitol

TEHRAN – Jacob Chansley, known as “QAnon Shaman” who marched through the U.S. Capitol with a spear and horned helmet during the Jan. 6 riot, will appear before a federal judge on Wednesday to be sentenced for his role in the attack.

“The defendant was among the first 30 rioters to penetrate the U.S. Capitol building,” prosecutors wrote in their filing. “The defendant then stalked the hallowed halls of the building, riling up other members of the mob with his screaming obscenities about our nation’s lawmakers, and flouting the ‘opportunity’ to rid our government of those he has long considered to be traitors.”

Prosecutors have asked district judge in Washington to announce a 51-month sentence on Jacob Chansley, who in September pleaded guilty to obstructing an official proceeding at the US Capitol building along with thousands of other supporters of then-US President Donald Trump.

Chansley was the face of the Jan. 6 riot at the US Capitol after pictures of him – wearing face paint with a horned head-dress and no shirt – emerged from inside the building.

He was one of the first rioters, the Trump supporters, to make it inside the highly-fortified building, carrying an American flag on a speared pole, which prosecutors have called a weapon.

“Defendant Chansley’s now-famous criminal acts have made him the public face



of the Capitol riot,” prosecutors said while asking for the 51-month sentence.

The sentence being demanded for Chansley would be the toughest after a former mixed martial artist filmed hitting a police officer during the Jan. 6 riot was sentenced last week to 41 months in prison.

Scott Fairlamb, 44, was the first person to be sentenced in connection with the Capitol riot. His 41-month prison term is so far the longest among 32 riot-related sentences handed down so far.

But, Chansley’s 51-month sentence, if approved by judges, could beat that.

His lawyers have asked the judge for a sentence of time served for their client, who has been in detention since his arrest in January.

The accused has been diagnosed with transient schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression and anxiety during his time in detention. He has even expressed disappointment that Trump did not pardon him.

About 700 people have been arrested in the case so far while 120 people have pleaded guilty and two dozen have been sentenced.

Most of the guilty pleas have involved non-violent offenses carrying short jail sentences or probationary sentences.

Trump was impeached by the US House of Representatives but acquitted by the Senate on the charge of inciting the Jan. 6 riot for a fiery speech, telling his followers to “fight like hell.”

Four people died in the violence, including a Capitol police officer who had been attacked by protesters. Four police officers who took part in the defense of the building later took their own lives.

On Tuesday, Trump asked a federal appeals court to block the National Archives from giving Congress access to records from his White House related to the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol.

“It is naïve to assume that the fallout will be limited to President Trump or the events of Jan. 6, 2021,” Jesse R. Binnall, a lawyer for Mr. Trump, reiterated in his argument.

“Every Congress will point to some unprecedented thing about ‘this president’ to justify a request for his presidential records. In these hyperpartisan times, Congress will increasingly and inevitably use this new weapon to perpetually harass its political rival.”

Quake damages ancient castle in southern Iran



TEHRAN – The historical Fin Castle in southern Hormozgan province has been damaged due to an earthquake of a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale that occurred on Sunday.

Following the powerful earthquake on Sunday and its aftershocks on Monday, parts of the castle, as well as the tower and the rock upon which the structure stands have been damaged, the provincial tourism chief Sohrab Banavand, announced on Wednesday.

The cultural heritage experts estimated the damage to this monument to be 12 billion rials (about \$286,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar), the official added.

Based on potteries previously discovered at the site, Fin Castle can be dated to the medieval Islamic period, but it was in use until the Qajar-era (1789-1925), he explained.

Due to the severity of the earthquake and the significance of historical buildings, teams of experts are still on standby to inspect any possible harm to historical sites of the province, he noted.

The castle, which probably had a military function at the time of construction, was listed as a national heritage in 2002.

Two people are confirmed dead and three injured, after the earthquake occurred at a depth of 15 kilometers and was felt in the neighboring province of Kerman and Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf.

In rural areas of Fin, several houses have been damaged. There were also reports of power and telecommunication outages in some parts of Hormozgan.

According to regional media, the force of the quake was so strong that tremors measuring 2.3 on the Richter scale could be felt across the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Ardabil's 'biggest' 5-star hotel under construction

TEHRAN – Private investors are now constructing a 5-star hotel, which according to local officials would be the "biggest" of its kind in the northwestern Ardabil province.

"Construction operation of what would be the biggest five-star hotel in Ardabil province is ongoing in [the touristic region of] Aznav in Khalkhal county," Khalkhal's governor said on Tuesday.

The seven-story hotel would have 350 beds in an area of 11,000 square meters, Masud Yeganeh said, CHTN reported.

Back in January, the provincial tourism



chief, Nader Fallahi, announced that more than 150 tourism-related projects are underway across the mountainous province. "The mentioned projects will prepare the province's tourism sector for the post-coronavirus era when the number of tourists and travelers is ex-

pected to rise magnificently," the official said.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

Tehran exhibit displays traditional jewelry

TEHRAN – An exhibition of exquisite traditional jewelry and personal ornamentation is currently underway at the headquarters of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Tehran.

The exhibition features 100 works that have been handcrafted by Iranian artist Farnaz Mohammadzadeh, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Among the works are jewelry made with precious metals such as silver, brass, and copper, as well as natural stones and special designs, the report added.

This exhibition, which runs until Friday, aims to introduce innovative handicrafts to those who love them, combining tradition and modernity by presenting works in an artistic and prestigious setting.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of

Kermanshah to generate tens of tourism jobs

TEHRAN – Nine tourism-related projects, which are planned to be carried out across the western province of Kermanshah are estimated to generate 135 jobs upon their completion, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The projects will be implemented in the cities of Kermanshah, Javanrud, Harsin, and Islamabad-e-Gharb, Jabbar Gohari said on Tuesday.

A budget of 2.4 trillion rials (\$58.4 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) will be channeled into the projects, which include accommodation centers, tourist complexes, traditional restaurants, and hotel hospitals, the official explained.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, of which Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan are both on

the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond.

From page 1 ▶ Archaeological research works in Rivi started in 2012. Since then archaeologists accessed remains of settlements from the Bronze and Iron Age, the Achaemenid, the Parthian, the Sassanid dynasties, and the early Islamic period.

The previous rounds of research had been hired by various experts in archeology, geography, geophysics, geomorphology, and ecology who took part from the [Ludwig Maximilian] University of Munich; the [Free] University of Berlin; the University of Tehran; and Shahid Beheshti University.

Based on the studies, various architectural and archaeological evidence from the Parthian and the Sassanid era were discovered in the Rivi site, which is situated in Maneh-Samalqan county of modern North Khorasan.

The evidence, according to Jafari who headed the fifth season of archaeological excavation at the Rivi site, indicates the sequence of settlement in the area in the aftermath of the Achaemenid era, according to the Archaeology News Network.

In 2019, several historical clay stamps, estimated to date from the Achaemenid and Parthian eras, were discovered in the ancient site. "The seals were found alongside clay urns in a large hall and the seals are imprinted in a variety of geo-

Fort remnants associated with Median empire discovered in northeast Iran



metric patterns [depicting] plants, animals, and human figures. Studying the findings can yield valuable information on the economy, culture, and arts of the ancient societies," Jafari said.

"These stamps represent the

widespread and complicated economic relations that people of the time had with other communities in such a way that made them bring together and store goods." Evidence suggests that residents of this area sealed the urns that were

loaded with particular goods then tied them with ropes, the archaeologist explained.

The Medes were an ancient Iranian people who spoke the Median language and who mostly inhabited an area known as Media between western and northern Iran. Around the 11th century BC, they occupied the mountainous region of northwestern Iran and the northeastern and eastern region of Mesopotamia located in the region of Hamadan (Ecbatana).

Their emergence in Iran is believed to have occurred during the 8th century BC. In the 7th century BC, all of western Iran and some other territories were under Median rule, but their precise geographic extent remains unknown.

Although Herodotus credits "Deioces son of Phraortes" (probably c. 715) with the creation of the Median kingdom and the founding of its capital city at Ecbatana (modern Hamadan), it was probably not before 625 BC that Cyaxares, grandson of Deioces, succeeded in uniting into a kingdom the many Iranian-speaking Median tribes, according to Britannica.

However, Ecbatana is deemed to be remaining a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, for decades or even centuries to come as the site of the ancient city lies partly within the modern city of Hamedan, which has never been excavated before.

Ramparts of Manujan fortress restored to former state

TEHRAN – A team of cultural heritage experts has restored the ramparts and surrounding walls of the ancient Manujan fortress, which is located in Kerman province.

Moreover, a group of archaeologists are present at the site in search of new clues about the history of human settlement near the mud-brick fort, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Previous excavations yielded a special kind of pottery as well as pieces of jewelry and glassware works that throw light on different periods of the area. "The [newly-excavated] pottery is simple and handmade and it can be classified as rough potteries," according to archaeologist Alidad Soleymani.

In January, Soleymani said during previous



rounds of excavation, the fort had yielded relics and remains to date to various Islamic eras. Most of the pottery [pieces] found [in Manujan] are broken and only about two flawless pottery have been discovered in the area, he added.

Manujan fort is nestled on top of a smooth natural rock and in the heart of a city of the

same name in Kerman province, which is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south.

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

The vast province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

First Announcement



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Note 3: THE OFFERED PRICE SHOULD BE VALID UP TO **4 MONTH AFTER OPPENING DATE** **Note 4:** FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT TO BELOW CHANALE:

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Over 100m doses of COVID-19 vaccine injected

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The number of COVID-19 vaccines injected in the country has exceeded 100 million doses, despite all barriers and difficulties caused by sanctions.

Dealing with the pandemic has been a top priority for the Iranian government as vaccine imports have increased and vaccination has been accelerated.

In terms of domestic production of vaccines, Iran has also made efforts to develop a vaccine against the virus and could eventually make it, being the first Islamic country and among the world's few vaccine manufacturers.

According to the Food and Drug



Administration, 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in the country, 3 of which have received the emergency use license so far, and are available to the public.

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, over

80 million doses of foreign vaccines have been imported to keep the population immune against the global pandemic despite all the barriers, and it was successfully achieved as over 100 million doses of vaccines have been injected into the people.

According to the latest statistics, so far, 56,135,524 people have received the first dose, 43,396,296 people the second dose, while 643,017 people are inoculated with the third dose, so that, the total number of jabs in the country surpassed 100,174,837 doses.

In the way to the vaccination of the whole population, many obstacles have shown up caused by U.S. sanctions, financial transactions, countries' reluctance to provide Iran with the vaccine, or even competition among the nations to vaccinate their own population sooner.

However, Iran could make it and inoculate over 50 percent of the population, being among the first sixty countries with the highest number of vaccinated people.

Spikogen joins national vaccination process

TEHRAN – The Iranian-Australian Spikogen vaccine, which has recently received an emergency use license, will be available to people nationwide.

The manufacturing company has delivered 6 million doses of Spikogen vaccine to the Ministry of Health, Payam Tabarsi, a researcher of the project, announced.

The monthly production capacity was three million doses, which increased by one million so that it is producing four million doses a month, he stated.

The results of the human test showed that the vaccine provides more than 87 percent immunity, while it will be more precise after more research, he highlighted.

The third phase of the clinical trial of Spikogen has been completed and we are now summarizing the latest information on this vaccine, which is expected to be completed by the end of November, he explained.

Tabarsi went on to say that this vaccine did not show any serious or specific side effects in the second and third stages of a clinical trial, and can be used as a booster dose.

The first phase of the study was performed on volunteer Australians and received the necessary approval, the second phase was administered to 400 Iranians, which has had no serious side effects, Tabarsi said.

Vaccines against viruses can be di-

vided into three main categories: live attenuated, inactivated/killed, and subunit vaccines. Recombinant protein subunit vaccines are composed of at least 1 type of viral antigen. These vaccines are significantly more secure than live attenuated and inactivated vaccines.

Mass vaccination against COVID-19 started on Iranian citizens with the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine on February 9.

Iran is also producing vaccines jointly with two countries of Cuba and Russia.

Homegrown vaccines

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the

Imam, COVIRAN BAREKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, said in June.

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

Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, is another homegrown vaccine, which has received the emergency use license, after COVIRAN.

Overcoming aging crisis with family support incentives

From page 1 ► The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

This law was proposed in a situation when despite the announcement made by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in [the Iranian calendar year] 1393 (March 2014–March 2015) regarding 14 policies to support childbearing and the family, the lack of operational and systematic planning to solve this important and strategic issue was evident.

The fertility rate from 2.07 children in the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017–March 2018), which can be considered fertility at the replacement level.

Today, the country's fertility rate has reached about 1.6 children per woman, however, it was 6.5 children per woman, in 1986. The lowest fertility rate in the whole region of West Asia, North Africa, and the MENA region is recorded for Iran.

While 1,594,000 births were registered in the [Iranian calendar] year 1394 (March 2015–March 2016), the

downward trend continued annually to the point that the number of births reached about one million in the [Iranian calendar] year 1399 (March 2020–March 2021); In other words, we lost more than 550,000 births in five years.

According to the law, all higher education institutions in the country are obliged to raise awareness about the positive aspects of childbearing, take the necessary measures such as producing content and learning packages, as well as hold festivals, workshops, temporary and permanent exhibitions.

The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Sports, the Ministry of Culture, and other relevant institutions are obliged to allocate 30 percent of their budgets to those NGOs that work to reduce the age of marriage, facilitate youth marriage, encourage childbearing and strengthen families.

Employees with three to five children will be promoted. Maternity leave will be extended to 9 months by paying all salaries and related extras.

The government is obliged to establish a life insurance and investment fund for unemployed housewives with 3 or more children living in rural and nomadic areas by paying 70 percent of the life and investment insurance premiums.



The Ministry of Health is obliged to provide quality natural childbirth in state-run hospitals in a way that is completely free for people covered by insurance and people without insurance coverage; in addition to providing free infertility treatment to the couples.

Municipal public transportation services and cultural, sports, and recreational tariffs will be halved.

Tuition for children in private schools and educational centers will include a 20 percent discount.

All production, distribution, and service units are obliged to include phrases with the content of childbearing support on products and goods.

Iran is aging rapidly

Over the last 5 decades, the elderly's population has increased from about 5 to 10 percent, and it is predicted that this rate will triple in the next 50 years so that it is vital to take the aging phenomenon seriously.

Iran is one of the countries with the

highest pace of aging in the world.

Mohammad Esmaeil Akbari, a senior advisor to the minister of health, has said that the world has grown about 5 years older over the past 70 years, but the population of Iran has unfortunately grown 10 years older in the past 60 years.

"Currently, the elderly constitutes less than 10 percent of the population and we are considered a young country, but we are getting older every year so that in the next 20 years, we will be one of the oldest countries in the world and the oldest by the next 30 years," he explained.

In demography, the population under the age of 15 is called "young". In 1977, 46 percent of the people were young, while now 23 percent of the population are below 15 years of age.

Iran has achieved a demographic window of opportunity which in all other countries led to economic prosperity so that Iran must seize the opportunity now before its working-age population starts to shrink and get older in the 2050s.

Awareness of population age changes and political-economic planning based on it can be very important in the success of programs and policies. Comprehensive policy-making and planning should be tailored to the overall characteristics of this age group, he explained.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Rainfall increases Lake Urmia level

Recent rainfall has increased the level of Lake Urmia to 1,271 meters, a step closer to its ecological level of 1,274 meters.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program's office in West Azarbaijan province, said that the Lake's level is now 58 cm higher than it was last year.

According to the latest monitoring, the lake's water volume is estimated at more than 3.6 billion cubic meters.

He added that the lake surface area has reached 2,883 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 538 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

Although the ecological level of the lake is defined as 1,274 meters, the lake will also have favorable conditions at 1,272 meters and more than 95 percent of sand and dust storm hotspots will be eliminated.

افزایش سطح تراز دریاچه ارومیه بر اثر بارش

بارش های اخیر تراز فعلی دریاچه ارومیه را به یک هزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۸ سانتی متر رسانده است که در حال رسیدن به تراز اکولوژیک یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر است.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رییس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه گفت سطح دریاچه ارومیه اکنون ۵۸ سانتی متر بیشتر از زمان مشابه سال گذشته است. طبق آخرین پایش صورت گرفته حجم آب این دریاچه بیش از سه میلیارد و ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب برآورد شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه وسعت دریاچه ارومیه در حال حاضر به بیش از ۲ هزار و ۸۸۳ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، اضافه کرد: وسعت این دریاچه نیز نسبت به سال گذشته ۵۳۸ کیلومتر مربع افزایش دارد.

هرچند تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر به عنوان ارتفاع اکولوژیک دریاچه ارومیه اعلام شده ولی این دریاچه در تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۲ متر هم شرایط مطلوب خواهد داشت و بیش از ۹۵ درصد کانون های ریزگرد آن رفع خواهد شد.

IRCS can help promote medical tourism

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) holds a capacity to help flourish medical tourism in the country, Mohammad Javad Shariati, Ambassador of Iran to the Democratic Republic of Congo, has said.

Establishing facilities, visas, and sending medical tourists from Congo to Iran can pave the way for the development of health tourism, he emphasized.

He stressed the importance of introducing Iran's health and medical capacities and providing the necessary preparations for the self-governing of the IRCS center in the Congo, IRNA reported.

On Sunday, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations appreciated the Iranian Red Crescent Society for its humanitarian service.

Tahin Tamangoda, the director of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, during her visit to Tehran, emphasized her support for the IRCS humanitarian programs, according to the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

IRCS services worldwide

At present, the Iranian Red Crescent Society provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

Currently, some 14 medical facilities are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador.

The IRCS polyclinic center includes various departments such as laboratory, pharmacy, radiology and physiotherapy, and general practitioners along with obstetricians, gynecologists, internal medicine, pediatrics, ophthalmologists, and dentists.

One of the most important points in establishing medical centers abroad is that all of these centers are self-governing and earn their income by providing services to patients in the mentioned countries," Karim Hemmati, IRCS head, noted on January 13.

Iran's developing health tourism industry

The developing health tourism industry is one



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

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

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

Iranian hospitals admitted nearly 70,000 foreign patients over the Iranian calendar year 1397 (March 2018 – March 2019) and it made an economic contribution of around \$12 billion to the country, according to the medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

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

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

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

Children challenge the UN for the right to breathe clean air

A group of more than 29,000 young people have called on the United Nations to take a child's right to clean air more seriously.

Having access to clean air has recently been recognised as a human right by the UN.

However, children's rights are governed by something specific called the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which was agreed in 1989, BBC reported.

This doesn't include anything on access to clean air but - because of the campaign - the UNCRC has now confirmed it'll look into how it can change that.

According to the World Health Organization, nine out of 10 people breathe in polluted air that puts their health at risk.

Over the last six months children from the UK, US, China, India have been demanding for the right to clean air through a campaign called Freedom to Breathe.

A total of 29,674 children have been involved with the project which has also been supported by

62 organisations including Great Ormond Street Hospital, Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Unicef.

They wrote a letter to the committee of the UNCRC and received promises that the issue would be discussed by decision makers.

Philip D. Jaffé, Vice-Chair to the Committee of the UNCRC said of the campaign: "I will do my part and I will do everything I can with my colleagues to support you in what you are doing."

The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child is an agreement signed by 140 countries which sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to.

All UN member states, apart from the United States, have ratified the convention. This means the rules outlined by the UNCRC are officially binding.

However, air pollution isn't mentioned in the agreement so there are no duties or responsibilities on governments and private companies to protect children from it.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 17

New cases	6,251
New deaths	125
Total cases	6,057,893
Total deaths	128,531
New hospitalized patients	976
Patients in critical condition	3,463
Total recovered patients	5,734,181
Diagnostic tests conducted	37,359,561
Doses of vaccine injected	100,174,838



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NOVEMBER 18, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Like your body, your mind also gets tired so refresh it by wise sayings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:49 Evening: 17:17 Dawn: 5:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:44 (tomorrow)

You DON'T have all the time in the world

By Saeed Shirkhani

[Spoiler Alert]

What makes the last James Bond movie unique? Is that less than ten minutes' appearance of Ana de Armas as a typical Bond Girl that was fed up in social media by fans – actually not very typical cause Bond couldn't capture her soul in that short period –? Or the – not so brilliant – characterization by Rami Malek as a Russian-Japanese Mr. Robot that wants to capture the world by an army of nanorobots harvested in a World War II abandoned base – A cliché within another cliché.

Probably you're thinking of the puzzle of Spectre that finally solved after a series of movies, but the main reason for No Time To Die's uniqueness can be summarized in one sentence: it's the MOST "Flemingian" Bond movie, as well as the MOST exaggeratedly progressive.

The 2021 Bond is progressive because of the fast and ridiculous evolution from the womanizer we knew with an immoral "Licence to Kill" to a gnostic, family man who accepted his faith in less than a minute – remember how he escaped death multiple times during the movie with an irrational jump, a Futsurei (Japanese bowing while kneeling) or by touching his high-tech wristwatch. Besides that, after a long line of white male actors in the franchise, the new 00 agent (Nomi) surprisingly is neither man nor white, but a "black woman" – a giant leap for progressiveness.

Though it's not certain if Lashana Lynch would be the new 007 from now on, the first installment of Bond movies filmed since the 2017 #Metoo movement doesn't like/dare to take steps in the old style. The characterization of women is still sketchy and superficial – even though they collaborated with Phoebe Waller-Bridge for the screenplay – especially when Bond returns to MI6 and Nomi finds her new title in danger; she acts like an agent recruited from the Mean Girls team.

The movie is the most Flemingian cause it has suffocated itself with ideology. After a harsh barrage in a historical Italian city, former 007 spends his retirement in a resident resembling the famous Ian Fleming's Goldeneye, a resort in colonial Jamaica where the former intelligence officer of the British Royal Navy, created this



fictional character to glorify the golden days of "the Empire on which the sun never sets." As we expect, Bond gets back soon on the track of Her Majesty's Secret Service, with some hyperbolic dialogue with M about the country, national interests, responsibility and etc.

As many film scholars have pointed out, writing James Bond novels during the humiliating collapse of the British Empire after the World War II was like a bereavement for Fleming. It even followed – almost to the letter – the classic sequence of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and, finally, acceptance. But unlike the novels, it seems the movies don't want the viewer to reach the acceptance level. That's where Bond's "you have all the time in the world" line comes from. The misinformed audience, at this point, is left with the idea that there is still a chance to save Bond, to save the Empire. Still, the bitter truth is unveiled in the final scenes of No Time to Die: it's time to die! Sarcastically talking, perhaps Bond – you read Britain – has finally accepted that it's been decades since the sunset in the Empire.

After four movies with "Daniel Craig" as James Bond, it's the last setting for Craig and seemingly for Bond character. As Craig mentioned in a 2015 interview, he'd rather "slash his wrists" than return the character and quipped that if he did come back, it would only be for money. He did return, of course, and ironically in No Time to Die's ending, his character sacrificed his life for the sake of the modern audience and saving the future of the Bond franchise, which leads to one main reason: Money. So don't fall for the delusion of "progressiveness." It's all about the money, and in that realm, the movie stands at the edge of what's technically possible...

"Driving Lesson" tops at La.Meko Intl. Short Film Festival



"Driving Lessons" by Iranian filmmaker Marzieh Riahi.

The film won the Barran Award for best fiction film at the Karama Yemen Human Rights Film Festival.

It was also named best short narrative at the 21st Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival (TWE) in Sarasota, Florida in the U.S.

The La.Meko International Short Film Festival, which is organized every year in the city of Landau, announced the winners last week.

The award for best international movie went to "Marisol" by Zoe Salicrup Junco from the United States. The film is about a young, undocumented mother who gets into a risky situation to make a life for herself and her daughter.

Austrian director Albert Meisl's "Swing of the Mind" was selected as best German-speaking film, while "Milkmen" by Aljoscha Ramon Bohnert and Michelle Burakowski from Germany won the award for best animation.

"Extremadura" by Rolf Kreutz was named best documentary and "Real Free Feeling" by Max von Gropper was picked as best regional movie.

TEHRAN – Iranian drama "Driving Lesson" has won the main prize of the La.Meko International Short Film Festival in Germany.

Directed by Marzieh Riahi, the film tells the story of Bahareh, a young woman who, according to Iranian law, must have a man from among her relatives accompany her on driving lessons so she and her male instructor won't be alone.

Produced at the Documentary and Experimental Film Center, the film has been screened in dozens of international festivals across the world.

Photographer Nodeh taking "Poems of Silence" to France in praise of hope, peace

TEHRAN – Iranian photographer Mostafa Nodeh will visit France in December to showcase his latest collection, "Poems of Silence", which he believes conveys a message of peace and hope.

The collection containing 20 photos created in black and white, Nodeh's favorite genre, will be on view in an exhibition at the Art Culture Gallery in Bordeaux from December 4 to 11.

"What is pictured in the photos has a message of peace and hope, something that the modern world really needs," he told the Persian service of ISNA on Wednesday.

The exhibition will be organized in collaboration with Diako Art, an agency that presents and supports artists from West Asia working in the fields of visual arts, cinema and music.

Nodeh said that the idea to showcase the collection in France came to his mind two years ago, but the pandemic forced him to postpone his plan to organize the exhibition.

"Due to the artistic atmosphere in France and the French people's respect for art, especially for conceptual art, this exhibit seems to provide an opportunity for me to communicate with people through the language of art in a simple and, at the same time, philosophical environment," noted Nodeh, who is also a painter.

"In the past, my art in the form of painting has helped me to represent my inner world, and now it has been presented in the form of photography, which talks about looking at things as simply as possible while ignoring time and



"Sky" by Mostafa Nodeh.

place in the hustle and bustle of the complicated world," he added.

He said that his photos enjoy an uncomplicated setting, which comes from his desire to play with light and forms to represent the contrasts in his uncluttered inner world under the influence of his straightforward lifestyle.

"What makes my works attractive is exploring these contrasts, and

nature also illustrates many good examples of these contrasts," Nodeh stated.

In a world with numerous renowned artists, he said that organizing an exhibition in other countries for a photograph from Iran is a difficult task and added, "Talking about the concept of life through the language of art gives me a chance for a dialogue with everyone."

Cleric Mehdi Imanipur takes helm at Islamic Culture and Relations Organization

TEHRAN – Hojjatolislam Mehdi Imanipur, a cleric who has worked in several Islamic centers around the world, has been selected as the new director of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO).

As an organization working under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the ICRO's mission is to seek the expansion of Iran's cultural relations with other countries through sending cultural attachés across the world.

The director of the organization is selected by the culture minister.

Imanipur's appointment was announced in a press release on Wednesday, in which Culture Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili asked Imanipur to employ "development-oriented young and revolutionary forces" to carry out ICRO's mission in and outside Iran.

Imanipur replaced Abuzar Ebrahim Torkaman who has held the position over the past eight



New director of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, Mehdi Imanipur, in an undated photo.

years.

Esmaeili also emphasized the need to show special regard for Iranian expatriates and to encourage them to participate in Iran's cultural events being organized in other countries.

He also called for increased support for the programs promoting the Persian language

in other countries, especially in regional countries.

Imanipur served as the ICRO deputy director in international affairs in the 2000s. He has worked as Iran's former cultural attaché in Russia, Germany and several other countries.

He was a co-founder of the Ibn Sina Islamic Culture Research Foundation in Moscow. He has also worked at several Islamic centers in Canada, Hamburg and Brasilia.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has made many new appointments to the management board since mid-August when Esmaeili has taken the helm at the ministry.

In the wave of the new appointments, journalist Farshad Mahdipur has been selected as the deputy culture minister for press affairs and Mohammad Khazaei, the producer of acclaimed movies such as "Emperor of Hell" and "Damascus Time", has been appointed the new director of the Cinema Organization of Iran.

"The Recess", "Sky Sun, Tile Sun" to compete in Utopia Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian shorts "The Recess" and "Sky Sun, Tile Sun" will be competing in the Utopia Film Festival, which will open on Friday in Greenbelt, Maryland.

"The Recess" tells the story of Sahar, a 17-year-old student who is determined to skip high school during recess to go to the football stadium to watch a football match between Esteghlal FC. vs. Al-Ain as part of the AFC Champions League in violation of the national ban on women entering football stadiums in Iran.

Directed by Navid Nikkhah-Azad, the film has been screened at



"Sky Sun, Tile Sun" by Ziba Azhang.

numerous intentional events and won several awards.

It won the award for best dramatic short film at the 15th San Francisco Frozen Film Festival in July. In addition, the film's star Mojan Kordi won the award for

the best performance at the 33rd Living Skies Student Film Festival in Canada in March.

"Sky Sun, Tile Sun" directed by Ziba Arzhang is the winner of the children's jury award for the best animation at the 27th International Film Festival Golden Beggar in Slovakia.

In this film, the tiled wall is shattered after a period of warfare, the sun can no longer fulfill its traditional role and darkness looms everywhere. But the people join together and help to build a new sun.

The film was selected as

best animation at the Tracce Cinematografiche Film Fest in Italy in July. The film has been produced by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center.

The Utopia Film Festival will end on November 22. The festival searches for and presents films that explore utopian visions in a multitude of forms. From its inception, Utopia has sought quality independent films which reflect the utopian spirit of better living through films that entertain, enlighten, and address such themes as community building, cultural diversity, social and economic concerns, and environmental issues.

Iran: Myths and legends

Part 8

The oldest extant text to make explicit reference to details of frashokereti is Yt. 19, where veneration is paid to the xwarrah which will accompany the "Victorious one among the Saviors, and also his other companions, so that he will make life excellent (frasha), ageless, without decay, not rotting, not putrefying, living forever, thriving forever, ruling as it wishes.

When the dead will rise, (then) will come the one without decay reviving the dead and life will create excellent things according to its own wish.

The world of Truth will be undecaying, from generation to generation. Falsehood will be returned to the place where it had come from."

A 'traditional' Zoroastrian account of the renovation is in DD 35-38. The two texts with the most details and utilized ancient materials are G.Bd. 33-34, with the most details on Saoshyant and the resurrection, and the Zand i Wahman Yasn, which is most detailed on signs of the first saoshyant's coming.

There are several divisions of the final three thousand years of world history. One divided

the era into four ages—each symbolized by a metal, respectively gold, silver, steel, and iron; the last represents the post-Sassanid age, when religion was declining.

The period of iron is divided into three ages, each of a thousand years. Each millennium follows a similar pattern: an initial period in which evil forces assault the good creation with renewed vigor is followed by their repulse prior to the coming of the next saoshyant, when a portion of the evil creation disappears.

The victory over evil is not, therefore, a sudden event in Zoroastrianism but a protracted war, in which each side surges and falls back. Three- or seven-fold numerical patterns are common in Zoroastrian mythology.

In the first of these eras demons of the race of Aeshma, Fury, will assault Iran from the east, destroying homes, villages, and sacred fires; social life will be disrupted; affection between fathers and sons or between mothers and daughters will depart, and respect for truth will decline, so that a bird will have more reverence than a religious Iranian person.

The chaos will also be cosmic; the sun and

moon will not give their proper light; rain will not come at the due times; earthquakes, droughts, and famine will afflict creation. Rule will pass from Iranians to Arabs. Life will appear so horrible that, when all was revealed to Zoroaster, he prayed he might not live at this time. But a shower of stars will appear in the sky, and a righteous prince, Vahram Varzavand, also "the illustrious Peshotan" (son of Zoroaster's patron, Vishtasp), accompanied by the three great fires, will come; they will overthrow the forces of evil and restore Iran and its throne for the Good Religion; then Oshedar will appear.

The first saoshyant, like his two successors, will be born of a virgin who has been impregnated by Zoroaster's seed preserved in a lake in which she will bathe.

When he reaches the age of thirty, the sun will stand still at the noonday position, as it had at the initial creation, for ten days and nights. He will confer with the Amesha Spentas and bring afresh the revelation first brought by Zoroaster.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued