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Report

UN warns of catastrophic Yemen death toll

TEHRAN - The United Nations has warned that should the war on Yemen continue until the end of 2021, the death toll from the conflict will reach 377,000 lives with 154,000 as a result of direct combat and violence and 223,000 – or nearly 60 per cent – indirectly caused by the conflict. The report says of the total deaths, 259,000 – nearly 70 per cent of total conflict-attributable deaths – are children younger than five years old.

And then, the UN warns if the conflict continues through 2030, it projects the total death toll from the war only will reach a staggering 1.3 million lives lost, more than 70 percent of which will be from indirect deaths and 80 percent of these deaths will be children under the age of five. Yemeni children that have yet to understand anything from this life and have yet to see anything from this life apart from bombs falling down and wake up to the sounds of explosions.

The research firstly underlines how the all out blockade on the country is killing more people than those being killed by violence such as airstrikes. Secondly it suggests how difficult the process has been to obtain the real information regarding casualties for example.

The UN acknowledges “because many of our data inputs come from a conflict zone, those are also subject to uncertainty as data collection can be particularly difficult in a conflict context.” ▶ Page 5

Gianni Infantino to attend Iran's match with Iraq

TEHRAN - FIFA president Gianni Infantino will travel to Tehran on Jan. 27, 2022 to attend the match between Iran and Iraq in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier.

Group A leaders Iran will qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup for the third time in a row if defeat the Iraqi team at the Azadi Stadium.

Infantino was supposed to travel to Tehran in early 2020 but the travel was canceled due to COVID-19 limitations.

It seems the FIFA president is going to see the Iranian women in the stadium watching the match since he has previously said women have to be allowed into the stadiums in Iran.

Infantino had already traveled to Tehran for the second leg of the 2018 AFC Champions League between Persepolis and Kashima Antlers.

Iranian, French archaeologists uncover clues about ancient settlements

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian and French archaeologists has discovered clues about ancient settlements in northeast Iran.

“We recently unearthed more parts of a previously discovered monument in Viran-Shahr, which is situated near the city of Faruj in North Khorasan province..... The [ruined] ramparts and towers of the monument were amongst segments that were unearthed,” Iranian archaeologist Meysam Labbaf-Khaniki said, IRNA reported.

Experts from the Louvre and the University of Tehran involved in a project recently came to an end as the third season of excavation on Viran-Shahr. The team was jointly headed by Labbaf-Khaniki of Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and Louvre Museum's Rocco Rante from the University of Provence Aix-Marseille.

“Part of the recent digs were in line with the previous season of excavation, which conducted last year,” Labbaf-Khaniki said. ▶ Page 6

Dying From Inside

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Bahrain sentenced to unfreeze Iranian assets, pay \$240 million in fine

TEHRAN — In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times on Wednesday, Abbas Honarmand, the deputy director of communications and information at the presidential office, said that an international arbitral tribunal has unanimously ordered Bahrain to pay compensation to Bank Saderat and Bank Mellī Iran for the expropriation of their investment in Future Bank in violation of international law.

The tribunal has also ruled that the move was politically driven, Honarmand added.

He said that according to the verdict, Bahrain must release \$1.7 billion, as well as \$240

million as a fine, along with litigation costs and the fund's interest before and after the litigation.

Bahrain had frozen \$1.7 billion of Iranian money in Manama. With this verdict, they have to unfreeze the Iranian fund.

Bahrain's High Criminal Court had accused the Central Bank of Iran, along with a number of other Iranian banks and their officials, of being involved in “money laundering” activities.

The Bahraini public prosecutor had sentenced the defendants to various terms of imprisonment as well as financial punish-

ment.

The CBI reported on August 3 that it began legal procedures to pursue action against baseless charges of the Bahraini High Criminal Court.

The central bank, based on the agreement on encouragement and mutual support of investment between the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain approved on 2003, began its legal action against the government of Bahrain to repay funds invested in banks in that country. ▶ Page 2

Iran maintains its place among world's top 10 steel producers: WSA

TEHRAN-Iran has maintained its place as the world's 10th biggest steel producer during January-October, 2021, according to the latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA).

Production of crude steel in Iran reached 22.4 million tons during the mentioned time span to register a 5.7 percent decline year on year, the report said.

The WSA's report put the crude steel output by the world's top 64 producers at about 1.607 billion tons in the mentioned time span, registering an increase of 5.9 percent.

Iran's monthly crude steel output stood at 2.2 million tons in October 2021, falling 15.3 percent compared to the figure for September 2020, while the world's producers managed to produce 145.7 million tons of steel to register a 10.6-percent drop year on year.

Producing 8771 million and 96.9 million tons of the product, China and India stood at the first and second places in the said period, respectively, while Japan stood at third place producing 80.4 million tons of crude steel.

The U.S., Russia, South Korea, Germany, Turkey, and Brazil took fourth to ninth places, respectively.

According to the report, China accounted for 49 percent of the world's total steel production during the mentioned 10 months. ▶ Page 4

Iranian Artists Forum celebrates Ali-Akbar Sadeqi's 84th birthday

TEHRAN – The 84th birthday of painter, illustrator and animator Ali-Akbar Sadeqi was celebrated on Monday at the Iranian Artists Forum.

His family, a number of his friends, fans and colleagues attended the celebration that began with a short speech by Iranian Artists Forum deputy director Asieh Mazinani.

“While paying tribute to all those people who have lost their lives over the past two years, we are here today once again to say hello to life,” She said. ▶ Page 8

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Interview

Some Persian Gulf states begging American protection: Palestinian lawyer

By Ramin Etesam

TEHRAN – A Palestinian lawyer says that some Persian Gulf states are begging American protection and therefore welcome American presence in the region.

“The (Persian) Gulf is still begging American protection, and it has not yet come out of the idea of the possibility of cooperation between the countries of the region to establish the foundations of stability, while Iran always calls for it,” Saleh Abou-Izzah tells the Tehran Times.

“The (Persian) Gulf Arab states still believe that Washington can determine international equations and provide them with protection.”

Abou-Izzah emphasizes that these Arab states welcome every American remark affirming its support for them.

“In fact, the Americans are concerned with their interests only at the expense of the peoples of this region,” the Palestinian activist adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you evaluate the Bab al-Silsilah operation? What are its repercussions in Palestine?

The Jerusalem operation was distinguished by the place of its implementation first. The Israeli occupation has put its greatest security focus to ▶ Page 5

Report

Grossi: Paradoxical

TEHRAN — Speaking at the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors meeting in Vienna on Wednesday, Rafael Grossi said the opposite of everything he said in Iran a day earlier.

Grossi, who visited Tehran late on Monday, went to meet with Mohammad Eslami, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), on Tuesday morning. On Wednesday afternoon, he held intensive talks with Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's Foreign Minister.

After their talks at the AEOI building, Grossi and Eslami talked to reporters in a joint press conference.

“The whole issue between Iran and the Agency (IAEA) is a technical one, and the Agency will not take into account or be influenced by the political issues and conspiracy theories of Iran's enemies about Iran's advancing nuclear program,” Eslami said.

He added, “Mr. Grossi repeatedly stated in today's meeting that he has not seen any deviations in Iran's nuclear program, and Iran is pursuing its nuclear activities in accordance with treaties and regulations.” ▶ Page 2



Raisi calls for more activation of ECO



TEHRAN — In a meeting with ECO Secretary General Khusrav Noziri on Tuesday, Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi urged ECO to adopt a proper solution for activating the member countries' potential for development of economic cooperation.

The meeting took place as ECO leaders are set to meet in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on November 28. It will mark the 15th summit by the regional economic bloc.

Raisi called for removing obstacles in the efforts to increase the level of relations and cooperation between member countries that includes Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan,

Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

"Any kind of obstacles and problems in the development of cooperation must be removed so that economic relations between ECO members can be carried out at a better way," Raisi suggested.

He pointed out that each member of ECO has a lot of economic potential in various fields that the activation of which can lead to economic prosperity in the region.

Referring to the capacities of ECO in the fields of energy, trade, transport, digital economy, maritime economy and tourism, the president said, "Comprehensive plans and actions of the ECO Secretariat to activate these capacities can boost the region's economic prosperity and bring about the development and prosperity of ECO member countries."

Raisi added that Tehran attaches special importance to regional cooperation within the framework of ECO and supports such activities.

During the meeting, Noziri also presented a report on the plans made for the ECO summit in Turkmenistan.

The new Raisi administration has been insisting that it prioritizes economic relations with Asian states, especially neighbors.

Bahrain sentenced to unfreeze Iranian assets, pay \$240 million in fine

From page 1 ► According to the central bank, based on the country's monetary and banking law, managing the country's foreign exchange reserves is one of the duties of the central bank, and this bank had been investing in the banks of Bahrain.

But since the signing of the JCPOA agreement, which prompted some Persian Gulf states to oppose the agreement, then officials of the bank, while anticipating the prospects of political relations, withdrew significant

amounts of their investment deposits from Bahrain, but after severing diplomatic relations with the Bahraini government in January 2015, Bahraini banks avoided reimbursing the remaining foreign exchange reserves of this bank and stopped cooperation.

Despite numerous correspondences and follow-ups, they even blocked the use of the mentioned assets to pay for Hajj pilgrimage and humanitarian affairs including releasing money to control the coronavirus pandemic.

Iran and Thailand review political and economic ties

TEHRAN — In a telephone conversation on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai discussed different topics, including bilateral political and economic issues as well as the Vienna talks.

The Iranian foreign minister congratulated Thai National Day and highlighted the 400-year history of relations between the two countries. Amir Abdollahian emphasized the Islamic Republic's interest in expanding relations with Thailand and invited his Thai counterpart to visit Tehran.

Amir Abdollahian stated that the two countries have been able to overcome the coronavirus crisis, noting that from now on political and trade delegations as well as tourists can resume their trips to the two countries.

The top Iranian diplomat also said the Islamic Republic is ready to hold a joint economic commission and a trade commission between the two Asian countries.

Amir Abdollahian noted that the new Iranian administration pursues a foreign policy that focuses on Asia, and in this regard, Thailand has a special place.

In the phone call, the Thai foreign minister also said his country is ready to hold a joint economic commission and expand trade relations with Iran, including in areas of steel industry as well as rice and fuel trade.

While emphasizing Bangkok's determination to fully expand relations with Tehran, the top Thai diplomat invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Thailand.

Talks held to facilitate trade

TEHRAN — Iran's top diplomat for economic affairs met on Wednesday with certain officials responsible for facilitating economic trade.

Mehdi Safari held talks with Alireza Peyman Pak, Deputy Industry Minister and Head of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), representatives of the Food and Drug Administration, Vice President for Science and Technology, heads of 26 organizations and large companies producing drugs and medical equipment and manufacturers of medical equipment.

The meeting examined the existing barriers to exporting the products of these companies and ways to facilitate the process, especially ways that the foreign ministry could help reduce such hurdles, as well as cooperation to develop exports of pharmaceutical products and medical equipment.

Safari stated that the Foreign Ministry has taken the necessary measures to introduce the products of Iranian companies in other countries, paying attention to the barter of Iranian products in the export process and creating legal grounds for Iranian companies in other countries.

He also expressed the readiness of the foreign ministry and Iran's diplomatic missions abroad to help resolve the problems and develop the export

of pharmaceutical products and medical equipment.

For his part, Peyman Pak announced that the TPO and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce are ready to help remove obstacles for export of such products.

Also in the meeting, the heads of syndicates and CEOs of drug companies, including those active in producing nanotech drugs and producers of complementary drugs, as well as manufacturers of medical equipment and pharmaceutical and chemical raw materials raised the most important challenges facing exporters.

Maritime-rail transit meeting held at the Foreign Ministry

Later on Wednesday, a meeting on maritime-rail transit was held at the Foreign Ministry.

Chaired by Safari and attended by representatives of public and private sectors in the field of rail and maritime transport, the sides discussed pressing issues related to trade.

Due to the growing demands for the transfer of container cargo from the Far East to Central Asia and the Caucasus, Russia and Europe through the southern ports of Iran, it was decided that the economic officials draw out an operational plan to facilitate the importing and exporting process.

Grossi: Paradoxical

From page 1 ► Eslami also noted that Grossi's questions about the documents provided to the IAEA by the Westerners as evidence were answered.

"The case of some of these documents has been closed and some cases remain, so we agreed to terminate [further discussions on] all the cases."

The nuclear chief indicated that the important thing is that Iran is determined to continue its nuclear program. "Another important issue is that Iran is determined in its nuclear program. This issue is on our agenda and the International Atomic Energy Agency will help Iran in this regard."

Grossi, on the other hand, said that he is looking to "deepen" dialogue with Iran.

"Couple of months ago, when I was here, we agreed with Dr. Eslami that we would be returning to continue in our joint work in clarifying a number of issues..., and also to continue and deepen our dialogue with the government of Iran," the Argentinian diplomat noted.

During the press conference, Grossi also said, "He will have intensive talks, and hopes to end the day on a positive note."

He added, "Our work has been intense in the course of morning, and we are continuing at this point our negotiations with a view to finding common ground. There are a number of issues that we are working and as the president



(Eslami) just said it is very important that we put this in the perspective of the peaceful nuclear program of Iran at a time where climate change demands we work together, that we add clean nuclear energy to the matrices around the world, and as was discussed just a few days ago in Glasgow. So we will now multiply our efforts with a view to concluding our exchanges today in a positive note."

However, a day later he gave a politically motivated and contradictory report to the IAEA Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors held a meeting on Wednesday afternoon to discuss Iran's nuclear case. In his introductory statement, Grossi said that the negotiations in Tehran were "inconclusive."

"I had extensive negotiations with senior Iranian officials to address Iran's outstanding safeguards issues. As I

will report, these negotiations proved inconclusive," he said.

Grossi added, "In the absence of regular Agency access to its surveillance and monitoring equipment at all facilities and locations in Iran in relation to the JCPOA, the Agency considers the temporary agreement I reached with Iran in February 2021 facilitated the maintenance of continuity of knowledge. However, the repeated prolongation of the agreement, which has now been in place for around nine months, is becoming a significant challenge to the Agency's ability to restore this continuity of knowledge."

In addition, contrary to the agreement reached between the Agency and Iran on 12 September 2021, the lack of access to the Karaj workshop has meant that the restoration of surveillance and monitoring at all of Iran's facilities and locations in relation to the JCPOA could

not be completed. This is seriously affecting the Agency's ability to restore continuity of knowledge at the workshop, which has been widely recognized as essential in relation to a return to the JCPOA."

He then reiterated the call upon Iran to take "immediate steps to remedy the situation, and to implement security procedures at nuclear facilities in a manner consistent with internationally accepted security practices and Iran's legal obligations in relation to privileges and immunities of the Agency and its inspectors."

The report and the statement differ vastly. When asked about the contradiction between the two statements at a press conference after the board meeting on Wednesday, Grossi said there is no contradiction whatsoever.

"There is no contradiction. Talks in Tehran were constructive, correct, professional, but no agreements were made. Iran refused to agree with us," he said.

The Argentinian diplomat is continuing its politicization of the Iran nuclear program. The IAEA seems to have forgotten that its role is to iron out the technical issues over the Iran nuclear program. Yet the paradoxical Grossi's disinformation campaign comes as Iran, the U.S. and P4+1 are gathering in Vienna to discuss how they can remove the brutal sanctions imposed on Iran.

Iran FM consults with Swiss counterpart on JCPOA, Afghanistan, Yemen

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis held phone talks on Tuesday night over bilateral ties, the JCPOA, the Yemen war, and the situation in Afghanistan.

Pointing to Switzerland's important position in Europe, Amir Abdollahian said bilateral relations are on the right track, and that the recent visit by the Swiss parliament speaker to Tehran was a turning point in parliamentary relations between Tehran and Bern.

Amir Abdollahian also spoke of the efforts to solve some problems in expanding the activities of Swiss companies in Iran and stressed the need to expand bilateral relations in various fields, including science, education, agriculture, transportation, health and banking.

Iran's foreign minister announced that Tehran is ready to hold a joint economic commission with Switzerland, and expressed hope that

this will occur soon.

The top Swiss diplomat also referred to his visit to Iran on the 100th anniversary of relations between the two countries, describing Iran as an ancient and very attractive country.

Pointing to the importance of the Tehran-Bern relations, Cassis explained the state of the two countries' trade channel.

In the phone conversation, the foreign ministers of Iran and Switzerland reviewed the situation in Afghanistan as well.

Amir Abdollahian said that Iran encourages the current ruling body in Afghanistan to form an inclusive government. He expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in the country on the eve of

the winter and called for international efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs by the Afghans. Amir Abdollahian said the Islamic Republic is ready to help transfer aid to Afghanistan via the Iranian territory.

The Swiss foreign minister said that his country is ready to participate in an international drive to help Afghanistan. He added that Switzerland is prepared to help Afghanistan and neighboring countries.

Cassis noted that his country is on the same page with Iran regarding the need for the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

The Swiss foreign minister also praised Iran for hosting Afghan asylum

seekers.

The Iranian foreign minister also lamented the critical situation in Yemen and said Iran supports any effort to lift the siege on the country and end the war on the Yemenis.

Amir Abdollahian also said the talks to lift sanctions against Iran will begin next week in Vienna, stressing that Tehran is ready and serious to reach a good and speedy agreement. He however noted that the Islamic Republic does not trust the U.S. behavior.

He noted that the United States claims it is interested to return to the Iran nuclear deal, JCPOA, but it has imposed sanctions on Iranian individuals and companies in two stages over the past few weeks.

Amir Abdollahian added that the U.S. contradictory behavior is one of the main obstacles to negotiations. He also pointed out that Iran judges the United States on the basis of its behavior.

Washington wants to 'trample U.S. constitution' to please Israel: Zarif

TEHRAN – Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's former foreign minister, has said it seems that officials in Washington are now feeling that it is not just enough to expend U.S. interest abroad for Tel Aviv, and now

they want to "trample the U.S. Constitution" to please "Israel-Firsters".

"To Israel-Firsters, expending US interests abroad is not enough," Zarif tweeted on Wednesday.

"They now want to trample the US Constitution to expend American interests at home too," Zarif added.

The former chief diplomat asked: "Where's the limit?"



Dying from inside

TEHRAN – So Israel is envious of the Iranians’ comfortable position at home, or that is what can be inferred from remarks by the Israeli prime minister about the current state of play between Tehran and Tel Aviv ahead of the Vienna talks.

Speaking at a conference hosted by Reichman University, Neftali Bennet said the Iranians have “encircled” Israel with missiles while “sitting safely” in Tehran. He further pointed out that “chasing” Iranian-allied forces in the region does not pay off anymore and that Israel should go for the Iranians themselves.

The remarks were celebrated by Israeli lobbyists as signifying Israel’s reuse of the “Octopus Doctrine,” a policy similar to what the Saudis have already tested but failed. The policy establishes that Iran is like an octopus whose limbs are tightly holding the region and that it’s no use targeting the limbs.

This is a total rehash of the head-of-snake policy coined by the Saudis vis-à-vis Iran. In 2010, leaked U.S. diplomatic cables revealed that King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia repeatedly exhorted the United States to “cut off the head of the snake” by launching military strikes to destroy Iran’s nuclear program.

The Saudis failed to achieve their objective, and the Israeli are most likely to follow suit. And this is not just because the Israelis will fail to drag the U.S. into another quagmire in the West Asia region. But rather because



Israel’s regime faces huge challenges both internally and externally.

Internally, the Israeli society is edging closer to a societal collapse with Israeli Muslim and Christian “citizens” being alienated by the day by dint of Israeli repressive policies. A clear example of this collapse is what happened in Arab-populated cities in Israel during the recent Israeli aggression again the Gaza Strip. Israel began its aggression believing that Palestinian citizens of Israel, accounting for more than 20 percent of Israel’s population, have forgotten their roots and adopted Israeli identity despite Israeli racist policies.

But as Israel began shelling Gaza, Israeli Arabs rose up in large numbers against the Israeli aggression, turning their streets into another front against suppression and racism. Israeli security forces responded by

using lethal force and quashed the Arab protests. They restored order by launching massive arrests. But pent-up anger and resentment among Israeli Arabs linger on, making them a ticking bomb against Tel Aviv.

And this is not lost on Israeli leaders. Nir Barkat, a member of Knesset and former mayor of Jerusalem, has openly voiced concern about the possibility of eruption of unrest in Israel. Of course, he failed to address the root cause of this threat and put it in the broader context of perceived threats Israelis believe Iran poses to them.

These days, Bennet and other Israeli officials keep feeding world media with propaganda remarks about Iran edging closer to developing a nuclear weapon. And they even threaten Iran with military strikes against its nuclear facilities if it refused to bow

to illogical Western demands.

These threats come at a time when large swathes of the Israeli population face a snowballing identity crisis. Ironically, Israeli officials have let up on covering this crisis. The Israeli army’s plan to set up new land routes bypassing Arab cities for transporting ground forces during future wars is a case in point.

Earlier this month, Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that Israel will bypass some of its Arab towns in transporting ground forces to future war fronts. The change of route was seen as a result of sectarian violence that erupted in the country in May during clashes in the Gaza Strip.

This was another reminder that the biggest enemy of the Israeli regime is the very people it claims to represent.

Israel faces a similar predicament abroad. Regionally, the Israeli regime is detested by many for its treatment of the Palestinians. Israeli officials may boast about a thaw in their relations with some Arab regimes but they will never be able to win over the hearts of millions of ordinary Muslims and Arabs.

So, it’s not strange for Israel to describe the ordinary people as “terrorists” sent by Iran. At the end of the day, in the absence of Israel’s ability to quash grassroots movements in the region, just as they did with the people of Lod, name-calling remains the only option available to Israel.

Ayatollah Raisi meets Basij commanders

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday received a group of Basij commanders and underlined the need to strengthen the Basij-styled spirit in the country.

Emphasizing that problems can be overcome by maintaining and strengthening a spirit like Basij, the president said, “I am honored to be a Basij member and the whole government is working with the Basiji spirit and thinking to serve and create openness in the people’s livelihood and economy,” according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Speaking on Tuesday, in a meeting with the head and a group of commanders of the Basij Mostazafin Organization, while congratulating Basij Week, Ayatollah Raisi said, “Basij is a strong, fruitful tree that was formed with the wisdom of the late Imam Khomeini (RA) and with each day passing by, it is giving more and more fruits to the Iranian nation and the Islamic community.”

Referring to the comprehensiveness and reassurance of Basij for the Iranian nation, the president said, “At the head of this revolutionary complex, the Supreme Leader of the Revolution, and in its body, the people across the country are present and Basij goes beyond political, partisan and group currents.”

Ayatollah Raisi said it is necessary to strengthen the Basij’s missions in order to solve people’s problems and said, “Opposition movements seek deviations in thought and action in various cultural, social and political fields, but Basij is a

strong barrier against these deviations.”

The president added, “The enemy, with its money, power and media, seeks to reduce the revolutionary forces and make changes in the lifestyle and morals of the people, but since the growth and expansion of Basij’s missions are high, they have always failed.”

The president described Basij as one of the most important components of the country’s power and said, “The pervasive current of Basij has become the key to protecting the Islamic system due to its responsibility, risk-taking and presence in various stages.”

Ayatollah Raisi described Basij’s programs and actions in various areas such as resistance economy, culture, science, and technology, especially civil engineering and construction efforts in deprived areas, as valuable in the campaign to resolve people’s problems, saying, “The government is determined to use Basij’s capacity to allay people’s concerns and resolve problems.”

The president stressed the importance of efforts and planning to revive and strengthen the spirit of hope and trust among the people, saying, “The enemy’s strategy is to spread despair and hopelessness in society, and in this situation, it is necessary to put all the system’s capacities together for creating a change in the lives of the people and solving the problems of the country, give the people hope for the future, and in this regard, the government is ready to support with all its might.”

Also on Tuesday, Raisi chaired a meeting of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution.

He called on the Work Group for Transformation in the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution to carefully and thoroughly review the proposals in this field and present them for decision at the next meeting.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Raisi congratulated Basij Week, and praised the prominent and distinguished role of Basij and stated, “Basiji culture and thinking has valuable features and characteristics and its promotion and institutionalization in different sections of society, including cultural issues, has been –and will be– very constructive and effective.”

Emphasizing the importance of making changes in the structure, duties and missions of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, according to the instructions of the Supreme Leader in the appendix of the appointment of new members of the Council, the president urged the Transformation Work Group to carefully summarize all proposals in this field and present the decision at the next meeting.

In the meeting of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, Seyyed Mohammad Moghimi was also elected as the President of the University of Tehran, Hossein Ghana’eni was elected as the President of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Abdolreza Pazouki was elected as the President of Iran University of Medical Sciences.

Ayatollah also participated in another meeting on Tuesday night on economic issues.

Iran decries U.S. manufacturing of ‘fake news’ ahead of Vienna talks

TEHRAN – In the latest response to the United States’ reiteration of “mutual return” by Tehran and Washington to a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, a senior Iranian official accused the U.S. of manufacturing “fake news.”

The spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, blasted the U.S. for using the phrase “mutual return” to the Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Khatibzadeh appeared to understand the U.S. use of the phrase as characterizing Iran as a party that left the JCPOA.

“The US still manufactures fake news,” he said on Twitter. “Orchestrating photo op to sell fake narrative about need for ‘mutual return to JCPOA’ doesn’t change reality that unlike the U.S., Iran never left the deal.”

He added, “Spin won’t get the US anywhere. Wise decisions—like ending max failure—just may.”

The tweet seems to be in a

response to a recent tweet by the U.S. envoy for Iran, Rob Malley, who called for a “mutual return” to the JCPOA.

“Met with the E3 political directors and senior officials from Egypt, Jordan, and the GCC to discuss 2 paths open to Iran: continued nuclear escalation & crisis, or mutual return to the JCPOA, creating opportunities for regional economic & diplomatic ties. Time to choose is short,” Malley said on Twitter.

This tweet also elicited a response from former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Zarif said the U.S. envoy is trying to rewrite the recent history of the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“@USEnvoyIran is exploiting the change of administration in Iran & ‘memory lapse’ of E3/EU to rewrite recent history. Iran never left to do a ‘mutual return to JCPOA.’ The US did,” Zarif said on Twitter.

The former top Iranian diplomat was responding to a recent tweet by Malley in which he called for mutual return by Tehran and Washington to the JCPOA.

However, Zarif suggested that Iran is still honoring its commitments under the nuclear deal while the U.S. and the European signatories to it have failed to implement the deal.

Iran and the P4+1 group of countries – Russia, China, France, and the UK plus Germany – will gather again in Vienna later this month to resume the Vienna talks after a five-month hiatus.

The much-awaited talks, scheduled to be held on November 29, will center around discussing ways to lift U.S. sanctions on Iran. The last round of talks was concluded on June 20 and it was held at Vienna’s five-star luxury Grand Hotel. Ever since the talks have been put on hold due to the transition of power in the wake of Iran’s June presidential election which resulted

in the victory of Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

Over the past five months, there has been much pressure from the West on Iran to return to Vienna. After completing the transition process, Iran finally announced November 29 as the date for resuming the Vienna talks.

With Iran and the West going into the talks in a few days, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director-general Rafael Grossi paid a visit to Tehran on Monday for talks with Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief Mohammad Eslami and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

“The whole issue between Iran and the Agency (IAEA) is a technical one, and the Agency will not take into account or be influenced by the political issues and conspiracy theories of Iran’s enemies in Iran’s advancing nuclear program,” Eslami said in a joint press conference with Grossi.

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Persepolis edge Sanat Naft, Sepahan move top: IPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team earned a hard-fought 1-0 win over Sanat Naft on Matchday 6 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Wednesday.

In the match held in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium in front of about 5,000 spectators, Milad Sarlak scored the solitary goal of the match in the 72nd minute.

In Shiraz, Sepahan defeated Fajr Sepasi 2-0 thanks to goals from Ezatollah Pourghaz and Mohammadreza Hosseini.

Esteghlal and Gol Gohar played out a goalless draw in Sirjan, Nassaji shared the spoils with Paykan in a 2-2 draw, Foolad defeated Zob Ahan 1-0 in Isfahan, Tractor edged Padideh 1-0 in Tabriz, Naft Masjed Soleyman lost to Mes 1-0 in their home match and Havadar and Aluminum played out a goalless draw in Tehran.

Sepahan moved top of the table with 13 points, followed by Aluminum, Esteghlal and Persepolis.

Iran to send 165 athletes to Asian Youth Para Games

TEHRAN – A total of 165 athletes will represent Iran at the fourth edition of the Asian Youth Para Games.

The Games will be held in Manama, Bahrain from Dec. 2 to 6.

Iran finished in second place in the previous edition in the UAE behind Japan.

A total of 750 Para athletes from 29 countries are expected to participate in the competitions.

“We will participate in the Games with the aim of maintain our previous position. The Iranian Para athletes will partake in nine sports namely, athletic, badminton, boccia, goalball, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and wheelchair basketball,” Mohammad Tabe, Iran’s chef de mission at the 2021 Asian Youth Para Games, said in the press conference on Wednesday.

The first Asian Youth Para Games was held in Tokyo, Japan in 2009 and Kuala Lumpur hosted the second edition four years later.

Zenit ready to offer Azmoun for Miranchuk: report

TEHRAN – Sardar Azmoun could be set to leave Zenit in the January transfer window, as the Russian giant eyes a swap deal for Atalanta forward Aleksei Andreyevich Miranchuk, the Italian local media reported.

The Iranian forward’s deal will run until the summer and Zenit wants to sign the former Lokomotiv Moscow striker.

Miranchuk has failed to meet expectations in the Serie A side.

Azmoun has been also linked with a move to French top flight club Lyon.

Kiadarbandsari named Iran’s women’s alpine skiing head coach

TEHRAN – Fatemeh Kiadarbandsari has been named as new head coach of Iran’s women’s alpine skiing.

She replaced Mitra Kalhor in the position.

Kiadarbandsari is former racer who represented Iran at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada.

Kiadarbandsari served as deputy president of Iran ski federation in 2017.

Iran’s Sayyadmanesh shortlisted for AFC International Player of the Week

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Allahyar Sayyadmanesh has been shortlisted for the AFC International Player of the Week.

He is the only Iranian player in the 10-player list.

Sayyadmanesh didn’t score this week, but the Iranian youngster still found a way to impact the match, providing the pass for Zorya’s only goal in a match the Ukrainian side lost 2-1.

He will have the chance to add to his growing reputation when Zorya face Jose Mourinho’s AS Roma in the UEFA Europa Conference League on Thursday.

Dick Advocaat steps down as Iraq coach

TEHRAN – The Iraqi Football Federation announced the departure of head coach Dick Advocaat following the national team’s recent poor results in the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar.

The 74-year-old Advocaat, who vacates the post after only three months, will be replaced by Zeljko Petrovic for the upcoming FIFA Arab Cup in Qatar.

“Iraq Football Association accepted the resignation of coach Advocaat,” said Iraq FA spokesman Ahmed Zamil.

“Coach Zeljko Petrovic will take charge of the national team and he will be the head coach for the FIFA Arab Cup,” he added.

Advocaat was appointed head coach in August, replacing Slovenian Srecko Katanec who led the team in the second round of the AFC Asian Qualifiers.

Iraq have yet to register a win in Group A of the AFC Asian Qualifiers, with the Lions of Mesopotamia recording four draws and two defeats.

Iraq will travel to Tehran on January 27 to meet Iran in the World Cup qualifier.

Iran’s Aghaei candidate for BWF Athletes’ Commission

TEHRAN – Iranian badminton player Soraya Aghaei has been shortlisted for the Athletes’ Commission of the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

The elections for the Commission will take place on Dec. 17 alongside the 2021 BWF World Championships in Huelva, Spain.

Eligible voters will be able to “vote in person” at the Championships or vote online.

There are six positions available and the term is for four years (2021 – 2025). The Chair of the Athletes’ Commission will be elected by the new Athletes’ Commission and that person will become a BWF Council member after the vetting process required under the BWF constitution.

The nine candidates are: Adam Hall (SCO), Greysia Polii (INA), Hadia Mohamed Hosny EL Said (EGY), Iris Wang (USA), Kim So-yeong (KOR), Pusarla V. Sindhu (IND), Robin Tabeling (NED), Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha (IRA) and Zheng Siwei (CHN).

Soraya Aghaei competed at Tokyo 2020 as the first ever women’s badminton player to represent Iran at the Olympic Games. Soraya, who started playing badminton aged seven, wants to be a voice for all athletes “so that together we can pursue our dreams and achieve our goals together”.

Iran maintains its place among world's top 10 steel producers: WSA



From page 1 ► Africa produced 1.3 million tons of the commodity in October 2021, up 24.1 percent from September. Asia and Oceania produced 100.7 million tons, down 16.6 percent. The CIS produced 8.3 million tons, down 0.2 percent. The EU produced 13.4 million tons, up 6.4 percent. Other European countries produced 7.7 million tons, up 4.4 percent, West Asia produced

3.2 million tons, down 12.7 percent. North America produced 10.2 million tons, up 16.9 percent, while South America produced four million tons, up 12.1 percent.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

According to the Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, the production capacity of the country's steel chain increased from 123 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 230 million tons in the previous year (ended on March 20).

Natural gas consumption rises 22% yr/yr

TEHRAN – The consumption of natural gas by Iranian domestic and commercial sectors reached 517 million cubic meters (mcm) on Tuesday to register a 22-percent increase year on year, according to Oil Minister Javad Oji.

Speaking to the national TV on Tuesday evening, Oji noted that the ministry has been forced to limit gas supply to some industries including cement and petrochemical production units in order to compensate for the gap between production and demand.

According to the minister, the natural gas supply to such industrial units has been replaced with liquid fuel to prevent any disruption in their normal operations, Shana reported.

Noting that a tariff increase for high-consuming gas subscribers is on the agenda, Oji added: "Undoubtedly, those high-consuming subscribers who are consuming natural gas out of the normal consumption patterns must pay the price for their over-consuming."

He noted that the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has also started a program for monitoring the consumption by government entities and the high

consumers will face penalties.

"[under the framework of the mentioned program] so far, more than 14,000 visits have been made [to government entities], and in these visits, 1,428 units have been warned and the gas supply to 124 high-consuming entities has been cut off," Oji said.

Furthermore, the Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Dispatching Department Mohammadreza Jolaei also said on Tuesday that the country's gas consumption in various sectors reached 748 mcm over the past 24 hours.

"Over the last 24 hours, natural gas consumption by the domestic, commercial, and non-major industries stood at 521 million cubic meters, while the consumption by major industries was 129 million cubic meters and the power plants consumed 98 million cubic meters," Jolaei said.

Earlier on Monday, the Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Production Coordination and Supervision Manage-

NIGC has started a program for monitoring consumption by government entities



ment Ahmad Zamani also said that the consumption of natural gas in the country had exceeded the current production levels.

Speaking to the national TV, Zamani called on various sectors to manage their consumption during the cold season's peak consumption period.

"Considering the recent reduction in temperature, people should put consumption management and optimal use of heating appliances on their agenda, because only by observing the optimal consumption patterns we can reduce the gap between production and consumption and get through this early winter," the official said.

Earlier this month, Iranian Gas

Economy Ministry sets curbing inflation, stabilizing economy as major goals

TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi announced on Wednesday that his ministry has set stabilizing the economy and curbing inflation as major goals for defining future plans, IRNA reported.

"Following the president's guidelines, our economic policies in the coming months will be focused on increasing economic growth, facilitating the business environment, stabilizing the economy and curbing inflation," Khandouzi said.

Referring to the details of a meeting of the Government's Economic Headquarters held on Tuesday evening, he stated: "At the meeting of the government's economic headquarters, the general outlines of the ministry's roadmap for the economic growth, production increase, and curbing inflation was reviewed and approved."

"[based on this roadmap] It is decided to help increase pro-



ductivity 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.

Khandouzi also pointed to his ministry's plan for curbing inflation based on monetary and credit measures and budget 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.

Average daily gasoline distribution exceeds 90m liters

TEHRAN – Average daily distribution of gasoline in Iran reached 90.5 million liters in the Iranian calendar month of Aban (October 23-November 21), 15 million liters more than the figure for the same period in the previous year, the head of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) announced.

According to Keramat Veis-Karami, the NIORDC's average daily gasoline distribution stood at 75.5 million cubic meters in the same month of the previous year, Mehr News Agency reported.

Veis-Karami noted that the Oil Ministry has fulfilled its legal obligations to improve the quality of the distributed fuel, according to the Law on Clean Air and the decision of the Cabinet, adding that currently, Euro 4 gasoline is distributed in Tehran and even in the suburbs.

"Euro 4 gasoline is also distributed in all cities in the east of Tehran province, including Pardis, Bume-hen, Roudheh, Damavand and Firouzkouh," he said.

The official put the NIORDC's average daily gasoline distribution since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21) up to November 21, at 85 million liters, indicating 10 million liters increase compared to the previous year's same time span.

He announced that the highest amount of gasoline distribution in the country since the beginning of the current year was registered in summer with 104 million liters.

Veis-Karami had previously said that gasoline consumption in the country exceeded 107 million

liters in some days of the Iranian calendar month of Tir, despite the pandemic-related travel restrictions.

Gasoline consumption in Iran has fluctuated since the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country.

In the early days of the pandemic, concerns over the virus minimized the travels across the country and led to a record decrease in consumption in the last Iranian calendar year's first month (March 20-April 20, 2020).

On some days in April 2020, gasoline consumption even fell to 40 million liters and the average daily consumption did not exceed 50 million liters that month.

In general, gasoline consumption in the country declined 20 percent in the past Iranian calendar year, as compared to its preceding year due to rationing this fuel and also the coronavirus pandemic.

The Islamic Republic, which was an importer of gasoline for decades, exported over \$1.4 billion worth of the fuel in the first seven months of the past Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21, 2020).

The significant increase in the country's gasoline production and exports comes despite the fact that nearly two years ago Iran was shipping in over 4.5 million liters per day of the strategic product.

Iran became a net gasoline exporter in February 2019, after the inauguration of the third phase of the Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGS) project which added 120,000 barrels to the country's daily gasoline production.

Sugar import falls 12% as domestic production rises

TEHRAN- Iran's import of sugar fell 12 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, an official with the Government Trading Corporation of Iran (GTC) announced.

Hojjat Barat-Ali, the director-general of GTC for distribution and sales coordination, put the eight-month sugar import at 758,000 tons and said the drop in import occurred as the result of increase in domestic production.

With good planning for domestic



production and proper import of this commodity, the current state of the country's sugar inventory is in a safe condition, the official further reiterated.

TEDPIX drops 10,400 points on Wednesday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 10,445 points to 1.394 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 4,799 billion securities

worth 35.084 trillion rials (about \$835.3 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 8,424 points, and the second market's index fell 18,615 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.

Commodities worth over \$38m exported from Hamedan in 7 months

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 72,441 tons of commodities worth \$38.337 million were exported from Hamedan province during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22).

Hamidreza Matin, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that during the said time span 88 items were exported to 27 countries including China, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, Belgium, Lithuania, Italy, Russia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Kenya, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

He said the export from the industrial sector was 29,554 tons worth \$7.374 million, accounting for 20 percent of the export from the province.

The official further announced that 7,326 tons of commodities valued at \$40.497 million were imported to the province during the first seven months of the present year.

He said that the import shows 295 percent rise in terms of value and 118 percent growth in terms of weight as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of

Iran's non-oil trade rose 43 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded over 98 million tons of non-oil products worth \$54.8 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

According to the IRICA head, the volume of trade in the mentioned period also grew by 16.5 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year.

The official put the seven-month non-oil exports at 75.2 million tons valued at \$27.1 billion, with a 47-percent rise in value and 15-percent growth in weight.

Mir-Ashrafi mentioned natural gas, methanol, polyethylene, semi-finished iron products, liquid propane, iron ingots, iron rods, urea, copper, and bitumen as the main exported products in the said time span.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 16.9 million tons worth \$7.7 billion, Iraq with 19.7 million tons worth \$5.5 billion, Turkey with 11 million tons worth \$7.4 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 6.6 million tons worth \$2.6 billion, and Afghanistan with 2.8 million tons worth \$1.1 billion.



The official further announced that Iran has imported 23.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$27.7 billion in the first seven months of the present year, with a 38-percent growth in value and a 21-percent rise in weight year on year.

Mir-Ashrafi named basic goods, machinery, livestock feed inputs, and raw materials for production units as the main imported commodities.

The United Arab Emirates with 6.9 million tons of goods worth \$8.6 billion was the top exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China with 1.9 million tons of goods worth \$6.1 billion, Turkey with 2.5 million tons worth \$2.9 billion, and Germany with 512,000 tons worth \$1 billion, the official stated.

According to the IRICA head, out of the total non-oil goods imported into the country in the first seven months of this year, 16.6 million tons worth \$11 billion were basic goods.

Mir-Ashrafi has announced that the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood

at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

He has put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons, and said that the figure shows a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates the third with importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as China with exporting \$9.7 billion worth of products to the Islamic Republic, the UAE with \$9.6 billion, Turkey with \$4.3 billion, India with \$2.1 billion, and Germany with \$1.8 billion, respectively, and mentioned corn, cellphone, rice, oil meal and oil seeds, wheat, and raw oil as the major imported items.

Some Persian Gulf states begging American protection: Palestinian lawyer

From page 1 ► surround Jerusalem and its neighborhoods, exercising terrible security tightening on all Palestinians, once this operation came as a game-changer to question all of the Israeli security systems.

This process took its echoes in all of occupied Palestine, in addition to the Arab and Islamic interaction with it, where it renewed the conflict between the executioner and the victim.

It showed that the Palestinians are able to resist under pressure and under all complicated circumstances; they adhere to the resistance as a way to liberate Palestine and counter the oppression.

The Jerusalem operation given to its implementation by a man over the age of forty came after a similar operation by a 16-year-old person which indicates that all segments of the Palestinian society support the act of resistance to defeat the occupying side.

The Zionist sources consider every operation carried out by the Palestinians as an act of terrorism. What's your reply?

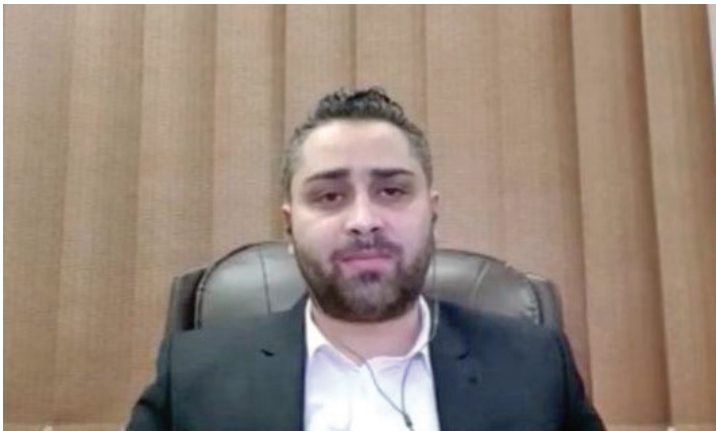
Heavenly books and international laws guarantee the right of peoples to self-determination and to defend their lands in the case of any occupation.

Palestine is occupied land, and Israel has been established on the ruins of Palestinian land after hundreds of massacres the Zionists committed against the indigenous population from 1948 until today. The Palestinians have the right to defend themselves and their land in the face of occupation.

There is Israeli violence before any case of Palestinian violence, but Israeli violence is terrorism by virtue of occupation, while Palestinian violence is an act of legitimate resistance against the Zionist occupation.

Equality between the occupying power and the people under occupation is part of the upturned international scales, which contradict the spirit of international law, which denies the oppressive measures of the current international community led by the United States and the European states.

What is your comment on the British government's decision to



outlaw Hamas as a terrorist organization? How it can affect the course of the resistance and struggle in Palestine?

Britain does not have the right to classify peoples, states and parties. It is a continuation of misguided arrogance against oppressed peoples.

Britain is engaged in establishing the Israeli regime in 1948 through the facilities it provided for the Zionists to immigrate to Palestine during the occupation period from 1917 to 1948.

Instead of apologizing as atonement for its injustice against the Palestinian people, Britain continues its arrogance in the face the right by the Palestinian people to resist occupation.

Britain has classified the Al-Qassam Brigades as a terrorist organization and is now seeking to gain the confidence of the House of Commons to vote on designating the political wing of Hamas as a terrorist organization as well.

I do not think that this will affect Hamas directly, but this decision will be used in the face of the British people, who came out by hundreds of thousands during the Battle of Sword of Jerusalem, denouncing the crimes committed by Israel and affirming the right of the Palestinians

to resist the Zionists.

There is an actual popular movement among the British public, rejecting Israel and emphasizing rights of the Palestinian people; this is what the Zionist lobbies in London fear in light of the sharp division in the Labor Party over the concepts of anti-Semitism, and in light of the desire of the Conservative party to support the Zionism and compliance with its orders.

Can you update us about the living and health conditions in Gaza in light of the siege and the outbreak of Corona?

The Israel continues to practice the harshest siege on the Gaza Strip, and besiege it by land, sea and air; the Strip is suffering difficult conditions due to the Corona pandemic under the siege.

It often prevents the entry of required amounts of vaccinations and bans many medicines, treatments and medical supplies needed to confront Corona and the difficult medical conditions.

Israel is the one who controls all crossings into Gaza, controls all human and commercial crossings, and monitors everything that enters the Gaza Strip.

The resistance is trying to put pressure on Israel through mediators, especially the Egyptian and

Qatari sides, but the achievements are still limited in the absence of international pressure on the Israeli regime that obliges it to comply with international norms.

How do you see the efforts made by Persian Gulf Arab states to establish security in the region, which were represented in the Manama Dialogue 2021?

I think that the Manama Dialogue is a call for an escalation in the region and not an effort for pacification.

The (Persian) Gulf is still begging American protection, and it has not yet come out of the idea of the possibility of cooperation between the countries of the region to establish the foundations of stability, while Iran always calls for it.

The (Persian) Gulf the Arab states still believe that Washington can determine international equations and provide them with protection. That is why they welcome every American statement emphasizing this matter, neglecting the disastrous American defeat in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

In fact, the Americans are concerned with their interests only at the expense of the people of this region.

Normalization of ties with Israel will not bring stability to the region because it is a temporary and fleeting regime.

It is not possible to rely on these dialogues and meetings with the presence of the Americans and the Israelis, who spare no effort to undermine the sovereignty of countries and rob their wealth.

Serious and real dialogue is the dialogue between the countries and players of the region, which will help in resolving crises and overcoming obstacles.

The (Persian) Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are playing an unconstructive role in the region. The Yemeni crisis, which led to the worst images of a collapsed state, especially on the humanitarian level, is caused by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

They are still convinced of the military solution in Yemen, which has proven to be a complete failure.

Can the seventh Vienna negotiation bring good luck to JCPOA?

By Hongda Fan

On November 29th, the seventh round of the Vienna negotiations on JCPOA will begin. Can the United States and Iran reach an agreement on revival of JCPOA? This has once again become a focus issue.

Since President Raisi took office in early August 2021, the new Iranian administration has not been very active in the Vienna JCPOA negotiations. After winning the presidential election in June, President-elect Raisi made it clear that the foreign policy of the new Iranian government will not be limited to the nuclear agreement.

However, Iran has also repeatedly stated that it does not oppose returning to the JCPOA negotiations. Raisi administration has insisted that the United States must lift its unjust sanctions against Iran first, and that there is no point in continuing the previous negotiations that will not yield positive results. Iran also believes that future JCPOA negotiations in Vienna cannot involve Iran's missile development and regional policy.

In the past few months, in order to push Iran to return to the negotiating table in Vienna, the United States has continued to communicate with Russia, Britain, France, Germany, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and China. On August 24, the U.S. special envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, said in an interview that the United States "is prepared to make compromises 'on difficult issues' if Tehran does the same."

In fact, both the United States and Iran do not want to give up the revival of the JCPOA. Without the constraint of the JCPOA, Iran's nuclear project will be more difficult to control. This is certainly not what The United States expects to see. Meanwhile, it seems that if Tehran does not return to full compliance of the JCPOA the U.S. sanctions on Iran will continue.

For the time being, I think Washington's demand for JCPOA is more urgent than that of Tehran. America's "Maximum Pressure" has indeed had a serious impact on Iran, and Iran used to be more eager than the United States to revive JCPOA. However, the successive rounds of the Vienna negotiations failed to achieve the desired results. This disappointed the Iranian side. In addition, the U.S. failure in Afghanistan not only further eases the external pressure on Iran, but also shows that U.S. interest in the Middle East (West Asia) is declining.

Also, according to the relevant provisions of the JCPOA, Iran has the right to redevelop its nuclear program if other signatories fail to perform the JCPOA. In fact, Iran has already done so and has made major advances in its nuclear program. Moreover, in recent years Iran has increasingly emphasized eastward diplomacy and Iran's relations with China and Russia are deepening.

These new trends make the United States and its allies hope to resume the JCPOA as soon as possible, so as to eliminate the challenges posed by Iran's nuclear development. And, considering Iran's Geo-strategic position that can't be ignored,

these countries also hope to establish normal or good relations with Iran.

However, there is still a seemingly insurmountable gap between ideal and reality. Many sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran are supported by law and cannot be lifted quickly through executive orders. Moreover, there are still strong anti-Iran and anti-JCPOA voices in the United States. The internal politics of the United States has determined that the sanctions against Iran are difficult to lift in a short time.

On the other hand, it is also difficult for Iran to agree to include missile and regional policy issues in the JCPOA negotiations. And, there are also strong anti-American and anti-JCPOA feelings in Iran. Iran's internal politics has also determined that it is difficult to compromise in the struggle against the United States.

In other words, it seems that neither Washington nor Tehran can meet each other's public demands. Will the seventh

round of talks end in fruitless, or will a major breakthrough be made? This mainly depends on the actual attitude of the United States and Iran in the next negotiations.

For the time being, I think Washington's demand for JCPOA is more urgent than that of Tehran.

Once bitten, twice shy. Iran requires the United States to promise not to withdraw once it returns to the JCPOA. Compared with other controversial issues, I think it is possible for the United States and Iran to reach a consensus on this issue. Also, the United States has room for lifting some sanctions against Iran and helping Iran take back some assets that have been frozen abroad.

As for the issues of Iran's missile and regional policies, the United States can't expect to solve new problems within the old framework. Although Iran does not agree to discuss these two issues in the JCPOA negotiations, can new negotiations be opened outside the JCPOA negotiations to deal with these two issues? If it can get something to make its regime more stable and its country better, is it sure that Iran will not consider discussing missile and regional policy issues?

It is foreseeable that if this upcoming round of negotiations is still as fruitless as the previous rounds, Iran will be more passive towards such negotiations in the future. Moreover, because of the increasingly urgent domestic need for nuclear energy, Iran will almost certainly continue to strengthen its nuclear program. Of course, if this is the case, the United States will not lift sanctions on Iran. In this way, all stories will return to the beginning.

In my opinion, in the current background of competition among major powers, the United States will not spend too much resources in Iran. Iran, whose people are increasingly dissatisfied, also needs a better international environment for development. The United States and Iran have a common need to ease tensions. So, the upcoming JCPOA negotiations in Vienna can be given some cautious optimism.

Hongda Fan is a Professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University in China.

UN warns of catastrophic Yemen death toll

From page 1 ► In fact, soon after the war, the UN stopped updating its death toll because it was difficult for the world body to get an accurate picture of what was happening on the ground. The airstrikes struck UN run health facilities and other services that forced the UN to order many of its personnel out of the country. Other humanitarian and medical agencies such as Doctors Without Borders were also forced to leave because their facilities were repeatedly hit by airstrikes and they too lost members of staff.

Therefore, it is safe to say that the figure of 154,000 killed due to direct combat and violence, provided by the study is not entirely credible and could be a modest number of the real death toll. For instance, in 2018, three years after the war started, the UN death toll remained static at around 10,000, despite the war starting in March 2015. This is while other monitoring groups such as the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project conducted research that found "56,000 civilians and combat-



ants between January 2016 and October 2018." That was its initial results. At the time, the independent group which studies armed conflicts estimated up to 80,000 victims (within the same time frame) when it concluded the research. The absence of real figures for the death toll in Yemen made it easier for western powers to shrug off accusations they are complicit in a human disaster; despite making hundreds of billions of dollars in profit from the war through arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

However, the 68-page report (involving the United Nations, the UN Development Program (UNDP), and some Member States of the United Nations), titled assessing the impact of the war in Yemen - pathways for recovery, makes an interesting read and does reveal the extent of the damage the war is having on Yemen.

According to the study, It has led to urgent, widespread humanitarian and development crises and resulted in significant damage to the economy, physical infrastructure, service provision, health, and education systems, as well as the social fabric of the country. It has also caused hundreds of thousands of deaths. While many of these are the

result of direct violence, others are due to the war's indirect effects, including a lack of food and degraded living conditions.

It compares the current reality in Yemen to a scenario where no war ever erupted. The deaths from the war are overwhelmingly made up of young children who are especially vulnerable to under and malnutrition.

The most disturbing line in the report; that in 2021 "a Yemeni child under the age of five dies every nine minutes because of the conflict"; another stark reminder of the effect this war is having on children and the silence of the international community to address and deal with this issue speaks volumes. Profit ahead of a child dying every nine minutes from preventable causes will split history in two factions over this conflict. Those who waged, backed and supported a side purely for profit and those who backed and supported a side to

people may also experience malnutrition.

The study says that since the Cold War era, the war on Yemen has been among the most destructive that have ever occurred. Another shocking point the reports reveals is that the indirect effects have been so immense, it has setback human development by more than two decades.

Frequently referred to as the greatest humanitarian disaster in the world, the study finds that the effects of war extend well beyond the loss of human life by reducing economic activity, pushing people into poverty, and increasing malnutrition. While the war has proven to be both lasting and devastating, the UN says these costs should encourage serious reflection on the future path of the country and motivate all sides towards a sustained and inclusive political settlement.

Yemeni activists say they have lost hope with the United Nations and its reports or statements. The UN backed 2018 Stockholm agreement was supposed to end the fighting in the key strategic port city of Hodeidah where 90 percent of vital lifesaving commodities enter the country. Since that agreement, instead of peace, Yemeni officials say Hodeidah has witnessed a sharp rise in fighting. Only recently have Saudi backed militants fled the city (around last month) and headed to Ma'rib did the UN called for a revival of the stalled peace talks, which raised eyebrows and question marks in Sana'a.

The UN backed report makes assumptions that the war ends for all recovery scenarios, but refrains from making any "assessment or assumption" regarding how this war can end. The report "does not aim to provide guidance for achieving and sustaining peace as it is beyond our scope."

It is for reasons like this that Yemeni officials and activists based in Yemen say they have given up on the world body coming to their rescue and they must resist the aggression with self reliance.

The reality is many assumptions can be made on how to end this man made crisis and how to pressure some parties to sit at the table and accept there is no way forward in fighting anymore, this is quite a simple assumption. In fact, it's more than that; It's a solution. The only path forward to end this crisis of untold magnitudes must be through peace talks between all the parties involved. This of course, is where the United Nations can play a much more active practical role in ending the now seven year war, before many more are killed or starve to death.

Yemeni activists say they have lost hope with the United Nations and its reports or statements.



Iranian, French archaeologists uncover clues about ancient settlements

From page 1 ► “In addition to architectural remains, significant quantities of Parthian and Sassanid period pottery pieces have been obtained from the cultural layers of the site, which provides a suitable criterion for identification and typology of pottery of the historical period of North Khorasan.”

The development of historical studies and archaeological excavations in this region will shed new light on many ambiguities about the history of the early Parthians, the Iranian archaeologist said.

“Many historians and archaeologists believe Vran-Shahr is the birthplace of the Parthian Empire (247 BCE-224 CE), accommodating the first administrative institutes of the dynasty,” said Labbaf-Khaniki, who is also a professor at the University of Tehran.

“The latest excavations led to significant findings of the historical architecture of the Parthian Empire and the Sassanid Empire (224-651 CE),” he added.

The architectural remains indicate that Vran-Shahr was surrounded by a square-shaped fence, stretched over 14 hectares, Labbaf-Khaniki said, adding, “Last year’s extractions unearthed parts of an architectural complex located on a hill in the southern part of the area.”

Khorasan -- meaning the “Land of the Sun” -- is a historical region and realm comprising a vast territory now lying in northeastern Iran, southern Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan. The historical region extended, along the north, from the Amu Darya (Oxus River) westward to the Caspian Sea and, along the south, from the



fringes of the central Iranian deserts eastward to the mountains of central Afghanistan.

The history of the area stretches back to very ancient times. It was part of the Achaemenian Empire of the 6th to 4th century BC and the Parthian empire, which spanned from the 3rd century BC to the 3rd century CE.

Parthian Empire (247 BC – 224 CE), also known as the Arsacid Empire, largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran.

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

Iran prepares to welcome Iraqi sightseers, pilgrims



TEHRAN – Iran is getting prepared to welcome more Iraqi sightseers, pilgrims, and medical travelers.

“We are trying to re-organize and facilitate the arrival of potential Iraqi tourists who want to visit our country for various purposes including pilgrimage, medical treatment, and health,” the deputy tourism minister said on Tuesday.

“The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts seeks to introduce Iraqi travelers to further lesser-known destinations and

help increase their stay duration,” ISNA quoted Ali-Reza Shalbafian as saying on Tuesday.

Shalbafian made the remarks during his meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Iraq, Iraj Masjedi, adding “Our main approach is to ease visa restrictions.”

Tehran and Baghdad in September agreed to ease tough visa restrictions as a step forward in broadening bilateral relations.

The announcement came after Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi met in Tehran, discussing various issues including visa waiver, a joint railway project, and increasing the level of trade.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Iraq constituted Iran’s largest source of tourists. In return, hundreds of thousands of Iranian pilgrims head for the holy Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala each year to attend the Arbæen pilgrimage, aka the Arbæen trek, to mark an end to the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

ISO offers new standards for traditional restaurants

TEHRAN – The International Standards Organization (ISO) has recently published a new document on traditional restaurants.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed and managed the compilation of the document entitled “Tourism and related services — Traditional restaurants — Visual aspects, decoration and services”, an official with the tourism ministry has announced.

The document addresses traditional restaurants as an important component of the development of food tourism, therefore in order to prevent problems in traditional restaurants around the world as well as to provide desirable experiences for tourists, the document has been published, IRNA quoted Hansa Qaderi as saying on Wednesday.

Nowadays, traditional restaurants have become a favorite destination for tourists all over

the world, and sometimes they are the main attraction in the tourism and food industries, the official added.

Tourists, however, often do not know the destination food and its associated customs, and making the wrong choice can affect their enjoyment of the trip, she noted.

New standards for traditional restaurants, along with clarifying what a real restaurant is and guiding the providers of these services, will assist in establishing a pleasant experience and making tourists familiar with traditional foods and drinks as well as food customs in different countries, she explained.

The document ISO 21621, which is published in 18 pages, establishes requirements and recommendations related to the environment and the service provision of traditional restaurants, which belong to a specific cuisine and custom of a specific country or area.



This document specifies physical features of traditional restaurants (visual specifications for buildings, furniture, and decoration), elements related to the specific cuisine and customs of serving food as well as staff requirements (clothing, behavior, language) that affect the traditional style and quality of the service.

Requirements related to the technical characteristics of the buildings and general requirements of preparation and cooking in the kitchen and other

back-office spaces are not included in this document.

Iranian cuisine, usually dominated by fragrant herbs, varies from region to region. It principally accentuates freshness, deliciousness, and colorfulness.

Iranian cooking can be seen as a metaphor for the country itself: It’s tart, sweet, fragrant, and vastly complex. It’s one of the world’s oldest, yet largely obscure, culinary landscapes, with roots dating back to the ancient Persian Empire.

Future research to probe links between Iran, Arabian Peninsula during Pleistocene

TEHRAN – Hormozgan province plans to help research to shed light on the possible relationship between southern Iranian islands and the Arabian Peninsula during the Pleistocene.

“Future research including intensive surveys, systematic sampling, excavation, and additional environmental studies is expected to increase our knowledge of the Paleolithic occupation of the region and the relationship between southern Iran and the Arabian Peninsula during the Pleistocene,” provincial tourism chief Sohrab Banavand said on Tuesday.

His comments came after recent findings confirmed the presence of Paleolithic hunter-gatherer groups on Hormuz Island in the Persian

Gulf.

“The recent discovery indicates the importance of the Strait of Hormuz in Paleolithic archeology of the Persian Gulf and the southern coast of Iran. Preservation of this area and its natural landscape and conducting more research in this part of the eastern coast of Hormuz Island is one of the goals of this provincial office,” Banavand said.

According to the Public Relations of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Institute (RICHT), a team of archaeologists under the direction of Sepehr Zarei have identified a Paleolithic site on the eastern coast of Hormuz Island. In this regard, Zarei said: “In the initial study, a significant scat-



ter of stone artifacts on a marine terrace was identified. Based on their technological and typological characteristics, and the use of the Levallois method, they can be attributed to the Middle Paleolithic period. He added this period that coincides with the presence of Neanderthals and probably early modern humans in Iran, began about 200,000 years ago and ended about 40,000 years ago.

According to Zarei in the previous archeological surveys on Hormuz Island, which started in the 1930s, only the remains of the Islamic period have been found. However, during the visit of the archaeologist, for the first time, Paleolithic stone artifacts were found in a locality called

“Chand-Derakht”.

He emphasized: Due to the importance of this discovery, a preliminary study was planned and carried out to examine the natural context of the locality and its Paleolithic finds. In this survey, the area was examined to identify the boundary of the surface scatter, and to study the typology and technology of the finds, and to suggest a relative chronology.

Finally emphasized that Chand Derakht is the first evidence of Paleolithic settlements on the Hormuz Island and in addition to the Middle Paleolithic site of Bam Qeshm in the Qeshm Island; so far it is the second evidence of such early occupations in the Persian Gulf islands.

Iran seeks UNESCO status for ‘world’s first’ two-story mosque



TEHRAN – Iran has developed a dossier for a possible inscription of the Jameh Mosque of Ardestan on the UNESCO World Heritage list as the “world’s first” two-story mosque, Ardestan’s tourism chief has said.

A comprehensive dossier has been prepared and submitted to the United Nations cultural body, which should be followed by the city’s tourism officials, Mehdi Mashhadi announced on

Wednesday.

Jameh Mosque of Ardestan is arguably one of the finest works of Islamic architecture in the whole country, and it should be preserved to the fullest extent possible, the official added.

Located in an ancient oasis town of the same name in the central province of Isfahan, the Jameh Mosque of Ardestan is of high historical importance as it incorporates successive architectural styles of the Sassanids, Buyids, Seljuks, and Safavids.

The Congregational Mosque of Ardestan is an early Islamic building with many accretions over its long history of use. However, a majority of what visitors to the mosque see dates from the Seljuk era (ca. 1040–1196).

The two-story hypostyle mosque has a four-portico (iwan) courtyard surrounded by encircling arcades. The place of worship is part of larger premises that also include other mudbrick structures such as a cistern, a caravanserai, a

Tehran considers easing visa rules for Afghan nationals

TEHRAN – The Foreign Ministry Director-General for West Asia has said that Iran considers easing visa rules for Afghan nationals.

“Facilitation of the legal entry of Afghan citizens into Iran is the best way to combat illegal entry, human trafficking, and many norm-breaking behaviors,” ISNA quoted Seyyed Rasoul Mousavi as saying on Wednesday.

“Today (Tuesday), only in Herat, 1509 people [Afghans] were

granted entry visas to Iran,” the top diplomat tweeted.

Recently, Seyyed Hassan Mortazavi, Iran’s Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan, said that twelve aid cargoes carrying Iranian aid have been delivered to the people of Afghanistan. He noted that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has emphasized the continuation of humanitarian assistance to “the oppressed” people of Afghanistan.

Mortazavi also noted that the



humanitarian aid from the Islamic Republic to the people of Afghanistan has been continuing over the

past three months, during the time that Afghanistan has been the scene of drastic political changes.

Floor covering renovated in bazaar of Zanjan

TEHRAN – A flooring project has recently been completed on a covered passage of the historical bazaar of Zanjan in northwestern Iran, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The project was carried out in collaboration with Zanjan Municipality under the supervision of the cultural heritage experts, Amir Arjmand said on Tuesday.

Using slabs, the flooring work has been underway since the beginning of the current Iranian year (started on March 20), the official added.

The other passages of the bazaar are also planned to undergo rehabilitation works in the near future, he noted.

The Qajar-era (1789-1925) bazaar embraces five mosques, two caravanserais, and two bath-houses as well as over 900 stores. Due to changes in weather conditions in the city of Zanjan, the bazaar has been designed in such a way that external climatic variations are not perceived at all.

In the Iranian culture, bazaars have been traditional public spaces in the Iranian cities with great contributions to commercial activities in urban life meanwhile their extended activates can be traced to social, cultural, political, and re-

ligious roles.

Most mazes and passages offer certain commodities such as carpets, metalwork, toys, clothing, jewelry, and kitchen appliances, traditional spices, herbal remedies, and natural perfumes. One can also bump into colorful grocery stores, bookbinders, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, coppersmiths, tobacconists, tailors, flag sellers, broadcloth sellers, carpenters, shoemakers, and knife-makers.

Several divided carpet sections across the bazaar enable visitors to watch or buy hand-woven Persian carpets and rugs with different knot densities and other features. From another point of view, bazaars are also synonyms of foods, with their unmissable colorful stalls of vegetables, herbs, and spices. Yet, most of these ingredients might be mysterious to a foreign eye.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

Protecting refugees is a human rights principle, Iran writes to UNHCR

TEHRAN – The communications and constitution implementation department of the Vice Presidency for Legal Affairs in a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees called for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees in accordance with human rights obligations.

The letter reads as follows:

The current state of the world and the many crises such as Corona, famine, natural disasters, and wars are endangering human life more than ever. In the meantime, the crisis of “asylum” and “immigration” has been a constant and often unanswered issue of states. What has hurt the feelings of the world today and has caught the eyes of all “asylum seekers” is the displacement and confusion of thousands of asylum seekers in the border region of Belarus and Poland.

It is unfortunate that to date, human rights officials and activists of this area in various fields have not been able to find its solution. Being in the cold season and the lack of minimum accommodation facilities and the lack of any material and spiritual support has caused this issue to become a human catastrophe.

Unfortunately, we see the negligence and sometimes ill-considered statements of EU officials in this regard. Following the publication of remarks by Julien Odoul, spokesman for the French National Rally party and a member of France’s far-right party, on asylum seekers and displaced refugees on the Polish-Belarusian border, it is necessary to remind EU officials of the principles of human rights and the rules of law adopted by the United Nations:

For more than two centuries, French Republicans have called France the “center of human rights in the world,” but prevented the admission of asylum seekers and the inhumane statements made by French officials about the status of asylum seekers and their indifference to human rights principles which is incompatible with Universal hu-



man rights and Islamic human rights as well, is another sign of this neglect. It is expected that EU officials shall condemn any action and words that are contrary to the protection of the initial rights of human beings and that assume their specified responsibility as well as plan and take effective measures to resolve this issue. Meantime, French Government may fulfill its effective role by taking a peaceful approach and putting its human rights two hundred years of pioneer claim into action.

According to Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, every human being is entitled to migrate and asylum and the right to asylum is a human right and in accordance with the Convention on Refugees (1951), The Parties are bound to apply the rules of the Convention without discrimination to asylum seekers. Article 3 of the Convention provides for: “The Contracting States shall apply the provisions of this Convention without discrimination on the basis of race, religion or nationality in respect of refugees.” In fact, the French Government and its officials, referring to the “dangerousness” of these people to Europe, once again violate human rights, with discriminatory behavior and the use of force and through military and law enforcement forces to prevent these people from seeking asylum in states of refuge. According to the above-mentioned convention, the mainland of refugees cannot be a basis for dis-

crimination and non-acceptance, and on the other hand, the use of the word “dangerous” for Europe includes the basic discrimination and a sign of superiority complex of some European states.

The right to life is an inherent and fundamental human right under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In the last two weeks, the number of victims of this situation has reached more than ten people, and the negligence of the French authorities on the right to life and the right to asylum of these people will lead to the death of many more asylum seekers due to cold, hunger and other reasons. The least duty of states and authorities regarding these asylum seekers is to protect their “right to life”. Housing and protecting them from the cold and hunger is the minimum human rights protection that these states should provide, but unfortunately the European authorities, by defining the borders of the European Union, have no human protection plan for these people.

Undoubtedly, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees must address this issue and the behavior of European authorities regarding asylum seekers and the rights of refugees and displaced persons, to prevent the occurrence of such a tragic event and prevent the death of hundreds of people. The principles of human rights are dramatically and symbolically emphasized by European authorities; while in

the policies and behavior of these officials, the basic principles of human rights, which are also emphasized in Islamic human rights, are repeatedly ignored. Islamic human rights have taken a more complete look at the international human rights instruments on the refugee rights situation and the issue of asylum, and have made the reception of refugees “obligatory”.

Accordingly, ignoring the rights of refugees is reprehensible and obscene. Article 12 of the Islamic Declaration of Human Rights, 1990, Cairo, explicitly states that: “Every human being has the right, in accordance with the Shari’a, to move and choose a place of residence inside or outside his country, and if he is oppressed, he can seek refuge in another country.” And it is obligatory for “the country of asylum to be patient with him until a shelter is provided for him... “ Therefore, paying attention to the rights of refugees in Islamic countries is considered a legal obligation, and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has also repeatedly proved its practical concern for Afghan and other immigrants.

Finally, with regard to the rules and principles of human rights, it is necessary to pursue the necessary legal action against the situation of asylum seekers and refugees at the borders who are involved in the political games of European governments, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees should support the basic principles of human rights to address the situation of asylum seekers and refugees stranded at the border.

The silence and indifference of the international communities and organizations that are claimants to defend human rights to the situation of asylum seekers on the border between Belarus and Poland could seriously call into question the independence of these bodies and structures and provide grounds for further international distrust.

‘Iran, Germany show great strength in fighting COVID-19’

TEHRAN – Iran and Germany have made many efforts to contain coronavirus pandemic and finally have shown their ability to manage the disease, Andreas Janssen, deputy director of the German Robert Koch Institute, has said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iran’s Health Minister Bahrām Einollahi held at the Ministry of Health on Tuesday.

Last year, at the beginning of March, we traveled to Iran with representatives of the World Health Organization. Our perception of the hospitals in different cities of Iran was that the medical staff is making great efforts to control the epidemic, and this is a positive move towards eradicating the virus, he highlighted.

The development of multiple vaccines by

Iranian experts and the widespread injection of the vaccine is a great achievement, and many individuals and international organizations have acknowledged Iran’s success in vaccination, he emphasized.

Mohammad-Hossein Niknam, director-general of international cooperation of the Ministry of Health, for his part, said that there are similarities in terms of population, total COVID-19 cases, and mortality between Iran and Germany so that there is a good opportunity to exchange experiences.

Germany is facing a growing trend of the coronavirus pandemic. About 60,000 new patients were identified in Germany yesterday, which was one of the causes of lack of care and reduced compliance with health



protocols. In the current situation, mostly young people are infected.

Imposing more restrictions to deal with the new wave is on the agenda in Germany. Mandatory vaccination is also being studied in this country, he added.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Afghans life in Iran provided new model of migration

The friendly coexistence of Afghans with Iranians has set a new pattern in migration, secretary of human rights headquarters in Iran has stated.

The two nations of Iran and Afghanistan share similarities in religion, culture and civilization, Ali Bagherikani said on Thursday during a meeting with Afghan immigrants in Tehran.

The west is using all the capacities to turn the differences between the two nations of Iran and Afghanistan into a dispute and then a conflict in order to achieve their illegitimate interests, he lamented.

“The effort of the Human Rights Headquarters is to highly protect the right of immigrants living in Iran,” he highlighted.

زندگی افغانستانی‌ها در ایران الگوی جدیدی از مهاجرت ارائه کرده است

دبیرستاد حقوق بشر جمهوری اسلامی ایران می‌گوید همزیستی ملافت‌آمیز افغانستانی‌ها با ایرانی‌ها، الگوی جدیدی را در مهاجرت ارائه کرده است.

به گزارش ایرنا، «علی باقری‌کنی» روز پنجشنبه در دیدار با مهاجران افغانستانی در تهران اظهار داشت: اشتراکات دینی، فرهنگی و تمدنی دو ملت ایران و افغانستان بسیار به هم نزدیک است.

وی افزود: غربی‌ها از همه ظرفیت‌ها استفاده می‌کنند تا تفاوت‌های دو ملت ایران و افغانستان را به اختلاف و سپس نزاع تبدیل کنند تا به منافع نامشروع خود برسند.

او گفت: تلاش ستاد حقوق بشر آن است که کوچکترین حقی از مهاجران مقیم ایران ضایع نشود.

Marriage growth rate more than divorce, data shows

TEHRAN – The rates of marriage and divorce in the country have increased by 23.6 percent and 16.4 percent, respectively, over the first three months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-June 21) compared to the same period last year, according to the data published by the Statistical Center of Iran.

Last year, 557,649 marriages and 184,654 divorces occurred, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Over the spring, some 158,992 marriages and 41,757 divorces were registered, while a year ago, 128,621 marriages and 35,860 divorces were recorded, which shows an increase of 23.6 percent and 16.4 percent, respectively.

In the Iranian calendar year 1398, marriage and divorce records were reported to be 533,458 and 176,900, respectively, showing an approximate 4.5 percent increase in both.

The marriage rate in Iran has increased by 5 percent over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021), despite the coronavirus pandemic, Masoumeh Ebtekar, former vice president for Women and Family Affairs said in May.

Despite the pandemic that was expected to lead the marriage rate to a downward trend, the rate grew by 5 percent last year, while, divorces have decreased by 4 per-

cent, she explained.

Demographic issue

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.

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.

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.

75% of Iran affected by wind erosion

TEHRAN – Wind erosion has affected 75 percent of the lands across the country, Vahid Jafarian, an official with the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management, has said.

Wind erosion brought an annual loss of 30 trillion rials (nearly \$714 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to the country over the past two years, he lamented, adding, so that, serious attention must be paid to reforestation.

Referring to the implementation of desert greening programs in the country over the past 50 years, he added that many of the biological, biomechanical, and mechanical methods that are being used to fight desertification are the result of the knowledge that the locals have gained over the years.

The plans have been over 100 percent effective in reducing wind erosion, so appropriate budgets must be considered in this regard, he concluded.

About 30 million hectares of natural resources are affected by the phenomena, 13.5 million hectares of which are the hotspots, Jafarian said in July.

He also stated that wind erosion hotspots are scattered in 22 provinces of the country and Semnan is one of the provinces with the highest wind erosion sources, IRNA reported

on Wednesday.

Panting vegetation and improving the way of dealing with nature is the solution to desertification, as well as mulching, wastewater control, creating windbreak on farms, and planting seedlings.

Last year, Reza Bayani an official with Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization, said between 2015 and 2020, approximately 12,000 hectares of forests across the country were wiped out annually.

He went on to say that the country’s forests are estimated at 14.3 million hectares, lamenting, deforestation occurs for a variety of reasons, including dam construction, road construction, fire, and wood smuggling.

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

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

Correction

In our Wednesday’s edition, the flag of Vietnam was wrongly printed and the name of the new Vietnamese ambassa-

dor was confused with the previous one. The name had been taken from the embassy website.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 24

New cases	4,813
New deaths	95
Total cases	6,092,822
Total deaths	129,280
New hospitalized patients	724
Patients in critical condition	3,375
Total recovered patients	5,819,025
Diagnostic tests conducted	38,107,951
Doses of vaccine injected	103,582,269

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:12 Dawn: 5:23 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:51 (tomorrow)

Iran: Myths and legends

Part 14

In contrast, evil is that which is destructive of harmony and order; that which is polluted (i.e., anything associated with death and decay); the chaotic—it is anything to excess or in a state of deficiency.

Evil is expressed through violence and anger. Evil actions are those which harm or pollute the divine creation; spreading falsehood rather than truth, idleness, greed, fury, and arrogance.

The myths embody basic Zoroastrian understandings of human nature and duty. The good person will expel the demons from within themselves and make their bodies the dwelling place of the divine beings.

“It is possible to put Ahriman out of this world in such a way that every person, for his own part, should chase him out of his body, for Ahriman’s habitation in the world is in the bodies of men. Therefore when there is no habitation for him in the bodies of men, he is annihilated from the whole world. For as long as in this world (even) a small demon has his dwelling in a single person of men, Ahriman is in the world”. Ohrmazd created humans to be his fellow workers (hamkars) in the fight against evil.

There are several analyses of human nature. The most traditional one divides humans into five constituent parts: the body which dies at death but is resurrected; the soul which is judged after death; vital spirit (the principle of life); consciousness (which dissolves at death); and the fravashi which forever dwells with Ohrmazd on high. The good person keeps the different parts of their being in their natural balance, but Ahriman constantly seeks to disrupt them.

The first human couple, as noted above, grew out of two leaves of a plant, which itself had grown from Gayomard’s sperm. Two major theological themes devolve from this myth.

(1) In Judaism and Christianity the first woman, Eve, was carved from the rib of Adam, and consequently women were seen as theologically derivative or secondary in gender relations.

In Zoroastrianism the genders emerged simultaneously and independently from the same plant. Here, as in Zoroastrianism generally, there is gender equality, e.g., regarding initiation, prayer, funerals.

The sole difference relates to purity laws and menstruation. Anything leaving the body is dead matter—spittle, breath, urine, or blood. Blood while in the body is living; when it leaves the body it is dead matter and therefore polluting, be that a cut from a hand (man’s or woman’s) or menstruation.

Dead matter is the presence of evil, hence a locus of pollution, which must not be brought into the presence of the holy, e.g., fire. The religious and social role of women during menstruation is therefore strictly regulated. She is not sinful, rather the hapless victim of evil.

As Ahriman sought to destroy life at creation, so he attacks the place where life is generated—the woman’s body. Precisely because she plays a major role in the generation of life, a woman is a target for evil. It would be sinful to bring pollution into the presence of the sacred, but she is not sinful because of the pollution.

(2) Because humans emerged from a plant, there is a natural unity between humanity and the plant world. As fire, water, and other creations are the work of Ohrmazd, humans have a religious duty to protect and respect them; to abuse them is sinful.

In his vision of heaven the Righteous Viraz

Iranian Artists Forum celebrates Ali-Akbar Sadeqi’s 84th birthday

From Page 1 ▶ “In this gathering, one of many memorable events organized by the Iranian Artists forum, we are celebrating the birthday of an artist who has taken Iranian art to new heights, and our knowledge to speak about his skills is simply inadequate. This is a man who injected a modern style into Iranian art, founding Iranian surrealism to remind us of our great heritage of art,” she added.

Afterwards, veteran graphic designer Ebrahim Haqiqi appeared on stage to talk about his lifelong friend.

“In the words of [poet Ahmad] Shamlu, Ali-Akbar Asdeqi and his contemporaries are ‘beautiful monsters’, from whom we have learned a lot,” he said.

“The diversity of his artworks is incredible, and we hope he and his contemporaries can be role models for all of us,” he added.

“Ali-Akbar Asdeqi has never considered himself a retired artist,” he noted, “There is no retirement from art; I cordially kiss his hands and those of his contemporaries, that is, ‘the beautiful monsters’”

Artist Ali-Akbar Sadeqi cuts his 84th birthday cake at the Iranian Artists Forum on November 22, 2021.

Sadeqi was also praised by his other close friends and colleagues, including cartoonist Ahmad Arabani and illustrator Ali Buzari, in speeches delivered at the celebration.

In addition, Mahmud Shalui, an advisor to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, also attended the celebration.

“After years, the flames of love are still flickering in Mr. Sadeqi’s life; something that I have seen less of in the present generation nowadays,” he said in his short speech.

Addressing the audience, Sadeqi said, “I really love you, my motherland and its people.”

“I always swear on the Persian Gulf; my friends exaggerated

about me; I’m nothing but a man, a painter; I like all people from every religion and faith,” he added.

“I never draw the beautiful flowers anymore,” he said with a sigh. “I never draw the beautiful landscapes anymore; I draw the dreams of those children whose fathers have been martyred to achieve freedom for Iran.”

A retrospective of Sadeqi was organized by the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) in January and February 2018.

A collection composed of his 200 paintings, sculptures, drawings, illustrations and a lineup of his rarely-seen short animated movies were showcased at the exhibit.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in collaboration with Shirin Gallery in Tehran organized an exhibition of artworks by Sadeqi in October 2016.

Earlier in March 2016, Art Dubai Modern, a major international art fair in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, showcased works by the 80-year-old artist.

“Zalava” wins awards at Duhok International Film Festival

Navid Purfaraj acts in a scene from “Zalava”.

TEHRAN – Iranian director Arsalan Amiri has won the award for best director for his drama “Zalava” at the 8th Duhok International Film Festival in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

Navid Purfaraj also won the award for best actor for his role in the film, the winner of the

grand prize at the 36th Venice International Film Critics’ Week.

The story of the movie is set in 1978 in a small village called “Zalava”, where the villagers claim that a demon is among them.

A young sergeant who investigates the claim crosses paths with an exorcist attempting to evict the demon from the village. He arrests the exorcist on a charge of fraud, but suddenly finds himself stuck in a cursed house with his lover. The villagers, who believe they are both possessed by the demon, decide to kill them.

The winners of the Duhok festival were announced on Monday as the Best Kurdish feature film award goes to “Sidik and the Panther” by Rebar Doski.

The film tells the story of a man who travels through the mountains of the Kurdistan Region in search of a snow leopard, believed to be extinct in the area. He dreamed that if he found one, the area

would become a national park and bombs would no longer be dropped on it.

The award for best Kurdish documentary went to “Holy Bread” directed by Rahim Zabihi.

The film is about the hard life of people who smuggle goods in order to support their families. Because of this, they are forced to hike arduously in the mountains, putting their lives on the line. The father of a household may be swept to his death by an avalanche, or hit by a soldier’s bullets.

The award for best actress was given to Maryam Bubani from Iran for her role in “The Dance of Ali and Zin” by Turkish director Mehmet Ali Konar. The film also won the International Federation of Film Critics award.

“Brother’s Keeper” by Turkish director Ferit Karahan received the best Kurdish script award. The film has been co-written by Karahan and Gulistan Acet.

Cinéma Vérité unveils mid-length entries from overseas filmmakers

TEHRAN – Seven mid-length documentaries by overseas filmmakers will be screened at the 15th edition of Iran’s Cinéma Vérité as the organizers announced the lineup for the category on Wednesday.

“The Wheel”, the winner of the IDFA award for best mid-length documentary 2020, is a highlight of the lineup.

Directed by Mongolian filmmaker Nomin Lkhagvasuren, this film explores why the descendants of invincible horseback warriors of Mongolia end their lives.

Italian filmmaker Jacopo Quadri’s “Ultimina” will also be screened in Cinéma Vérité, Iran’s major international festival for documentary films.

More than 80 years after her birth in Tuscany farming country, Ultimina looks back on a tough life in which men have always been the boss. But that hasn’t quelled her energy and rebellious nature one bit.

“Oh Dear Sara” by Spanish director

Patricia Franquesa has also been selected to be screened.

Sara Bahai, the first female taxi driver and women’s rights activist in Afghanistan, is garnering recognition in the public sphere to which she has always aspired. However, her greatest conflict arises in her own home.

The lineup also includes Canada-based Iranian filmmaker Sanaz Sohrabi’s “One Image, Two Acts”.

This archival deep-dive analyzes the role of images produced in the 20th century by oil companies operating in

Iran as part of British colonialism.

This category also features Polish director Piotr Stasik’s documentary “Altered States of Consciousness” about children with autism and Asperger’s syndrome.

The director has close contact with them and the camera, trying to reflect their peculiar perception. Observing the protagonists in different situations, in flashes of genius and moments of crisis, the documentary allows us to glance at their fascinating and unconventional minds.

“The Spy Who Fell to Earth” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – UK-based political scientist of Israeli origin Ahron Bregman’s “The Spy Who Fell to Earth” has been published in Persian.

Mahi is the publisher of the book rendered to Persian by Mehdi Nuri.

On the book’s back cover, Bregman wrote, “Shortly after midday on 27 June 2007, a man plummets from his fifth-floor London flat. Did he jump or was he pushed?”

“He is identified as an Egyptian millionaire who had been living in the UK since the early 1980s. His name is Ashraf Marwan. But that is only part of the tale, for Marwan was also an international

businessman and arms dealer, married to Mona Abdel Nasser, daughter of the legendary Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser.

“A few years before, I blew Marwan’s cover, unmasking him as a top spy who had been working for Egypt’s biggest enemy – Israel. But there is a twist – one that even the most audacious writer of fiction might balk at.

“Soon after I exposed him, Marwan made contact. We met, became friends, and then kept in touch for almost five years. The day before he plunged to his death, Marwan phoned.

“He was anxious and shaken and he asked for

an urgent face-to-face meeting. We scheduled it for the next day. It never took place. Around the time we were due to meet, Marwan’s body was found in the private rose garden below his flat in central London.

“This is the story of what came to be known as ‘The Marwan Affair’, which shocked the public and the Intelligence community.

“It is based on my diary notes; together with messages I sent to Marwan over the years, they tell the inside story of my relationship with the spy some call the greatest secret agent of the twentieth century.”