

Macron Tour Reveals European Double Standards on Iran

▶ Page 3

Interview

Expert Hajrezai hits out at deadly dull Tehran derby

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iranian football expert, Amir Hajrezai, believes that the recent Tehran derby has nothing in terms of tactical and technical issues and made a bad Saturday for the Iranian football.

The battle of giants Esteghlal and Persepolis was expected to be an exciting match. Still, a lackluster performance by two teams ended in a goalless stalemate on Matchday 8 of Iran Professional League in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Saturday.

"The league authorities scheduled this game to be held on Saturday, the first day of the week in Iran. The stadium was empty because of Covid-19 fears. But the worst issue was the quality of the game that had nothing in common with a derby match.

"Personally, I find the match mind-numbingly dull. I think those who didn't watch the game were the actual winners!" said Hajrezai in his interview with Tehran Times

In their post-match press conferences, both teams' head coaches questioned referee Mooud Bonyadifar and believed that his decisions went against them.

"I don't allow myself to talk about the referee and his performance. But based on the comments of some refereeing experts, you can conclude that Mr. Bonyadifar had some mistakes. ▶ Page 3

Op-ed

In truth the U.S has become a weak and therefore dangerous country...

By Martin Love

Average Americans with any sense of what the U.S. government is doing, especially overseas, are generally horrified withal but have little found power to push change.

Take for example a recent assessment by the Pentagon of the validity of its force projections with some 800 military camps or bases across the globe. The Pentagon's conclusion this month is that it's all proper and sensible when it is clearly little but a gravy train for "defense" contractors to make bombs and other weapons and keep unemployment low in an economy that over the past 30 years has been severely hollowed out by the movements of industry to places like China and Southeast Asia. The "military industrial complex" has become all and more that Ike Eisenhower warned about in 1960 when he left the White House.

Take for example Biden's failures to enact a plethora of his campaign promises to aid the American people and also tamp down tensions with Russia and China and Iran in particular. And can anyone believe that an institute at Columbia University in New York recently issued a statement around the good chance that Biden may be too enfeebled to run again for the Presidency in 2024?

The Columbia University group opined that his Vice President Kamala Harris and the current Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, formerly a not so great mayor of a mid-sized city in Indiana, would make a "strong ticket" on the Democratic Party side in 2024. Harris has the absolute worst ratings as a VP, some 25 percent approval, ▶ Page 2



TEHRAN — French President Emmanuel Macron visited the West Asia region amid diplomatic standoff between Iran and the European troika (France, UK, and Germany). What is the true purpose of such visits?

The answer can be found here: France and Britain, as two members of the European

troika, do not like a calm region.

A tense region benefits them greatly.

In his visit to Dubai on Friday, December 3, Macron was accompanied by a large delegation. H was accompanied by Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire and Defense Minister Florence Parly

among others.

After his meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, known as MBZ, the UAE's presidential advisor Anwar Gargash told reporters "I don't want to reveal the Christmas present," according to AFP. ▶ Page 2

Investment in industrial, trade sectors up over 123% in 7 months

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has approved 6,702 quadrillion rials (about \$159.6 billion) of investment projects in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 -October 22), which shows a 133.3 percent rise compared to the last year's same period.

According to the latest data released by the ministry, over 21,381 licenses were issued for

the establishment of industrial units during the mentioned seven months, 2,9 percent less than the figure for the previous year's same period.

The said industrial units created jobs for 515,096 people which was 5.4 percent more than the previous year's same time span.

The Industry Ministry had approved 74 foreign investment projects valued at about



Iran FM meets Kyrgyzstan VP

TEHRAN— The Vice President of Kyrgyzstan met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Sunday to discuss issues of mutual interest. During the meeting, emphasis was put on developing cooperation through direct flights between the two countries' capitals to facilitate the movement of businessmen, political delegations and tourists.

Iran seeks UNESCO tag for gigantic geopark

TEHRAN – Iran has recently submitted an all-inclusive dossier on its Tabas Geopark to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization amid hopes to win a UNESCO status for the gigantic landscape.

After four years of hard work and developing necessary infrastructure, an all-inclusive dossier on Tabas Geopark has recently been submitted to UNESCO for possible registra-

tion of the site, Mehr reported on Sunday.

UNESCO experts are set to visit the geopark next summer to have field research, inspect and evaluate the landscape, which is situated in east-central Iran, the report said.

Situated in South Khorasan province, Tabas Geopark includes 50 geo-sites, and a variety of scenic landscapes, and untouched terrains

with the mysterious Kal-e Jeni (canyon of Jinn) located in Azmighan village. Initial studies on Tabas Geopark commenced in 2011 with the task of identifying its various sites and choosing names for them.

One of the highlights of the geopark, Kal-e Jeni is still unexplored by many potential travelers and adventurers who may not even know such a wonderful attraction exists on Earth! ▶ Page 6

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Interview

Liberal policies have harmed Turkey's economy: Turkish historian

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A Turkish historian and political scientist blames liberal policies for the crash of Turkish the lira against the U.S. dollar.

"One of the most important reasons for Turkey's lira crash is the neoliberal policies implemented in Turkey for many years," Mehmet Perincek tells the Tehran Times.

"While liberal policies destroyed Turkey's productive powers, it also made the Turkish economy dependent on hot money and dollars."

Once again, Turkey is in the throes of a currency crisis. The lira has lost more than 40 percent of its value against the United States dollar this year, making it the worst-performing of all emerging market currencies.

In November alone, the lira lost nearly 30 percent of its value against the dollar – landing it well into currency crash territory.

"If you cannot produce the products and goods you need yourself, you have to out-source them. This makes the dollar, which is used as a reserve currency in the world, even more, valuable against your own national currency," Perincek emphasizes.

"Besides, the dominance of the dollar in the Turkish market allows foreign powers to carry out operations against the Turkish economy."

Following is the text of the interview:

What are the main reasons for the crash of Turkey's lira to a new low against the U.S. dollar? ▶ Page 5

34 movies by Iranian filmmakers to compete in Dhaka festival

TEHRAN – The 20th Dhaka International Film Festival will be screening 34 movies by Iranian filmmakers.

In the Asian Film Competition, five films, including the acclaimed dramas "Walnut Tree" by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian and "Botox" by Kaveh Mazaheri, will be screened at the festival, which will take place in the Bangladeshi capital from January 15 to 23.

"Walnut Tree" is based on true events that took place in 1987. Sardasht, a Kurdish city on the Iran-Iraq border, along with several villages in the surrounding areas had been attacked with chemical weapons by Iraqi forces. Qader, a villager from the area and his pregnant wife, as well as his three young children, are exposed to the chemicals and suffer injuries. The situation in the village and surrounding cities is chaotic. Qader must singlehandedly try to keep his family alive. ▶ Page 8

Calm region detrimental to UK-France lucrative contracts

From page 1 ► After Macron's meeting with MBZ, France announced that a 16 billion-euro deal has been signed with the UAE for the sale of 80 Rafale warplanes.

The UAE intends to use these warplanes to replace Mirage 2000 fleet.

Political experts referred to the deal as “mega-contract”.

After his visit to the UAE and Qatar, Macron went to Saudi Arabia to visit another so-called influential actor in the region, MBS.

Mohammad Bin Salman is one of the frontrunners in opposing the Vienna talks intended to remove the brutal sanctions the United States has imposed on Iran.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have both stated that a return to the JCPOA is impossible without their involvement in the process.

Macron is the first Western leader to meet with bin Salman in Saudi Arabia since Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi was mutilated inside Riyadh's consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

The French president is very keen on building ties with the Persian Gulf countries, especially since the withdrawal of the United States from

Afghanistan, and an imminent withdrawal from Iraq. Yet, this interest is not limited to just France. The United Kingdom is also interested in the famous policy of “create a division, then rule.”

These visits are –on paper- intended to de-escalate tensions in the region, yet, they do not seem so. During his visit to the UAE, Macron prematurely announced the failure of the Vienna talks. He even went so far to suggest that the parties won't be reconvening in Vienna soon. These remarks won't certainly help stabilizing the region.

In that regard, Abdullah bin Zayed, the UAE's Foreign Minister visited the United Kingdom in October. During the visit, he met with his British counterpart, Liz Truss.

These mutual visits have only worsened the situation in West Asia. Saudis have intensified their raids against Yemen, Lebanon is in a bad shape, and the European troika is jeopardizing a possible agreement with Iran for economic interests.

Tahnoun Bin Zayed, the UAE National Security Advisor and MBZ's right hand man, visits Iran on Monday. If the UAE wishes to restore relations with Iran, it is advised not to fall in such traps.

America's arrogance is causing more troubles to the Vienna negotiations

By Hongda Fan

The seventh round of the Vienna negotiations on lifting sanctions against Iran and fully resuming implementation of the JCPOA was temporarily suspended on December 3. It seems that Iran and the United States have different views on how to face the results of the first six rounds of negotiations. In this regard, European negotiators are on the side of the United States.

Iran believes that since the outcome of the first six rounds of negotiations is a draft, there is still room for further negotiations; The United States and Europe believe that new negotiations should proceed directly from the results of the previous six rounds of negotiations.

Iran's chief negotiator and Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said that Iran has put forward two proposals to other negotiators on lifting sanctions against Iran and the Iranian nuclear issue. According to Bagheri, if these two proposals based on the spirit of the JCPOA are recognized, Iran will provide a third proposal.

However, the United States and the three European countries do not agree with the first two proposals provided by Iran, and are very dissatisfied with Iran's changes to some matters reached in the first six rounds of negotiations. U.S. Secretary of state Blinken blamed Iran for the failure of this round of the Vienna negotiation, and accused Iran of being insincere.

In fact, Iran sent a delegation of up to 40 people with Deputy Foreign Minister Bagheri as the chief negotiator, including experts in oil, banking, economy, law, trade, commerce and other fields, as well as several senior officials at the vice-ministerial level. In Bagheri's words, Iran came to Vienna with sincerity.

However, Iran and the United States obviously have major differences in their expectations for this round of the Vienna negotiations. Iran stressed that the United States should lift sanctions and Iran's nuclear rights should be respected. Bagheri emphasized in a commentary in the Financial Times that Iran's first goal is to “complete, guarantee and verify the sanctions imposed on the Iranian people.”

The most important thing for the U.S. delegation is that Iran should fully implement the JCPOA, immediately stop its nuclear development and return to the initial level stipulated in the nuclear deal. President Biden made it clear at the end of October that the United States is willing to return to and fully abide by the JCPOA as long as Iran resumes its performance. Moreover, Washington can consider lifting sanctions against Iran by

means of verification.

At present, the attitude of the United States and European powers is very debatable. On the one hand, the culprit of the current problem is the United States, which unilaterally and irresponsibly withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018. After that, the European signatories did not assume the responsibility of safeguarding the JCPOA.

On the other hand, the United States and Europe still repeatedly emphasize and pressure Iran to strictly abide by the JCPOA. The United States also stressed that since 2019, Iran has seriously violated the JCPOA and accelerated nuclear development, so Washington and international community should put “maximum pressure “ on Iran.

The United States has broken the rules, but it still requires Iran to abide by the same rules. This fully shows the arrogance of the United States and is causing increasing troubles to the JCPOA and the Vienna negotiations.

The Obama administration signed the JCPOA in 2015 and the Trump administration left it in 2018. If the Biden administration can really return to the JCPOA, some American Republicans have stated that the United States will withdraw again when they win the White House. How can Iran trust such a country and government? How many countries can guarantee that the dilemma encountered by Iran today will not happen to them in the future?

To be frank, the world needs fairness and justice. We should say no to some behaviors that wantonly undermine international standards. China believes that the current Iranian nuclear crisis was triggered by the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA. Therefore, Washington should lift all relevant illegal sanctions and win the trust of the international community with practical actions, and Iran should resume full compliance on this basis. Russia holds the same standpoint.

As the only country that has withdrawn from the JCPOA and now hopes to rejoin it, the United States really needs to face the next negotiations with a more positive attitude. The United States needs to show its sincerity and goodwill. In fact, the Iranian delegation participating in this round of negotiations has called on the United States to unfreeze \$10 billion of assets as an initial goodwill gesture.

Iran, the United States and other relevant parties can gather in Vienna again. The Vienna negotiations are still on the way. It is hoped that all parties will continue to work hard and reach a consensus as soon as possible.

Hongda Fan is a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University

UAE national security advisor to visit Tehran Monday

TEHRAN - Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the National Security Advisor of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), plans to travel to Iran on Monday, IRNA reported.

The trip is taking place upon an official invitation by Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC).

Sheikh Tahnoun is scheduled to hold talks with his Iranian counterpart Shamkhani as well as some other high-ranking officials.

Enhancing mutual ties and sharing views on the latest developments in the region are among the main

objectives of the top UAE security official's visit to Tehran.

Some regional and international media outlets recently announced that Anwar Gargash, a diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, had briefed reporters that a UAE delegation will soon visit Iran and that their friends are already aware of the trip.

Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs and top nuclear negotiator, met with senior Emirati officials on November 24 during a visit to the UAE. The visit took place as Tehran and Abu Dhabi



Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani (center) poses for a photo with diplomatic adviser to the UAE's President, Anwar Gargash (right), and Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalifa Shaheen Almarar during a visit to Dubai on November 24.

are moving to reduce tensions with each other.

While in the country, Bagheri Kani met with Gargash and Emirati minister of state for foreign affairs Khalifa Shaheen Almarar.

The discussions stressed the importance of strengthening relations “on the basis of good neighborliness and mutual respect,” working for greater regional stability and prosperity and developing bilateral economic and commercial ties, the WAM news agency reported.

Bagheri Kani said in a tweet that

Iran and the UAE had agreed to open a new chapter in bilateral relations.

The visit happened ahead of the nuclear talks in Vienna between Iran and its dialogue partners which are intended to lift sanctions on Iran based on the 2015 nuclear pact.

Gargash earlier this month said that the UAE was taking steps to de-escalate tensions with Iran, according to Reuters.

Saudi Arabia and Iran also launched direct talks in April. Riyadh has described the talks as “cordial” but said they remained largely exploratory.

In truth the U.S has become a weak and therefore dangerous country...

From page 1 ► than anyone ever has. Buttigieg is literally a bizarre non-entity in Biden's cabinet who has little to none real experience on any topic of concern for anyone in any kind of power position in Washington.

It beggars belief that anyone hoping for a Democrat in the White House after the next election could stomach such a ticket. It's virtually assured to hand the Presidency back to the GOP and just maybe Donald Trump, who has not been indicted yet for ostensibly sparking the insurrection around the Capitol last January 6th, a day that will be remembered in infamy forever along with other Trumpian malfeasance.

The GOP and with Trump in the White House made horrific mistakes, the prime one being demolishing the JCPOA in 2018. A move which has recently been slammed as the absolute worst U.S. foreign policy error this century, right up there with Baby Bush's war on Iraq that commenced in 2003. And one must KNOW it was a huge error because even some Zionist Apartheid entity leaders have slammed Trump's and Pompeo's move in collusion with Bibi Natanyahu.

And even if one is not privy to the finer

details of the current JCPOA negotiations underway in Vienna, a good many average Americans WANT the negotiations to succeed and this reportedly includes a majority of Jewish voters in the U.S. who are at the margin at least becoming dismayed and disgusted

Even some Zionist leaders have slammed Trump's and Pompeo's move in collusion with Natanyahu against Iran.

with the human rights abuses by the Israeli Zionists and the refusal of Washington so far to mount any kinds of effective objections to what's going on in the West Bank and Gaza. It's only fair that Iran's forty odd negotiators in Vienna are demanding (and focusing on) the lifting of sanctions the Trump gangsters imposed on Iran and also on firm assurances that IF the JCPOA

is revived and there is a GOP White House in 2024, which is now more likely than not, that no one can re-do what Trump did in 2018 by essentially destroying what was the finest diplomatic achievement the U.S. has helped engineer in decades with its deal partners in Europe and including Russia.

Moreover, Biden of late has been trying to assert U.S. dominance not with any kind of goodwill and detente but by threatening both Russia around the Ukraine mess and China over Taiwan and its clear, general successes

Iran, UN hold talks on Afghanistan



government in Kabul, ensuring the security of the country and its borders with Iran, IRNA reported.

The veteran politician also said

Iran attaches special importance to the situation in Afghanistan to the extent that the Iranian president has appointed a special

representative for the country.

He also blamed the United States for the current situation in Afghanistan and said that the U.S. presence in West Asia had no result for the region except chaos.

Knudsen praised Iran for its role in Afghanistan and receiving Afghan refugees. She highlighted the need for an exchange of views between the UN and Iran on Afghanistan.

She also emphasized the necessity of serious consideration of basic problems in Afghanistan, given that the winter is coming.

Iran-Pakistan maritime cooperation can lead to strategic ties: Navy official



TEHRAN — An Iranian Navy official said on Sunday that Iran-Pakistan naval interactions will lead to deep and strategic relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries.

Speaking during a ceremony held for the arrival of the Pakistani fleet to the first naval zone of the Iranian Navy in Bandar

Abbas, Captain Qader Vazifeh also said these naval interactions surely prove that regional countries, especially the friendly and Muslim ones, can manage their own region, IRNA reported.

The Navy official went on to say that there is no need for the presence of trans-regional forces in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Vazifeh expressed hope that these relations and naval visits would become more recurrent.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran, Rahim Hayat Qureshi, and Defense Attaché Imran Kashif were present in the welcoming ceremony.

For his part, the commander of the Pakistani fleet said, “This fleet consists of three ships

that has now entered Bandar Abbas.”

Admiral Reyhan added, “Our presence here will increase interactions between the two countries.”

The Pakistani fleet, consisting of three warships, docked in the 1st naval zone of the Iranian Navy in Bandar Abbas on Sunday morning and will stay there until Wednesday.

After the military ceremony, Admiral Reyhan was personally welcomed by the commander of the 1st naval zone of the Iranian Navy.

This is the second visit by the Pakistan Navy to Bandar Abbas in the current year. The fleet traveled to Bandar Abbas on April 3-6.

The purpose of the trip was to strengthen military-diplomatic relations between Iran and Pakistan.

Macron’s Persian Gulf trip reveals European double standards on Iran

TEHRAN – The first official European assessment on the outcome of the recent round of Vienna talks came from Dubai, whence French President Emmanuel Macron announced the failure of the talks early on.

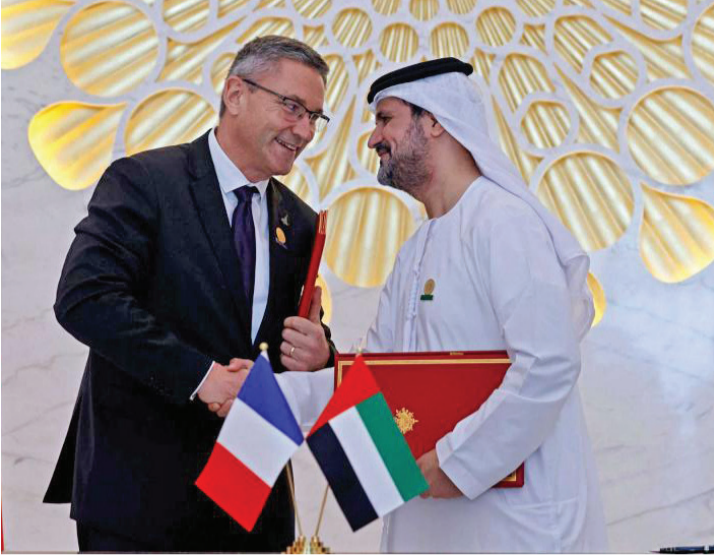
Speaking to reporters in Dubai, Macron claimed Friday that the current round of talks had not been successful, and hinted that there would be a delay before the next round took place.

“I think it’s probable that this round of negotiations, given the positions, does not succeed,” he said according to Reuters. “It is most likely that these negotiations do not continue in the short term.”

No other European leaders have commented on the talks before Macron, and to this day, no other western leaders have commented on the state of things between Iran and the west as much as Macron has.

The reason for this may well be the fact that the French president set off a tour of Persian Gulf Arab countries on the same day the talks were wrapped up in Vienna. On Friday, while Iranian and European negotiators were holding intensive, heated debates, Macron arrived in the United Arab Emirates with a large politico-economic delegation.

After a plenary session between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries, the French joined their European and American colleagues in putting the blame on Iran for allegedly not showing



enough seriousness. They even accused Iran of playing for time, using the Vienna talks to expand its nuclear infrastructure, and backtracking from the previous hard-won compromises achieved during the past six rounds.

On the contrary, Iran refused the western narrative of the talks, underlining the need for a swift conclusion of the talks. Iran’s response to the European and American criticism showed that the western problem with the talks boils down to a number of things: first, Iran entered the talks with a view to negotiate on equal footing and achieve a fair deal. Second, Iran has caught the west by surprise by presenting carefully drafted proposals. Third, Iranian negotiators have made it

clear that they understand Europe’s use of double standards in terms of non-nuclear issues.

As for the third reason, Iran seems to have made it clear that Vienna talks should only focus on nuclear issues stipulated in the 2015 nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) while the U.S. and its European allies have said that they want to use the JCPOA as a starting point to address other issues such as Iran’s missiles and influence in the region. In an analysis piece on Saturday, Iran’s state news agency, IRNA, the U.S. certainly seeks to force Iran to negotiate over its ballistic missiles after the JCPA is revived. But this objective, which is equally shared

by the Europeans, would be far from being achieved even if the tatted nuclear deal is resuscitated. Because Iran is unlikely to negotiate on issues of paramount importance to its national security particularly now that the French are turning the Persian Gulf region into an arms depot.

During his visit to the UAE, Macron and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed oversaw the signing of a record 14-billion-euro contract for 80 Rafale warplanes. The Rafale order, signed on Friday, is the biggest made internationally for the Dassault Aviation aircraft since 2004, according to the Arab Weekly, a publication close to the UAE. The biggest international order ever made for the French jets came as Macron held talks with bin Zayed at the start of a two-day trip which will also take in Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The resource-rich UAE, one of the French defense industry’s biggest customers, also inked an order for 12 Caracal military transport helicopters for a total bill of more than 17 billion euros, the publication added.

These arms deals have been widely seen as a sign that France is employing double standards on security issues in the region. On the one hand, it calls on Iran to curtail its conventional weapons such as ballistic missiles. On the other hand, it provides the UAE and other Arab sheikhdoms with state-of-the-art weaponry.

Senior Iranian diplomat briefs media on Vienna talks

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian foreign ministry diplomat has provided a detailed account of the last round of that Vienna talks that ended on Friday.

The diplomat said that Iran returned to the talks with a “pragmatic approach” and “clear plan.”

Commenting on the latest developments in the talks and the progress made, the unidentified diplomat said, “This was the first round of talks held by the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and given the unresolved deadlocks in the sixth round, it was clear in advance that no final outcome would be reached in this round. However, the government was of the opinion that the negotiating team should be present in Vienna during this round of talks, both in terms of expertise and composition, as well as in terms of texts and suggestions. This is because, firstly, the delegation left for Vienna on a mission to reach a good agreement, and secondly, it was predicted that some opposing parties might accuse the Islamic Republic of Iran of not being serious and not making clear proposals during this round of talks. The new government entered the talks with a fundamentally pragmatic and well-designed approach, and before the delegation’s visit to Vienna, Iran’s proposals were finalized and ready to be presented to the other side.”

The diplomat added, “It should be emphasized that the proposed text of Iran is based on the draft of the six previous rounds and the same text is used as the basis and the amendments and proposals proposed by Iran are specified and presented on the text. These proposals have not been and are not maximal in nature because they have been presented in full compliance with the JCPOA, but unfortunately the other side’s approach to its obligations is minimal. In the same context, on the third day of the talks, the Islamic Republic’s delegation presented two draft texts outlining Iran’s proposals and amendments, one on the lifting of sanctions and the other on nuclear issues.”

The diplomat noted, “I think that especially the European parties, as well as the United States, which is in constant contact with these three countries, did not expect that Iran at this stage enters the negotiations with a full text that is in compliance with the JCPOA and Security Council Resolution 2231 and falls in line with the common principles of the dialogue of the previous rounds. That is why the other side, since receiving these drafts, has raised the issue of stopping the dialogue and returning to the capitals for consultation.”

The diplomat stated, “Although the negotiating approach of the Iranian delegation was interactive yet necessarily flexible from the first day, unfortunately the three European countries lacked a high decision-making authority in Vienna. At the same time, they are constantly concerned



about satisfying the American delegation and coordinating their positions with the American delegation. This is while these talks are taking place between Iran and the P4+1, not Iran and the United States (which is basically not a member of the JCPOA). But this European approach has challenged the progress of the talks.”

The diplomat continued, “It is clear that the Western parties, who came to Vienna with the idea of granting small concessions and receiving maximum concessions, were not completely satisfied with the proposed texts and clear demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran. But none of these countries could object to these texts or describe them as contradictory to the JCPOA. The only point made by these countries was that, firstly, they were not even willing to grant the concessions envisioned in the JCPOA, and secondly, they were not willing to re-discuss the issues raised in the drafts.”

The diplomat added, “But what has been achieved from the previous six rounds of negotiations is only a draft, and as has been said many times, there has always been a basic principle that there is no agreement unless everything is agreed. It is now clear that the U.S. reluctance to give up sanctions altogether is the most important challenge to the progress of the talks. We believe that whenever the U.S. government gives up its campaign of maximum pressure and the European parties show the necessary political will in the talks, the way is opened for a swift agreement.”

The diplomat also touched on the atmosphere of the talks, describing it as professional and frank.

“Despite the differences in the positions of the parties, it should be noted that last week’s talks were held in a professional and frank atmosphere, and the other sides also expressed their views in an atmosphere away from tension. In general, it can be said that a constructive atmosphere prevailed in the talks, and with the presentation of the draft texts by the Islamic Republic of Iran, an important and essential step forward was taken in the direction of the talks,” the diplomat noted.

The diplomat added, “Of course, as is clear from the name of these documents, we consider the proposed texts as negotiable drafts and we have also encouraged the other parties to put their clear texts and proposals on the table based on common principles and within the framework of the JCPOA. Although there were discussions on

the text during this round of talks, we expect that in the next round of talks, which will begin next weekend, the other side will arrive in Vienna with accurate and logical written answers and possibly new practical ideas. In that case, one can hope that serious negotiations on the texts will begin. The other side needs to have both the interactive approach and the necessary flexibility.”

The diplomat further detailed the content of the Iranian proposals presented to the other side. “One of the points that has been emphasized in the talks with the other side is that all the sanctions imposed within the framework of the policy of maximum pressure are designed with the clear aim of eliminating the JCPOA, and therefore all these sanctions are related to the JCPOA. Another document describes the nuclear steps of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the quality of stopping the compensatory steps, if the sanctions are lifted. In this regard, it is emphasized that until the manner of lifting the sanctions is clarified and implemented, the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be expected to stop its compensatory steps, which were not an initial action, but a reaction to the sanctions.”

The diplomat noted, “Of course, there are other drafts and our comments will be presented in the form of these drafts. The manner and timing of the verification, and the issue of obtaining a guarantee that the United States will not withdraw from the agreement are among the issues to be presented. In recent days, we have seen a number of senators and members of Congress threatening that the United States will pull out of the nuclear deal again if a Republican president comes to power. This shows the sharp divisions within the United States and the fact that the United States is not reliable in the negotiations and must return to the JCPOA with credible and acceptable guarantees. They are well aware that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow the recurrence of the misdeeds that occurred after the signing of the agreement in 2015 to take the Iranian economy hostage again.”

Responding to remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken about the dim prospect of the talks, the diplomat said, “Contrary to what U.S. officials have said, I believe that an agreement is at hand if the other parties show good faith and stop playing useless blame game. The Islamic Republic of Iran has put pragmatic proposals on the table, and the other parties must respond appropriately or even present their new proposals and ideas in writing and clearly. I think making negative statements and making such statements is more of a negotiation tactic than related to the content of the talks and is an attempt by the other side to blame Iran in order to put pressure on the negotiators. It is enough for the opposing parties to exercise political will and declare their readiness to take the necessary practical steps. In that case, the way will be opened for agreement and settlement of disputes.”

IRAN IN FOCUS

DECEMBER 6, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Aminzadeh takes Iran’s third gold at World Powerlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Ahmad Aminzadeh of Iran claimed Iran’s third gold at the 2021 World Para Powerlifting Championships on Sunday in Tbilisi, Georgia.

He lifted 255kg in the men’s over 107kg and finished in first place.



His countryman Mehdi Sayadi took the silver with a lift of 247kg.

Bronze medal went to Russian powerlifter Konstantin Matsnev who lifted 243kg.

Iran wrapped up the competition with three golds, three silvers and one bronze medal.

Iran’s Hamed Solhipour in the 97kg and Aliakbar Gharibshi in the 107kg had previously won two gold medals in the competition.

Amir Jafari Arangeh in the men’s up to 65kg and Rouhollah Rostami in the men’s up to 80kg had previously won two silver medals.

Saman Razi also took a bronze medal in men’s up to 107kg.

The tournament was one of the compulsory tournaments to qualify for the 2024 Summer Paralympics in Paris, France.

Iran outside hitter Salehi sidelined for rest of season

TEHRAN – Iran and AZS Olsztyn volleyball team Meysam Salehi has been sidelined until the end of the PlusLiga due to shoulder injury.

AZS Olsztyn have wished him a quick recovery on the club’s Twitter account.

The 23-year-old player joined the Polish club in April.

Salehi was part of the Iran national team who won the title of the 2021 Asian Men’s Volleyball Championship in Japan in September.

Former Iran U23 defender Navid Khosh Hava dies

TEHRAN – Former Iran U23 football team defender Navid Khosh Hava passed away on Saturday.

He died at the age of 30 due to the heart attack.

The Ardabil-born player started his playing career in Tractor in 2012 and also played in Paykan and Rah Ahan football teams.

He was a member of Iran U23 football team in 2013.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Khosh Hava’s family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

Aluminum defeat Tractor: IPL

TEHRAN – Aluminum football team defeated Tractor 2-0 on Matchday 8 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Sunday.

Esmaeil Sharifat and Mohammadamin Asadi were on target for the visiting team in Tabriz.

Aluminum are third with 16 points, level on points with leaders Gol Gohar.

In Shiraz, Foolad drew 1-1 with Fajr Sepasi. Hossein Mehraban’s goal was canceled by Foolad Brazilian forward Luciano Pereira Mendes.

In Sari, Nassaji defeated Padideh 2-0 in Sari thanks to goals from Hamed Shiri (penalty) and Ayub Kalantari.

Zob Ahan suffered a 3-0 home loss against Mes in Isfahan. Godwin Mensha (two goals) and Mohsen Azarbad scored for Mes.

My goal against Chelsea not accidental, Taremi says

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi, Iranian striker of the Portuguese FC Porto, has said he did not net for his club in the match against Chelsea by chance.

Taremi said when he was in Iran and played for FC Perspolis, he tried to do scorpion kicks multiple times.

I was like “I will finally score a scorpion kick goal one day”, Taremi said.

The Iranian striker of Porto also said he always strove to make an accomplishment he would be proud of after retirement.

I never wanted to be like another player; I only wanted to be myself, he added.

Taremi has been shining at Porto and has netted in landmark matches for the Portuguese football club several times.

Expert Hajrezai hits out at deadly dull Tehran derby

In their post-match press conferences, both teams’ head coaches questioned referee Mooud Bonyadifar and believed that his decisions went against them.

“I don’t allow myself to talk about the referee and his performance. But based on the comments of some refereeing experts, you can conclude that Mr. Bonyadifar had some mistakes.

“However, I expect the referee to have more charisma and to whistle with more power during the match. Especially when the people on the bench of both teams had treated aggressively and almost came into the pitch to object the referee’s decision, he was expected to deal with them decisively and use his legal tools, the yellow and red cards. But he preferred to be patient with the technical staff of both teams in this regard,” added the former assistant coach of the Iranian national team.

“In terms of tactical issues, I can say that in terms of performance of the tactics, both teams were like a disaster. It was a deadly dull game for the first half, and in the second half, we just watched a normal match without any tactical plan to create goal-scoring opportunities. It was a disappointing day for football. Tehran derby was uncreative and badly played by both the Reds and Blues of Tehran,” he concluded.

Investment in industrial, trade sectors up over 123% in 7 months

From page 1 ► Of the total number of investment projects in the current year's six-month period, 94.5 percent was the share of the industry sector, 4.2 percent was the share of the mining sector, while trade-related projects accounted for 1.3 percent of the total figure.

The highest volume of foreign investment approved in the industry, mining, and trade sectors in the period under review were in the categories of chemical materials, base metals, radio, television and communication equipment, and tobacco-related products.

Ghana, the United Arab Emirates, Afghanistan, the Netherlands, and Germany were the top five countries with the highest volume of investment, while, Khuzestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, Zanjan, Markazi, and East



Azərbaycan were the top five provinces in terms of the volume of approved foreign investment.

Afghanistan, Turkey, China, the UAE, and Germany were also the top five investors in terms of the number of approved projects during the said time span.

Iran becomes a member of ATAIC executive council



TEHRAN - Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) has been accepted as a member of the Association of Tax Authorities of Islamic Countries (ATAIC)'s Executive Council, IRNA reported on Saturday.

According to the INTA Office of Public Relations, the decision has been made during the second extraordinary meeting of the ATAIC assembly which was held earlier this month.

At this meeting, in accordance with the

amended statutes of the association, for the first time, nine countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, were elected to the ATAIC Executive Council for two years.

The Association of Tax Authorities of Islamic Countries was established and lunched on 15 October 2003 in Petrojaya, Malaysia at the margin of the 10th Summit of the Organization for Islamic Co-operation (OIC), where the 1st Technical Conference was held from 4-7 October 2004. The ATAIC Annual Technical Conference is held once a year on a rotating basis among members.

The conference discusses the Tax challenges that confront tax Systems in Islamic Countries in addition to the methods of modernization of tax policies and legislations. It also aims for exchange of experience and enhancing cooperation among the member countries for better capacity building of tax administrations staffs.

TEDPIX gains over 8,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 8,486 points to 1.343 million on Sunday.

Over 3,832 billion securities worth 26.832 trillion rials (about \$638.8 million) were traded at the TSE on the mentioned day.

The first market's index rose 6,965 points, and the second market's index gained 14,740 points.

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

The official noted that the government will



follow new strategies to compensate for the budget deficit by making government assets more productive and also by selling surplus properties.

"The task of the Economy Ministry and the Securities and Exchange Organization is to develop tools and institutions in order to create a transparent, efficient, and predictable market," Khandouzi stated.

Private sector expresses readiness for building 80 GW of renewable power plants

TEHRAN - Following the Energy Ministry's public call for the contribution of private companies in a project for developing renewable power plants in the country, so far requests for the construction of 80,000 megawatts (80 gigawatts) have been submitted to the ministry, a senior energy official announced.

According to the Head of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) Mahmoud Kamani, the public call has been for the construction of only 10,000 MW capacity of renewable power plants, IRNA reported.

The Energy Ministry plans to create 10,000 MW capacity of new renewable power plants across the country within the next four years,

the official said.

Kamani had previously put the current capacity of the country's renewable power plants at 905 MW, saying that such power plants account only for one percent of the country's total power generation capacity.

"Currently, 30 percent of the world's electricity needs are provided by renewable energy sources, and some countries have even declared 2030 as the final year of using fossil fuels," he said.

"We are far behind the global standards in the development of renewable energy," he regretted.

Referring to another program for the development of renewable ener-

gies in the domestic sector, Kamani noted that to encourage households for constructing such power plants the Energy Ministry has announced that it will buy their surplus generated electricity at a guaranteed price.

He further pointed to the indigenization of the knowledge for the construction of the equipment used in renewable power plants as another priority of the Energy Ministry and SATBA, saying: "Currently, the construction of solar panels and wind power plants is completely indigenized, and we must strengthen our producers to finally become able to build all the required equipment from start to finish, in this regard, of course, some enterprises have announced their readiness."

Car production expected to rise 50% next fiscal year



TEHRAN - Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has said the country's car output is expected to increase by 50 percent in the next Iranian calendar year (starts on March 21, 2022), IRNA reported.

"Private carmakers are trying to increase their output," Sadeqi Niaraki said.

Noting that the annual demand for automobiles is about 1.5 million in the country, the official noted: "Production of one million vehicles is forecast for the current year, and we expect a growth

of about 50 percent for the next year, and automakers are also proposing all kinds of facilities and sale options."

Back in August, Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Reza Fatemi Amin had announced a plan to produce three million vehicles a year by the Iranian calendar year of 1404 (begins in March 2025), saying that this output is in line with the capabilities of the country's automakers.

Fatemi Amin said that his ministry has a two-year plan for the auto industry based on which

this industry will undergo serious changes and improve significantly.

"We must strengthen competition, improve management and economic mechanisms, and increase production in the auto industry in order to succeed in our plans," Fatemi Amin said.

"Our plan is to produce 1.6 million vehicles next year (begins in March 2022), which will increase to three million units in [the Iranian calendar year] 1404 (begins in March 2025), and 30 percent of the production, equivalent to about one million units, should be

sent to export markets," he added.

Manufacturing of passenger cars in Iran rose 14 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Iran currently stands in 20th place among the world's top automobile manufacturers producing 821,060 vehicles by the end of 2019, according to the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA).

Daily gas supply to power plants at 175 mcm

TEHRAN - National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Dispatching Director Mohammadreza Jolaei has said NIGC is currently supplying 175 million cubic meters (mcm) of natural gas to the country's power plants on a daily basis despite the surge in domestic consumption.

Mentioning the recent surges in the country's domestic gas consumption, Jolaei said: "the new wave of cold wheatear in the country has caused an increase in the gas consumption by the domestic sector."

"Gas consumption in the domestic and commercial sectors has now reached 500 million cubic meters per day," the official told IRNA.

Every year, the increase in gas consumption by households in winter causes less gas to be supplied to power plants, and if liquid fuel storages are not full, power plants will



face problems operating on full capacity.

Back in August, Meysam Jafarzadeh, the director-general of the Crisis Management Office in the Iranian Energy Ministry, had stressed the need for taking necessary measures to ensure sustained supply of fuel to the country's power plants during the cold season.

In late November, Oil Minister Javad Oji put

the consumption of natural gas by Iranian domestic and commercial sectors at 517 mcm saying it was 22-percent more than the previous year's same month.

Speaking to the national TV, Oji noted that the ministry had 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.

Earlier that month, the Head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Production Coordination and Supervision Management Ahmad Zamani also said that the consumption of natural gas in the country had exceeded the current production levels.

Zamani had called on various sectors to manage their consumption during the cold season's peak consumption period.

Over 28m tons of iron ore pellets produced in 7 months

TEHRAN - More than 28.433 million tons of iron ore pellets were produced in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), which was five percent more than the figure in the same period of time in the past year.

Also, the iron ore pellet production rose 15 percent to 4.572 million tons in the seventh month of this year, from that of the previous year.

As reported, Golgozar was the largest producer of pellets during the seven-month period with 7.18 million tons of production, followed by Mobarakeh Steel Company with 4.218 million tons, and MIDHCO with 3.48 million tons.

The data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) indicate that iron ore pellet production by major Iranian mining companies exceeded 46 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), regis-



tering a 10 percent growth year on year.

The mentioned companies had managed to produce 41.7 million tons of pellets in the preceding year.

According to the data, Golgozar was the largest producer of pellets in the said year with 12.2 million tons of production, followed by Mobarakeh Steel Company with 7.3 million tons, MIDHCO with 6.2 million tons, and Khuzestan Steel Company with 5.5 million tons.

Iran's iron ore pellet production capacity exceeded 66 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year.

IMIDRO's report on under-construction iron ore pellet

production units in Iran indicates that a total of 25.92 million tons are expected to be added to Iran's iron ore pellet production capacity by the time these units are completed in the fiscal year 1402 (2023-24).

Production of iron ore concentrate also reached 49.714 million tons during the previous calendar year to register a five-percent rise year on year.

According to the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data, of the mentioned figure 3.533 million tons were produced in the last month of the previous year (February 19-March 20).

As reported, the country's major iron ore concentrate producers had managed to produce about 47.306 million tons of the mentioned product in the Iranian calendar year 1398.

Last year, major mining com-

panies also produced 902,454 tons of granulated iron ore, to register a decrease of 54 percent compared to the preceding year (1,965,733 tons).

In its outlook plan for the Iranian calendar year 1404 (2025-2026) Iran has envisaged production of 55 million tons of steel per annum, and to achieve this target the country requires to extract 160 million tons of iron ore.

Iron ore pellet production up 10% in past year

In a bid to prevent the exports of unprocessed minerals, creating more value-added and meeting the requirements of domestic producers for the raw materials, Iran has levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore) since September 2019.

The duty is aimed at encouraging the production of more processed minerals such as pellets and concentrate instead of selling the raw minerals.

South Khorasan province exports over \$7m of cement in 7 months

TEHRAN- South Khorasan province, in the east of Iran, exported \$7209 million of cement during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), a provincial official announced.

Hamed Hassan-Nejad, the deputy head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department for industrial affairs, said 276,795 tons of cement was exported from South Khorasan during the seven-month period, and named Afghanistan and Iraq as the export destinations.

The official said that 802,000 tons of cement was produced by two production units of the province during the mentioned time span.

Iran's cement industry has a history of more than eight decades of activity. With an annual production capacity of 87 million tons, this industry holds the world's sixth place in terms of production capacity.

Currently, there are 96 cement production lines active in 74 plants across Iran, nearly half of them are less than 10 years old. This is an indication that new production units have a greater share of the total output in this sector.

According to the secretary of Cement Industry Employers As-

sociation Abdolreza Sheikhan, Iran produced 68.3 million tons of cement during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) and the annual output can reach over 70 million tons in the current year.

The country's annual cement consumption stands at about 65 million tons and the annual exports of the commodity chain are over 11 million tons.

Neighboring countries are not only the consumers of Iranian cement but also demand the transfer of the cement industry's technology to their countries.

In early June, Iran's biggest cement production line was put into operation in northern Alborz Province's Abyek Cement Complex in a ceremony attended by the Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the minister said, "The country that once imported cement has today become one of the countries exporting this product."

The official also mentioned the 13-percent growth of cement production in the country and added: "Apart from the production growth, indigenizing the knowledge for the production of equipment and machinery in this sector is also of significant importance."

Liberal policies have harmed Turkey’s economy: Turkish historian

From page 1 ► One of the most important reasons for Turkey's lira crash is the neoliberal policies implemented in Turkey for many years. While liberal policies destroyed Turkey's own productive powers, they also made the Turkish economy dependent on hot money and dollars. If you cannot produce the products and goods you need yourself, you have to outsource them. This makes the dollar, which is used as a reserve currency in the world, even more, valuable against your own national currency. Besides, the dominance of the dollar in the Turkish market allows foreign powers to carry out operations against the Turkish economy.

Erdogan has described the currency crash as an economic war? Do think this is a war? If so, who wants to undermine Turkey's economy?

Yes, this is an economic war, because the USA uses the dollar as a weapon. With this weapon, it collapses the national economies of countries that have become dependent on the dollar and create the ground for them to surrender. These developments in Turkey are directly related to the economic operation carried out by the USA.

Turkey is resisting and even disrupting Washington's plans in Syria, the eastern Mediterranean, the Aegean, and the South Caucasus. Because in the last 5-6 years, Turkey's breaking away from the Atlantic and taking its place in Eurasia has clearly changed the balances in the region. For this reason, the success of the USA's plans

in our region depends on Turkey's kneeling down and disintegration. The only way to achieve this is to completely paralyze the Turkish economy by dollar operations.

Some other countries in the region like Iran and Lebanon have also witnessed a fall in their currencies. What is your opinion?

The USA does not just use missiles and bombs as weapons. One of the biggest weapons of the USA is economic sanctions. Through economic sanctions, Washington punishes countries that do not conform to the American order.

The inhuman dimension of these sanctions should also be seen. Millions of people are unable to meet their most basic needs because of these sanctions. This is one of the cruelest aspects of sanctions policy.

In fact, it is not only the governments and people of those countries that are punished. The whole world suffers from this. Because there are other countries, trading with those countries that the USA wants to destroy. For example, the sanctions imposed on Iran also hit Turkey and harm the Turkish manufacturers. Or Turkey is deprived of the opportunity to buy cheap energy from Iran. On the other hand, Germany is one of the countries that suffered the most from the sanctions imposed on Russia.

For this reason, American



sanctions are destroying not only the countries to which they are applied but the whole world.

Turkey witnessed protests against Erdogan's policies in recent days. What are the repercussions of these protests in the country? Do you expect any change in Erdogan's policies?

As I said, the USA intends to collapse the national economies with the dollar weapon and then organize colorful revolutions by using the dissatisfaction of the people. They wanted to implement these plans in countries such as Iran and Venezuela. However, they failed. They will fail in Turkey either.

However, the Erdogan government should not give such an opportunity to the United States. The immediate rescue of the Turkish economy from its dependence on the dollar; supporting Turkish producers from industrialists to

peasantry; allocating Turkey's resources to production, not rent; state administrators embracing simple life and putting an end to waste are needed. But the most important of all is state planning and the state's effectiveness in the economy.

If these are done, the USA will lose its chance to intervene in the Turkish economy, and the dissatisfaction of the people is prevented from being used for its own purposes by foreign powers.

“The sanctions of the U.S., which have turned into a crime against humanity, should not be imposed.”

U.S. democracy alienated and degenerated: China Foreign Ministry

China has highlighted “the alienation and the malaises of democracy in the United States,” amid efforts by Washington to force other nations to conform to the Western democratic model.

US President Joe Biden has planned a virtual “Summit for Democracy” on December 9-10. His administration published a list of about 110 invited countries last week. Russia and China were not on the list, but Chinese Taipei—the self-ruled island over which China has sovereignty, has been invited.

Other invitees to the virtual gathering include Brazil, India, and Pakistan but not NATO member Turkey.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a report on Sunday, enumerating deficiencies and examples of abuse of democracy in the US, as well as underscoring the harm inherent in exporting such a version of democracy.

“Democracy is a common value shared by all humanity. It is a right for all nations, not a prerogative reserved to a few,” it said. “The political system of a country should be independently decided by its own people,” the report added.

It went on to say that the democracy in the U.S.



has become “alienated and degenerated, and it has increasingly deviated from the essence of democracy and its original design.”

Based on facts and expert opinions, the report said, “What is now imperative for the United States is to get to work in real earnest to ensure its people's democratic rights and improve its system of democracy instead of placing too much emphasis on procedural or formal democracy at the expense of substantive democracy and its outcome.”

Separately, top officials from China's ruling Communist Party questioned Washington's motive behind the upcoming summit,

saying its efforts to force the Western democratic model on others are “doomed to fail.”

“Such democracy brings not happiness but disaster to voters,” said Tian Peiyan, the deputy director of the Communist Party's Policy Research Office, on Saturday.

He said a polarized country such as the United States was not in a position to lecture the rest of the world on “democracy.”

Xu Lin, the vice minister of the party's publicity department, also pointed out that the United States has long exploited the concept of democracy to interfere in other countries' affairs.

“The U.S. calls itself a ‘leader of democracy’ and

How can regional countries join hands to pass this tough period?

First of all, the dominance of the dollar must come to an end. The countries in the region transfer resources to the USA every time they trade with dollars. And it gives the United States an opportunity to intervene in their economy. The countries of the region should trade between themselves in national currencies.

The sanctions of the U.S., which have turned into a crime against humanity, should not be imposed and the regional economy should be revived by establishing even common markets. In addition, it is very important to open transportation and energy routes that will improve regional trade.

The countries of the region should establish regional peace and energy security with cooperation. The conflicts between the countries of the region or the civil wars in the countries cause the greatest damage to the regional economy. In this respect, the countries of the region should also stand against the U.S. provocations.

The pandemic process has also clearly shown that the neoliberal economy has gone bankrupt in the world. On the other hand, even Western economists admit that the center of the world economy has shifted from the Atlantic to Eurasia. Therefore, there is no reason why the countries of the region should not solve their economic problems when they come together.

organizes and manipulates the so-called Summit for Democracy,” Xu said. “In fact, it cracks down and hampers countries with different social systems and development models in the name of democracy,” he added

Last week, China and Russia jointly condemned the planned summit, describing it as a product of Washington's Cold War mentality that will create new rifts in the international community.

The participation of Taipei in the gathering has further angered Beijing, which has repeatedly warned that there is no room for compromise over the self-governed island and that Washington should not have any illusions about it.

China has sovereignty over Chinese Taipei, and under the “One China” policy, almost all world countries recognize that sovereignty. The US, too, recognizes Chinese sovereignty over the island but has long courted Taipei in an attempt to unnerve Beijing.

The latest move to invite Taipei came despite Biden's remarks last month about his administration's commitment to the “One China” policy.

(Source: Press TV)

New York police probe amid “alarming acts” of racial misconduct

TEHRAN – Another civil rights inquiry in the United States has highlighted the ongoing pattern of racism against black Americans arising from senior levels of authority. Federal investigators have launched a probe into an entire police department's treatment towards black Americans; this time the Justice Department is investigating New York's city Mount Vernon to find out if officers are engaging in a pattern of discriminatory policing against Black Americans using “excessive force.”

The assistant attorney general for the civil rights division Kristen Clarke says investigators will look at evidence suggesting that black residents are being targeted for “abuse and excessive force.” She also pointed out that the probe will investigate whether Mount Vernon's police supervisors are teaching their own police force on how to target the black community. The Mount Vernon investigation was initiated following a wide-ranging review of publicly available information and will include a dangerous of issues including the police department's policies and how officers are being trained. The third matter of investigation will be how internal probes within the department are being handled, in what critics say is a sign of corruption.

Another aspect of the investigation will focus on illegal police practices, as Clarke says “we have received information about the repeated use of excessive force, often against individuals who are handcuffed.” She adds that “similarly, reports indicate that officers routinely conducted searches without sufficient legal basis, including strip searches.”

As part of the investigation, the city's municipality officials will also be under investigation. In a statement, a spokesperson for the city's mayor says local officials will cooperate with the probe. The statement claims that since taking office in 2020, Mayor Patterson Howard has “demonstrated her commitment to transparency and transformation” by launching an internal investigation into past allegations of abuse and corruption within the city's police department. It added that the information from the internal probe has been turned over to local prosecutors and the U.S. Justice Department.

Federal prosecutors say the reports of excessive force by officers often involve people who are handcuffed, already in custody or suspected of non-violent offenses. The fact that the Justice Department has to be made aware of accusations that officers “target Black residents for abuse and excessive force, including information suggesting that supervisors teach this targeting to their subordinates” will be met with much anger among civil rights groups and leaders as it suggests racism against black Americans is rooted from the higher chains of command who are passing and overseeing discrimination against the black American community instead of eradicating the extremist ideology.

According to a local media outlet, in hours of secretly recorded phone conversations, officers in the city speak of widespread brutality, corruption as well as other issues of misconduct within the police department. A police whistleblower revealed the conversations caught on tape that expose officers as reportedly saying they either witnessed or took part in “alarming acts” of racial misconduct that include framing the victims and beating them. The tapes also reveal officers have reportedly been collaborating with drug dealers in what was part of “a culture of impunity within the department's narcotics unit.” The police tapes have been reportedly recorded since 2017 until this year by a veteran police officer who has been stationed at the department for 12 years. He noted that he wanted to compile solid evidence as previous complaints of such practices fell on deaf ears.

President Joe Biden made the issue of racial justice a priority in the aftermath of the police killing of a Black man named George Floyd by a white Minneapolis police officer. In an arrest captured on video, Derek Chauvin, a white veteran of the police force, pushed his knee into the neck of Floyd, the 46-year-old Black man who was in handcuffs, for more than nine minutes on May 25, 2020.

However, civil rights activists say nothing has changed on the ground. This is despite officials previously pledging to crack down on police



misconduct as a priority.

It is not the first time the justice department has been forced to launch investigations into police discrimination as angry protesters flooded many U.S. cities last year against racism and police brutality. In April, the department launched a sweeping civil investigation into policing practices in Minneapolis following the jury's verdict that former city police officer Chauvin murdered Floyd. The probe looked into whether the department engages “in a pattern or practice of using excessive force, including during protests.” It also examined whether the Minneapolis' police department “engages in discriminatory conduct and whether its treatment of those with behavioral health disabilities is unlawful.” Officials spoke with police officers about what kind of training and support they had been receiving. Activists say black communities in Minneapolis have long complained about problems with over-policing.

In August this year, the Justice Department opened an investigation into whether police in Phoenix illegally used deadly force, retaliated against peaceful protesters and violated the rights of homeless people. Attorney General Merrick Garland alleged such probes are “aimed to promote transparency and accountability.” Racial justice activists have accused Phoenix police of carrying out unlawful surveillance, arrests and malicious prosecutions of anti-racism protesters. In July for example Phoenix police responding to a mental health call shot and killed a man who pointed at an object that quickly turned out to be a water pistol.

The U.S. police's use of force has - on and off - been in the spotlight and under strong scrutiny amid a vast number of fatal incidents over the decades in various cities, with protests ensuing across the country.

In April, the Justice Department launched a civil probe of the Louisville, Kentucky police department whose officers fatally shot Breonna Taylor last year, an unarmed black woman, during a botched police raid. Taylor's murder again sparked angry street protests against police violence. Garland said the probe will focus on the police department and the Louisville-Jefferson County government will evaluate whether the police routinely use unreasonable force, including on protesters, as well as if they routinely conduct unconstitutional searches. He said the investigation would look at whether Louisville police regularly engage in racially discriminatory practices or deny access to public services for people with disabilities.

The Louisville Police Department Chief acknowledged the department has to “rebuild our product”

According to the U.S. Justice Department's Website, the investigations in Phoenix, Louisville and Minneapolis, lawyers have had in-person and virtual meetings with close to more than 1,000 community stakeholders. Hundreds more have submitted messages to the department. Despite that, the investigations are ongoing.

The deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor in particular helped trigger one of the largest nationwide protest movements against racism and police violence against black Americans in decades that soon spread beyond the United States. Despite, Chauvin being sentenced to 22-1/2 years in prison for the murder of Floyd, civil rights leaders say too many other cases are not receiving the attention they deserve and black American victims rarely see the justice that they deserve.

Racial disparity is widespread in the U.S. and not just limited to police killings, arrests and violence against black Americans. For example, research last year, that analyzed 100 million traffic police stops, showed black drivers are less likely to be stopped after sunset when “a veil of darkness masks one's race.”

Iran seeks UNESCO tag for gigantic geopark

From page 1 ► A geopark is a unified area that advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable way and promotes the economic well-being of the people who live there. A UNESCO definition of the global geopark is a unified area with a geological heritage of international significance. Geoparks use that heritage to promote awareness of key issues facing society in the context of our dynamic planet.

Experts believe that the majority of geoparks help promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies with local communities. Geoparks embody records of past climate changes and are indicators of current climate changes as well.

A UNESCO Global Geopark fosters socio-economic development that is culturally and environmentally sustainable directly affecting the area by improving human living conditions and the rural environment. It gives local people a sense of pride in their region, strengthens public identification with the area, and promotes a better understanding of the area's geological, natural, archaeological, cultural, and industrial heritage.

According to the UN body, UNESCO Global Geoparks has multiple aims which included the protection and conservation of its territorial geoheritage and culturally and en-



vironmentally sustainable development of the area.

“UNESCO Global Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are; it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore, and folk traditions. UNESCO Global Geoparks, therefore, engage in a range of activities to celebrate these links. Many UNESCO Global Geoparks have strong links to the arts communities where the synergy released by bringing science and the arts together can yield surprising results.”

Furthermore, one of the primary aims is to promote geoscience education within local communities and to visitors by conveying the importance of the geological heritage to students, teachers, local decision-makers, and the broad public.

Deputy minister, intl. officials exchange views on tourism



TEHRAN – Iran's deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian and several international officials have discussed ways to deepen ties in realms of traveling and cultural heritage.

Furthermore, they exchanged views on prospects of the virus-hit sector on the sidelines of the 24th General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which was held from November 30 to December 3 in Madrid, Spain, IRNA reported on Sunday.

During the three-day conference, Shalbafian met with tourism officials from India, Oman, Iraq, Pakistan, Georgia, Kuwait, Uzbekistan, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Turkey, Malaysia, and Russia, the report added.

In the meetings, he highlighted the impact of the management process during the coronavirus outbreak crisis and the importance of vaccination in reviving the tourism industry.

He also stressed the value of joint experiences, support for the tourism-related businesses of both nations, and the need for bilateral cooperation.

On Tuesday, Shalbafian and UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili discussed ways to develop bilateral ties and to gain previously-defined rural tourism targets.

Furthermore, they re-examined an international conference on rural tourism, which Iran plans to hold in its lesser-known provinces of Kermanshah and Kordestan.

Shalbafian and Pololikashvili also exchanged views on the prospects of sustainable tourism both in the COVID and post-COVID eras.

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

Prehistorical objects donated to Kerman tourism directorate

TEHRAN – An Iranian cultural heritage lover has recently donated five prehistorical relics to the tourism directorate of the southeastern Kerman province.

Estimated to date from the prehistorical times, the objects include an earthenware jar and bowl as well as a dagger blade, IRNA quoted a senior police official as saying on Tuesday.

The big and sprawling province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical

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

The city of Kerman was probably founded by the Sassanid king Ardashir I (reigned 224–241 CE). Under the Safavids, who took control in 1501, it came to be known as Kerman and was made capital of the province. The city was sacked by the Uzbeks in 1509 but was quickly rebuilt. Declining Safavid power in the 17th and early 18th centuries allowed Kerman to be attacked and occupied by Afghan tribesmen in 1720.



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

Iran tourism boom tied to nuclear talks, expert says

TEHRAN – Iran tourism industry would greatly benefit from a possible agreement between the Islamic Republic and world powers to revive a 2015 deal named the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators has said.

Iran suffered some 30 to 40 percent drop in the number of incoming passengers since the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA and restored tough sanctions in 2018. However, a large number of tourists is expected to visit the country if the JCPOA is revived, ILNA quoted Ebrahim Pourfaraj as saying on Saturday.

“It can be stated that the outbreak of coronavirus has not affected the country's tourism industry as much as the JCPOA has,” he added.

Tourists from Arab countries, such as Iraq, are arriving in high numbers, while there are few tourists from Europe, he noted, adding having large numbers of visitors is

not predictable until the second half of 2022.

“The tourism groups have shrunk and many trips are now in small groups, for example, family groups of four to five people or couples.”

Iraqi tourists travel to Iran for pilgrimage, most of whom wish to see the shrines of Imam Reza (AS) and Hazrat Masumeh (SA), just as Iranians want to visit the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) in Karbala, the official explained.

“Even religious travelers can greatly contribute to our economy. Iran can earn about one thousand dollars from each traveler as they shop souvenirs, stay in hotels, etc,” he explained.

Back in November, the official announced that the level of Iran's health security and vaccination against coronavirus should be advertised internationally to gain further trust from the global tourism market.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tehran museum to host conference on linguistic heritage



TEHRAN – The third edition of the national conference of linguistic heritage is scheduled to be held at the National Museum of Iran on February 21, 2022.

The conference will bring together academia, cuneiform experts, literary figures, anthropologists and archaeologists, and fellow students, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Papers and articles in the realms of dialectology, linguistic diversity, ancient Iranian languages, numismatic studies, calligraphic and linguistic heritage, and studies on ancient inscriptions can be submitted to the conference until February 4,

The selected articles of the conference will be published in reputable journals, the report added.

Persian language, also called Farsi, is a mem-

ber of the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian language family. Old Persian, spoken until approximately the 3rd century BC, is attested by numerous inscriptions written in cuneiform, most notable of which is the great monument of Darius I at Bisotun, western Iran.

Middle Persian, spoken from the 3rd century BC to the 9th century CE, is represented by numerous epigraphic texts of Sasanian kings, written in Aramaic script; there is also varied literature in Middle Persian embracing both the Zoroastrian and the Manichaean religious traditions. Pahlavi was the name of the official Middle Persian language of the Sassanian empire, according to Britannica.

Tandoor-making wins cultural heritage status

TEHRAN – The traditional skill of making giant earthen tandoors, which have long been practiced in the city of Ferdows, eastern province of South Khorasan, has won national cultural heritage status, a local tourism official has announced.

Tandoor making is the practice of making traditional and home bakery ovens out of clay, which has been around for more than 300 years, ISNA quoted Seyyed Ahmad Barabadi as saying on Saturday.

Tandoors are made with clay, straw, sand, and water in very precise proportions that have been tested experimentally by the region's veteran artisans, the official added.

Identifying good clay soil for

tandoor making and processing clay in preparation for making tandoors show the talent, ability, and rich experience passed from generation to generation in Ferdows, he noted.

Furthermore, he added that the durability and long-term use of Ferdows tandoors, which have been in use for more than 50 years and are efficient, is another feature of these tandoors.

This is a result of the full cooking of the tandoors in the furnaces, which affects the strength of the tandoors and the quality of the bread they produce, he explained.

The word tandoor comes from the Hindi and Urdu languages, which came from Persian Tanour and Avestan language Tanoura,

which all mean clay ovens.

A Tanour is a cylindrical clay used in baking bread and cooking. The heat for a Tanour was traditionally generated by a wood fire or dried Dermaneh (a plant entitled Silver Mound) or dried feces of cows which were common among Turkmen people in the north of Iran, Gorgan plain. And perhaps are used charcoal in other areas.

To make a traditional Tanour, the soil must be well sifted and dried so that future moisture does not cause the Tanour to crack; after the soil is completely dry, water is added to it and mixed. After the mud is made, goat hair is added to it by hand and mud cylinders are made of it; goat's hair makes the clay more durable and prevents it

from cracking.

The clay cylinders are then cut into equal halves and, after combining, form a complete circle. The circles are stacked one by one, and after the height of the Tanour reaches the appropriate size, the inside and outside of it are smoothed with a putty knife; when the work is done, the Tanour should be well dried so that it can be used for many years to bake traditional bread.

South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert. It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Illegal boundaries of eight historical sites declared

TEHRAN – Illegal boundaries and properties of eight historical sites and structures have recently been determined and declared to the governor-general of Lorestan province.

A mud-brick minaret, a garden, and some archaeological sites are among sites demarcated to benefit from further protection and prevention of any possible destruction, IRIB reported.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

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

Timurid coins recovered in northeast Iran



TEHRAN – Iranian police have recently discovered 20 Timurid coins from an illegal antique dealer in Maneh-Samalqan.

The coins, which are made of silver date back to the Timurid era (1370–1507), were sieved while the police inspected the house of a suspect for illegally keeping and dealing antiquities, ILNA quoted a

local police commander as saying on Sunday.

The culprit was traced in Maneh-Samalqan county of North Khorasan province based on public reports and handed over to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

The Timurid dynasty, self-designated as Gurkani, was a Sunni Muslim

dynasty or clan of Turco-Mongol origin descended from the warlord Timur (also known as Tamerlane).

In the realm of architecture, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Timurids drew on and developed many Seljuq traditions. Turquoise and blue tiles forming intricate linear and geometric patterns decorated the facades of buildings. Sometimes the interior was decorated similarly, with painting and stucco relief further enriching the effect.

Maneh-Samalqan is home to Tepe Rivi, which has so far yielded magnificent remains of the Bronze Age up to the Sassanid period.

German company to build waste-to-energy plant in Golestan province

TEHRAN – A modern waste-to-energy plant will be built in the northern province of Golestan with the investment of a German company, the director of the Golestan Waste Management Organization, has announced.

A waste-to-energy plant is a waste management facility that combusts wastes to produce electricity. This type of power plant is also called a trash-to-energy, municipal waste incineration, energy recovery, or resource recovery plant.

Iran currently has five waste-to-energy plants operating in the provinces of Tehran, Fars, Mazandaran, and Khorasan Razavi.

Studies and plans to build the industrial waste plant are being carried in the province, which is in the final stages, IRNA quoted Mohsen Samiei as saying on Sunday.

The industrial waste factory will be constructed on a 50-hectare land in Gonbad-e Kavous district, he said.

Constructed with an investment of 48 million euros, the plant is built with a capacity of 300 tons of recycling, incineration, and energy production from industrial waste and employment of 50 people; 85 percent of the plant belongs to the German company and 15 percent to the Iranian government.

The construction of the waste recycling plant has no environmental problems because it will use the latest



equipment and technology produced in Germany.

\$23m allocated to waste management in coastal provinces

A total of 1 trillion rials (nearly \$23 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been earmarked to tackle the issue of waste management in northern coastal provinces, Ali Ghorbani, deputy head of Iran's municipalities and village administrators, said.

The amount of waste generated in the northern provinces of the country, neighboring the Caspian Sea, is snowballing at a rate of over 7,000 tons a day, holding accountable for 14 percent of the total daily 50,000 tons of waste produced in the country, Khabaronline reported in January 2019.

In the past few years, the amount of waste produced in the three northern provinces of Mazandaran, Golestan,

and Gilan has risen sharply to alarming rates, Sirous Vatankehah, secretary of energy technologies development headquarters at the vice-presidency for science and technology, told ISNA that there is a significant relationship between the prevalence of various diseases and the amount of waste generation, which must be considered a "danger sign" that needs urgent measures to contain the issue.

Diseases such as tetanus, typhoid, intestinal parasites, bloody diarrhea, poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, and skin lesions are among the diseases caused by solid waste pollution in water, air, and soil.

On the other hand, a large part of these thousand tons of waste is ending up in the Caspian Sea and the forests, which can lead to many changes in the environmental cycles.

Moreover, Hossein Niaz Azari, a

member of the parliament, said that some 104 aquatic species have been living in the Caspian Sea in the past years, while most of them have gone extinct due to the high amount of waste entering the sea.

Deputy environment chief Masoud Tajrishi has referred to the poor waste disposal in the coastal cities of the country, saying that "Unfortunately, we face not only the problem of identifying a proper place for waste disposal but sewers being discharged into all rivers and lakes.

In such case, mostly tourists who are littering the northern coast are blamed, however, the other main reason behind this is the lack of proper equipment for waste management and recycling, he added.

Constructed with an investment of 48 million euros, the plant is built with a capacity of 300 tons of recycling, incineration, and energy production.

Dam reservoirs down by 30% in current water year

TEHRAN – The total volume of water in dam reservoirs is estimated at about 17.67 billion cubic meters since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2021), showing a 30 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

An examination of the condition of the country's dams shows that the total volume of inflows to the country's dams since September 23, is equal to 2.84 billion cubic meters, which shows a decrease of 44 percent compared to the same period last year (March 2020–March 2021).

Referring to the total capacity of Iran's dam reservoirs standing at 50.5 billion cubic meters, he said that there is 35 percent of water impounded in dams, IRIB reported on Sunday.

Out of a total of 183 currently operational dams across Iran, 52 are related to the Caspian Sea catchment area, 12 are based in the Urmia basin, 68 dams are located in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman watersheds, 34 dams are in the Central Plateau, 11

dams are in Sarakhs catchment basin, and another six dams are located across the eastern boundary basin (Hamoun).

Renewable water resources have decreased by 30 percent over the last four decades, while Iran's population has increased by about 2.5 times, Qasem Taqizadeh, deputy minister of energy, has said.

Groundwater resources declining

A recent report by Nature Scientific Journal on Iran's water crisis indicates that from 2002 to 2015, over 74 billion cubic meters have been extracted from aquifers, which is unprecedented and its revival takes thousands of years along with urgent action.

Three Iranian scientists studied 30 basins in the country and realized that the rate of aquifer depletion over a 14-year period has been about 74 billion cubic meters, which is recently published in Nature Scientific Journal.

Also, over-harvesting in 77 percent of Iran has led

to more land subsidence and soil salinity. Research and statistics show that the average overdraft from the country's aquifers was about 5.2 billion cubic meters per year.

Mohammad Darvish, head of the environment group in the UNESCO Chair on Social Health that the situation of groundwater resources is worrisome.

The report notes that Iran's water consumption has increased due to a significant increase in legal and illegal wells, the expansion of agricultural land, and increasing livelihood dependence on water and soil resources in agriculture, livestock, and poultry, which are mainly caused by human factors, Darvish noted.

The statistic is unprecedented, as the total reservoirs of all dams in the country have a capacity of about 50 billion cubic meters; In other words, in the last 14 years, 22 billion cubic meters more than the capacity of all dams have been extracted from the country's underground sources, he explained.

Iran strongly supports WHO in global health

From page 1 ▶ "Over the past two years, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused a lot of catastrophic ailments and suffering for all people in the world, and the challenge still continues. The lesson learned from the enormous challenge posed by the recent pandemic is that the world cannot afford to remain idle until the next deadly pandemic strikes. We need to be prepared better and respond more efficiently and effectively in the face of future pandemics.

Iran strongly supports the fundamental role of WHO in global health security and emergency response initiatives and believes

that there is an urgent need to strengthen the Organization in order to fulfill its constitutional mandate, including initiatives to consolidate its efforts vis-à-vis the future global health challenges.

We reiterate our position that the IHR remains an essential existing tool in addressing global health emergencies. However, the IHR efficiency hinges on member States' capacity and commitment to its implementation. Multilateral cooperation to support IHR implementation, in particular through predictable and sustainable financial support at the national, regional, and global levels, is highly important.

We further underline that the relationship between any new legal framework and the existing International Health Regulations would need to be clearly articulated and defined. In our view, any new instrument should complement, and not overlap or substitute the IHR.

We are cognizant of different views and reflections that seek to unify member States towards a common global agenda for more resilient societies to future pandemics.

In this regard, we stress that "equal access" to medical countermeasures and manufacturing capacities remains paramount for developing countries that sustain

the disproportionate consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current pandemic continues to show the challenges posed by the lack of access to COVID-19 tools and vaccines. This concern must be addressed in any foreseeable outcome of our collective endeavors."

The WHASS, held from November 29 to December 1, discussed the development of a potential new global health treaty to support pandemic preparedness.

Representatives of WHO's 194 member states joined the event to consider new international instruments and/or strengthening IHR 2005 for handling future outbreaks.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Educational projects worth \$330m to be inaugurated

A total of 1,015 educational projects worth 14 trillion rials (nearly \$330 million) will be inaugurated across the country, Mehroollah Rakhshanimehr, director of the organization for renovation, development, and equipment of schools, has announced.

The projects will be inaugurated by the next 10 days, on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, he stated, ISNA reported on Sunday.

According to Rakhshanimehr, the projects include 4,168 classrooms, 11 swimming pools, and 32 gyms.

About 14,000 classrooms have been built so far this year (started March 21, 2019), compared with some 10,000 last year, he concluded.

افتتاح ۱۴۰۰ میلیارد تومان پروژه آموزشی

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور گفت ۱۰۱۵ پروژه آموزشی با اعتباری به میزان ۱۴۰۰ میلیارد تومان در سراسر کشور به بهره‌برداری می‌رسد.

به گزارش ایسنا، مه‌راله رخشانی مهر افزود این پروژه‌ها طی ۱۰ روز آینده و به مناسبت چهل و یکمین سالگرد انقلاب اسلامی افتتاح خواهند شد. به گفته او، این پروژه‌ها شامل ۴۱۶۸ کلاس درس، ۱۱ استخر، و ۳۲ سالن ورزشی هستند.

رخشانی مهر ادامه داد تاکنون در سال ۹۸ حدود ۱۴ هزار کلاس درس افتتاح شده است در حالی‌که در سال ۹۷ حدود ۱۰ هزار کلاس افتتاح شده بود.

SOCIETY

DECEMBER 6, 2021

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Over 100,000 birds wintering in West Azarbaijan habitats

TEHRAN –Aquatic habitats in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province play host to more than 100,000 water birds and shorebirds annually, which enter the wetlands to spend the winter, Omid Yousefi, head of the wildlife surveillance of West Azarbaijan's department of environment, has said.

Due to the available resources in West Azarbaijan, a large number of birds annually arrive in the aquatic habitats to spend the cold season, of which about 30 to 35 percent are native birds and the rest are migratory birds, he added.

Species such as flamingos, ducks, Dalmatian pelican, common shelduck, strong dumb, whooper swan, red-breasted goose, greylag goose, greater white-fronted goose, demoiselle crane, gulls, spoonbills, ruddy shelduck, sandpipers, Eurasian sparrowhawk, Grebes, and Eurasian teal migrate to the habitats of West Azarbaijan, he explained, IRNA reported on Sunday.

The annual census for migratory birds in Iran begins in the middle of the Iranian calendar month of Dey (December 22-January 20) and ends in the middle of the month of Bahman (January 21-February 19), through which Iran hosts rare species of migratory birds heading from north to the southern countries due to reduced seasonal temperatures and food availability.

Iran's bird species

Hosting over 600 species of birds, Iran is a climatically rich country, so it is said that the number of bird species in Iran is higher than in the whole of Europe. A wide range of wetlands is the reason behind migratory birds choosing Iran for an annual wintering habitat, as a large number of birds fly a thousand



miles each year to benefit from this rich climate.

Every year, from early September to late February, Iran hosts rare species of migratory birds heading from north to the southern countries due to reduced seasonal temperatures and food availability.

It is estimated that there are about 50 billion birds in the world out of 9,000 species, many of which are migratory. Accordingly, about five to seven million birds migrate to Iran in different seasons. There are about 530 species of birds in Iran, 320 of which are migratory species, some of which are native species.

Among the various groups of migratory birds wintering in Iran, the largest population belongs to the group of geese, swans, and ducks amounting to 781,499 and the smallest population of seven are the long-tailed ducks or oldsquaw.

The provinces of Mazandaran and Golestan are the first provinces with the highest number of migratory birds for having sufficient resources, as the movement of migratory birds is closely linked to the seasonal availability of resources.

About five to seven million birds migrate to Iran in different seasons.

Ratio of baby boys to girls linked to pollution and poverty indicators

A swathe of pollutants and indicators of poverty have been linked to changes in the ratio of baby boys to girls born to millions of parents, the Independent reported.

A study of half the US population and the entire Swedish population examined more than 100 possible factors and found, for example, that mercury, chromium and aluminium pollution correlated with more boys being born, while lead pollution increased the proportion of girls. Proximity to farming also affected the sex ratio, possibly due to higher chemical exposures.

Measures of deprivation, such as a high number of fast food restaurants and vacant buildings, were also linked to statistically significant changes in sex ratios, as were indicators of stress, including road deaths and the Virginia Tech shootings.

However, other factors such as the season of birth, weather temperature, rates of violent crime and unemployment, did not show significant correlations.

The research only demonstrates correlations between the various factors and sex ratios at birth, not cause and effect. Future work to examine the effects of chemicals on human cells or animal models in the laboratory would be needed to show causal links, the researchers said.

"This is a list of suspects to investigate, and all

the suspects have some credible evidence, but we're very far from conviction," said Andrey Rzhetsky at the University of Chicago, who led the research.

The sex of babies is determined at conception, when exactly half of embryos should be girls and half boys. But hormonal factors can terminate more female embryos, or more male ones, during pregnancy, leading to skewed sex ratios.

"The question is why, and there are many suggested factors, such as stress or something in the environment," said Rzhetsky. "It makes sense that it can go up and down because the physiology of male and female embryos is not identical. They have different hormonal backgrounds."

"There are a lot of myths about sex ratio and birth, but when you dig into the research, it turns out that everything that was tested on real data was done on relatively small samples [risking spurious correlations], and some statements are not founded in observations at all," he said.

The new research, published in the journal Plos Computational Biology, is the first investigation of numerous chemical pollutants and other environmental factors using large datasets from two continents. It used data on 150 million people in the US over eight years, and data on 9 million Swedish people over 30 years.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON DECEMBER 5

New cases	3,109
New deaths	76
Total cases	6,134,465
Total deaths	130,200
New hospitalized patients	593
Patients in critical condition	3,249
Total recovered patients	5,923,316
Diagnostic tests conducted	39,309,087
Doses of vaccine injected	107,531,771

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Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**
Editor-in-Chief: **Ali A.Jenabzadeh**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who rushes madly after inordinate desire, runs the risk of encountering destruction and death.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:55 Evening: 17:11 Dawn: 5:31 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:00 (tomorrow)

Iran: Persian literature

Part 5

(2) Classical Persian Literature Introduction

Reviewing the origins of a specific literary history helps us find our bearings and provides us with reference points to chart its subsequent developments.

This approach will be adopted here in our overview of classical Persian literature, a daunting task in itself given the range and abundance of the material on the one hand, and the need for brevity and conciseness in a survey on the other.

In our study of the development of this literature over ten centuries, we will pay special attention to the early formation and origins of different literary genres in Persian works, even though the very notion of literary genres is somewhat arbitrary and a subject of continuing debate and shifting delineation.

Nevertheless the approach is suitable for an overview, for it makes it possible to discuss, however briefly, broader themes and underlying aesthetic assumptions, and to venture beyond a mere recital of dates, titles, and short biographies of major figures of Persian literature.

Another major factor in a literary survey is the diachronic dimension: tracing literary developments through succeeding generations and centuries.

Persian literature lends itself well to this approach, since historical events certainly influenced literary history: the tenth century in Persian literature is not the eleventh, anymore than the eleventh is the twelfth, and so on.

The fourteenth century serves as a transitional bridge between the previous and the subsequent periods: Mongol and Timurid, followed then by the Safavids in Persia and the Mughals in India.

Given the importance of local courts and their patronage in sustaining poets and writers, it was inevitable that literature would be greatly influenced by schools of thought in different provinces of the Iranian world.

In the context of this article, the term literature is used to refer to the written word skillfully and imaginatively crafted. Some writings are therefore excluded. On the other hand, one of the salient features of classical Persian literature is the way it incorporates well-wrought and eloquent writings by historians and spiritual figures.

The history of the Mongols by Ata-Malek Joveyni, for example, is not only the scrupulous work of a great historian but is also written by an eminent man of letters, creating a masterly balance by juxtaposing his fine prose with judiciously chosen lines from poets of the past, and most notably Ferdowsi, to buttress his own historical observations and record the dramatic happenings of his lifetime against a backdrop of cosmic events and heroic archetypes of Iranian traditional history echoing the same predicament.

Another and earlier example, from the 11th century, is the famous Tarikh-e Masudi by Abul-Fazl Mohammad Bayhaqi (d. 1077). This is the only extant part of a general history in thirty volumes; it narrates the events of the reign of the second Ghaznavid ruler, with many retrospective glances into

past reigns and previous eras.

Once again an admirable balance is maintained between the recital of events and inclusion of historical exempla, and the personal rumination of a thoughtful observer and fine stylist. Examining these writings from a literary perspective, and studying their use of the past heritage and shared cultural memory, would be highly instructive.

Regarding the chronological span of Classical Persian literature, we are referring here to the aesthetic and cultural concerns expressed in Persian between the ninth century, the advent of papermaking in Samargand, and the mid-nineteenth century, when the first printing presses went into operation in Tabriz.

Each of these events, papermaking and the printing press, had a radical impact on the literary milieu and redefined the relationship between narrators and their audience, and writers and readers.

The classical period was a favorable time for princely patronage and the royal courts were often receptive to the arrival of great spiritual figures and free thinkers alike.

A man of letters in this period was usually familiar with the arts and sciences of his time and revered for his learning. In the 12th century, for example, Khaqani was a great poeta doctus, honored both as hakim (sage) and sha'er (poet).

Persian between Arabic and Turkish

Modern Persian, which is ultimately derived from Old Iranian, belongs to the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European languages.

Like Kurdish or Pashto, its grammar and lexicon stem from this linguistic family. Persian vocabulary is also characterized by a large input of loanwords from Arabic.

The script is the other major element borrowed and adapted from Arabic, with calligraphy developing into one of the finest branches of Islamic arts. It is just as essential to the composition of poetry, and closely bound with Persian prosody and poetic imagery.

The Iranians also immersed themselves in Muslim culture through the medium of Arabic. Their most eminent men of letters and the secretarial classes at court were well versed in Arabic as well as Persian. Bilingualism among the cultural elite was a notable feature of the era.

Far from bringing to an end the use of the Persian language, both spoken and written, in Persia or elsewhere, the successful invasion of Iran by the Arab armies in the seventh century merely heralded a process of evolution.

It was by this long process of evolution that Middle Persian, the language of the Sassanid court (ca. 225–651), was transformed into Persian (or more precisely “Neo-Persian,” i.e., the language of such early literary milestones as Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh and Bal’ami’s translation and adaptation of Tabari’s History, thus explicitly acknowledging later developments and most notably the gradual development of the language into Modern Persian).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Tehran to host conference on manuscripts as common heritage of Iran, India

TEHRAN – The National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) plans to organize an international conference in January 2022 to discuss different topics on manuscripts as the common heritage of Iran, India.

The International Conference on Common Heritage of Iran and India; Manuscript: Capacities and Challenges will be held on January 20 at the NLAI in Tehran.

In a press release published on Sunday, Farzaneh Azam-Lotfi, the scientific secretary of the India section of the conference said, “Manuscripts are the cultural credits and treasures, which can be considered as sources of science and arts of a nation.”

“Iran and India have numerous manuscripts; under certain historical conditions, many manuscripts have been transferred from Iran to India, which is a great place for preserving historical documents and rare manuscripts,” she added.

She noted that the preservation of valuable manuscripts in and of itself should not be viewed as a priority if these documents are not to be used for academic purposes.

One goal of this conference

mission is to encourage scholars to actualize the manuscripts’ potential for academic research projects.

The organizers have received over 50 articles, most of which are from India and Pakistan.

Calling the National Mission for Manuscripts in New Delhi and the University of Calcutta the major centers for rare manuscripts written in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and several other languages, Azam-Lotfi expressed her hope that the conference can encourage scholars to use the valuable resources of science more than ever.

Topics such as the history of manuscript studies in India, editing and review of manuscripts, introducing rare manuscripts and new collections, the art of bookbinding, and the preservation and restoration of manuscripts will also be discussed during the conference.

Iranian cultural officials and figures have frequently visited a number of Indian libraries and manuscript centers over the past decades.

For example, earlier in 2012, the then director of the National Library and Archives of Iran visited India’s



A rare Persian manuscript from the Astan-e Qods Razavi Organization for Libraries, Museums and Archive Centers in Mashhad.

Aligarh Muslim University, signing a memorandum of understanding that urges collaboration on bibliographies and the restoration of Persian manuscripts.

Es’haq Salahi said that the university keeps about 16,000 manuscripts, about 8,000 of which are in Persian. He also paid a visit to the National Archives of India in Calcutta.

However, earlier in 2009, Nasser Golbaz, the executive manager and designer of the Iranian World’s Manuscripts Databank, had

expressed concern that the dearth of appropriate facilities imperils many Persian manuscripts in India and Pakistan.

“There is not even a shelf to hold the books,” Nasser Golbaz said.

Golbaz’s efforts over a 9-year period in compiling information on Persian manuscripts led to the establishment of the World’s Manuscripts Databank by the sponsorship of Iran’s Book House and the National Library and Archive of Iran in August 2008.

34 movies by Iranian filmmakers to compete in Dhaka festival



“Walnut Tree” directed by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian.

From Page 1 ► A co-production between Iran and Canada, “Botox” is about sisters Akram and Azar. Both lie about their brother’s

disappearance, telling everyone he fled to Germany. Day after day, the lie becomes bigger and more unmanageable, leading everyone to a dark and mysterious destiny.

“Fathers” by Salem Salavati, “A Bumpy Story” by Kamal Tabrizi, and “On the Zero Line”, a co-production of Iran, Singapore and Japan directed by Mehrdad Ghaffarzadeh and Yoshimasa Jimbo, will also be screened in this category.

Seven films by the Iranian filmmakers will compete in the Cinema of the World category.

The films include “Major” by Ehsan Abdipour, “Ballad of Bahram” by Farshid Qolipur, “Children of the Night” by Behruz Nuranipur, “Gisoum” by Navid Behtoi, “The Mirror Man” by Puyan

Kazemi, “The Great Leap” Karim Lakzadeh and “The Tortoise & the Snail” by Reza Hemasi.

The feature films “Lady of the City” by Maryam Bahrololumi and “Atabai” by Niki Karimi, and the short movies “Here Yet Absent” by Fariba Chupannejad and “Maryam’s House” by Mahbub Molai will be screened in the Women Filmmakers Section.

The Spiritual Section features seven movies by Iranian filmmakers, while the Children’s Film Session will screen five movies from Iran.

Six Iranian films have also been selected to be screened in the Short & Independent Film Section.

Cinéma Vérité unveils overseas filmmakers’ docs on official lineup

TEHRAN – Thirteen documentaries by overseas filmmakers will be competing in the 15th edition of the Cinéma Vérité festival as the organizers announced the official lineup on Sunday.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the major Iranian international festival for documentary films will be held with a limited number of guests and audience from December 9 to 16 at Tehran’s Charsu Cineplex.

One of the highlights of the official lineup is the French-Qatari co-production “The Last Hillbilly” directed by Diane Sara Bouzgarrou and Thomas Jenkoe.

It is about Brian Ritchie’s family, which has been living in the heart of the Appalachians in Kentucky for decades. But the mines have been shut down, with nothing to replace them. Caught between a mythical past and an indiscernible future, Brian is one of the last witnesses of a vanishing world,



“The Last Hillbilly” directed by Diane Sara Bouzgarrou and Thomas Jenkoe.

which inspires his poetry.

“Raising a School Shooter”, co-produced by Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and France, will also be screened.

Directed by Frida Barkfors and Lasse Barkfors, the film is a Storyville documentary, in which three parents in the U.S. talk about what it is like to have a child who, rather than being a victim of a high school shooting, was its perpetrator.

The lineup also features the British production “Maya” co-directed by Jamshid Mojaddadi

and Anson Hartford.

It depicts daily life at one of Iran’s biggest zoos, which is interrupted when Mohsen, the head keeper, takes Maya, a 4-year-old Bengal tiger, to perform in a fiction film in the north of the country. Mohsen transports Maya to an old sanctuary near the film shoot on the edge of the Caspian Sea, which was once home to the now extinct Caspian tiger.

“The Gig is Up”, a co-production between Canada and France, will also compete in the festival.

In this documentary, director

“Maigret and the Killer” appears in Persian

TEHRAN – Belgian writer Georges Simenon’s 1969 detective novel “Maigret and the Killer” has been published in Persian.

Featuring his character Jules Maigret, the book has been rendered into Persian by Abbas Agahi for Jahan-e Ketab Publications.

Two English translations by Shaun Whiteside and Lyn Moir are also available.

“Maigret and the Killer” is from Simenon’s Maigret Mystery Series.

When a dinner between Inspector Maigret and friends ends abruptly at the discovery of a body, the detective must plumb the darker side of human nature to discover what motivates a killer.

Maigret and wife have always enjoyed their occasional dinners with Mr. and Mrs. Pardon on the Boulevard Voltaire. But one of the congenial meals

is interrupted by a neighbor who has stumbled across the body of a young man in the nearby Rue Popincourt.

Maigret answers the call with his friend Dr. Pardon, and their pleasant evening is quickly brought to an end by the commencement of a complicated murder case. And when a tape recorder is discovered on the victim’s body, it only complicates matters.

Maigret’s investigation leads to the discovery of another crime altogether and the fascinating story of the murdered man’s life.

“Maigret and the Killer” is a taut, engrossing mystery that shows off Georges Simenon’s flair for creating complex characters with deeply human problems and his ability to make a senseless crime understandable.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Georges Simenon’s detective novel “Maigret and the Killer”.