

Fighting Subsidies in Yemen as UAE-Backed Forces Retreat

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Report

Russia says security demands not addressed

The Russian President says the official response from the U.S. and NATO on Russia's security guarantee requests has fallen short of Moscow's main expectations, following weeks of negotiations between the sides.

Vladimir Putin has made the remarks in a phone call with his French counterpart President Emmanuel Macron. According to a Kremlin readout of the discussion, during the conversation between the two leaders "attention was drawn to the fact that the U.S. and NATO replies did not take into account Russia's principal concerns".

This was Putin's first public comment on U.S. and NATO's responses to the Russian proposals about security in the region.

The Kremlin added that "the key question was ignored – how the United States and its allies intend to follow the principle of security integrity... that no one should strengthen their security at the expense of another country's security".

According to a statement released by the Russian President's Press office, Putin informed Macron of Moscow's dissatisfaction with the responses received from the U.S.-led North Atlantic Alliance saying "American and NATO replies did not take into consideration Russia's fundamental concerns, such as the prevention of NATO enlargement, the refusal to deploy weapons systems near Russia's borders and also to return the military potential and infrastructure of the block to the positions of 1997 in Europe when the Russia-NATO Founding Act was signed".

Opinion

Time to restart? Tehran tourism fair kicks off amid virus concerns

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Early on Saturday, doors of the 15th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition opened to people as a mounting wave of coronavirus puts high hopes of travel insiders in the hand of fate.

The challenge resembles the two ends of a seesaw. On the one hand, hopes that the tourism industry would rebound have been scratched by the wildfire spread of the Omicron variant. And on the other hand, an up-lift in demand is driven by increased traveler confidence amid rapid progress on vaccinations and the easing of entry restrictions.

Last September, Iran initiated preliminary steps for a bounce-back, restarting the issuance of tourist visas following a 20-month hiatus, and easing COVID-19 protocols for fully-vaccinated passengers.

It came when the tourism businesses faced a very complex situation due to COVID restrictions. There was a partial or even total closure of tourist accommodation during the toughest months of the lockdown, so the spring seasons were completely lost. Many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators faced big dilemmas such as bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

However, the pace of recovery remains slow and uneven due to varying degrees of mobility restrictions, vaccination rates, and traveler confidence. Iran's trump card is that the country benefits from a wide variety of travel destinations ranging from seacoasts and lush green woods to towering mountains and harsh deserts.

Delusional daydreamer



TEHRAN — Naftali Bennett, the prime minister of the illegitimate regime of Israel, has said that the theory of "killing Iran with 1000 knife wounds" is similar to what happened to the former Soviet Union. Yet, the man is widely mistaken, or even delusional.

In an interview with the Israeli Ynet daily, Bennett said, "... but Iran itself, which is the root of evil, is safe. Here is a Cold War going on, we are changing this equation, we are trying to weaken Iran in all dimensions economically, socially and security-wise. We act more and do not give up."

The notion of comparing Iran to the Soviet Union, and the current status of the Islamic Republic with the 1985-1989 of the Soviet Union shows how far Bennett is from the ground reality in Iran.

Production by major automakers exceeds 760,000 in 10 months

TEHRAN – Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 760,527 vehicles during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), the data released by Codal website showed.

According to the data, the production by the mentioned companies has risen just

4.1 percent compared to the previous year's same 10 months in which the output stood at 730,477, IRNA reported.

During the said 10 months, IKCO manufactured 381,321 vehicles, which was 1.74 percent less than the output in the same period of the previous year.

During this period, this industrial group

was able to produce 254,875 vehicles in the Peugeot group, 41,940 vehicles in the Samand group, 42,499 Dena vehicles, 29,366 Rana vehicles, 5,466 Haima vehicles, and 7,059 Tara vehicles.

SAIPA manufactured 279,055 vehicles in the mentioned period. Production by this automaker rose 6.06 percent in comparison to the previous year's same time span.

Report

Two decades of struggling with climate change

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Over the past 23 years, climate change has led to dryness of lakes and wetlands, land subsidence, sand and dust storms, air pollution, and some other predicaments in Iran.

The consequences of industrial life in the country caused a special condition that when heavy rainfall begins, the lands being unable to absorb it, flooding rages across the country, Reza Shahbazi, deputy head of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration said.

Iran is currently in a period of prolonged drought, yet during this period occasionally experienced heavy rainfall over short periods of time, he stated,

Examination of indicators such as rainfall, the difference with long-term averages,



Migratory geese wintering at Sorkhrud wetland

Flocks of migratory birds, particularly geese, have come to Sorkhrud wetland in the northern province of Mazandaran to spend the winter. The latest surveys in the current year put the number of the migratory birds at around 550, compared with some 10,000 in 2016.

Beheshti Rad wins gold at Ice Climbing World C'ships

TEHRAN – Iran's Mohsen Beheshti Rad claimed a gold medal at the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation's Ice Climbing World Championships.

A sensational third attempt from Beheshti Rad in the men's speed final in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, earned him gold, while the Russian Mountaineering Federation's (RMF) Natalia Savitskaia took the women's title.

Beheshti Rad was only the seventh-best qualifier earlier in the day, and after a first effort of 8.65sec in the final, he built on that with a 7.17 in the second and then a winning 6.90 on the third attempt at the Ice Dome in the Swiss resort.

The World Championships are set to conclude with lead semi-finals and finals.

Ice climbing is the activity of ascending inclined ice formations. Usually, ice climbing refers to roped and protected climbing of features such as icefalls, frozen waterfalls, and cliffs and rock slabs covered with ice refrozen from flows of water.

From Inside

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Interview

Insulated state of America persists despite being a relatively diverse country: researcher

Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Pointing to insular and individualistic American ideology, a visual art researcher says that American media represents and reproduces the state of isolation.

Talking to the Tehran Times, Aspen Ballas says, "This insulation can be considered through Edward Said's reference to the West as an 'unchallenged centrality'."

Citing Said's notion of "America's centrality," Aspen notes that "the West, in this case America, was largely birthed from self-aggrandizing narratives which included superiority claims to race, religion, knowledge, culture, and civility as a whole."

Aspen, who primarily studies film and the intersection of race, class, and gender, also says, "The fusion of politics and entertainment in America is not only insulting but it is disabling and dangerous—not just for Americans but for the entire world."

Following is the text of the interview with Aspen Ballas:

How could the American cinema or what is known as Hollywood to represent itself as a superior and leading discourse in the global cinema? Is it a matter of technology or ideology?

This is a great question and a difficult one because, while I believe America's role as a leading discourse in global cinema is rooted in technology, this appeal towards technology is ideological. I say this because the conception of America—its very existence—is deeply rooted in the brandishing of such technologies. To relinquish control of these technologies is to relinquish control of the myth that America has relied on for its self-creation.

Iran condemns attack on Baghdad airport, says the move intended to undermine Iraq's stability

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Saturday condemned rocket attacks on Baghdad airport, saying the raid is aimed at disrupting stability in Iraq.

"Such suspicious moves would result in insecurity and chaos in Iraq and pave the way for ill-wishers and secessionists and affect the government's efforts to offer services to Iraqi citizens," Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

According to Khatibzadeh, Iran has always supported the "nationwide establishment of security, and the integrity of Iraq," and backs the Iraqi government's attempts to stabilize the country.

Delusional daydreamer

From page 1 ► What is going on in Tehran is that the country, is by no means isolated. The Belt and Road Initiative put forward by China and Iran's active participation in the initiative, 25-year Iran-China cooperation document, the soon-to-be-signed 20-year cooperation document with Russia, and so many more examples clarify Iran's position as a regional, and even trans-regional power.

In some rather insulting remarks, the Israeli prime minister said, "I look at Iran as an ongoing campaign. Iran has been an octopus for decades, its arms encircling the falcons in Lebanon, Gaza, Syria, and the falcons fall into its trap and bleed. We have dramatically increased the range of attacks as well as the type of attacks and the quality of the targets. This creates a problem for Iran."

The delusional Bennett seems to have forgotten how its Iron Dumb was penetrated in the 12-day war against Gaza. The fact that Bennett thinks he has created problems for Iran is a true reflection of a pathological liar who wants to mend his reputation after only seven months in office.

In response to a question about "a thousand knife wounds" strategy that the Tel Aviv regime dreams of implementing, Bennett said, "A thousand blows is not like that. Remember the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union? Did the Americans attack the Russians? No, but they were able to crush them wisely."

He continued, "It is difficult to say exactly. Are we in the 50s? In the 70s? In 1988? I do not know. We must act without interruption until they leave

here. What are you doing here? What do you think you are doing? In Syria? What do you think you are doing? At our borders?"

Someone needs to ask Bennett the same questions. What is Israel doing in West Asia? Where is this illegitimate regime's status in the economic, political and sociological equations of the region?

An illegitimate fake regime with a dark history of trespassing, colonizing, and occupying other people's lands is in no place to talk about a rich civilization like Iran who has been present in the region for more than 2500 years.

Mr. delusional implicitly explains that his plan is not to attack Iran militarily, exemplifying the Cold War. However, his advisor surely proved that they are people with a shallow understanding of the region. In no way Iran could be compared with the former Soviet Union, particularly the 1988-Soviet Union, which was on the brink of full collapse. Regardless of the fact that the illegitimate regime is not able to confront Iran at all, Bennett seemingly has taken some time off of repairing an Iron Dome full of holes.

Struggling with a cyberspace that is full of holes, leaks of the military forces with their ID numbers on the Internet, a war minister with a housekeeper who turned out to be a spy, and so many other crises in only seven months, Bennett can't keep quiet, and seems to be giving interviews which are full of lies, like the illegitimate regime itself.

A lost reputation is a lost reputation. It cannot be restored by giving fictitious interviews.

Seoul, Tehran set for working-level talks over Iranian frozen assets: source

TEHRAN - South Korea and Iran plan to hold working-level consultations next month in Seoul to discuss ways to untangle yearslong disputes over Tehran's assets frozen in South Korea under U.S. sanctions, an informed source said Saturday, according to Yonhap.

Bilateral relations remain frayed over \$7 billion in Iranian funds locked in two Korean banks under U.S. sanctions, which were reimposed after Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from a 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018.

The thorny issue has drawn renewed attention, with talks to revive the 2015 accord standing at a critical phase, as Iranian officials demand sanctions relief for an agreement.

Seoul officials say the proposed working groups are expected to go over details of a potential money transfer once sanctions are lifted and also discuss other aspects in the event no deal is achieved.

"The working groups are expected to mainly discuss details



South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun (2nd from L) meets with his Iranian counterpart, Ali Bagheri Kani, in Vienna on Jan. 6, 2021, to discuss the issue of Tehran's frozen assets under U.S. sanctions.

of the payment method of the Iranian assets if the U.S. grants sanctions relief," the source told Yonhap News on the condition of anonymity. "They could talk further on the possibility of resuming oil imports from Iran once sanctions are lifted."

Iran, which sits on the world's

fourth-largest oil reserves, had been a key oil supplier to resource-poor South Korea and in turn imported industrial equipment, household appliances and vehicle parts from Seoul.

South Korea imported \$7.8 billion worth of oil from Iran in 2017, but it has stopped Iranian

purchases since 2019 due to U.S. sanctions that ban the Islamic republic's oil exports, according to the data by the Korea International Trade Association.

Trump quit the nuclear deal in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that has endorsed the nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Trump boasted his economic war against Iran under his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trump administration refused to relax illegal sanctions against Iran.

When Trump officially abandoned the JCPOA, his top diplomat Mike Pompeo said the U.S. will impose "the strongest sanctions in history" on Iran. Also in November 2018, John Bolton, who was the White House national security advisor at the time, said, "It's our intention to squeeze them (Iranians) very hard... until the pips squeak."

Westerners must provide Iran with guarantees in Vienna: MP

TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Karimi, representative of the people of Arak in the parliament, said on Friday that the most important thing to consider in the nuclear negotiations is that Iran must learn from past experiences.

"One of the most important issues that existed in the past and we should learn from it, is that the Westerners did not fulfill their commitments." He said in an open reference to the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement in May 2018 and a failure by the European sides to honor their obligations under the pact.

At the same time, he suggested,

it is necessary that any agreement that is made be definite and with sufficient guarantees and the necessary verification.

"In no way should we be intimidated by the media and the controversies that takes place around the negotiations, and we should pay attention to the rights of the Iranian people in the talks," The MP stressed.

The MP from Arak stated that while Iran is serious to reach an agreement in the negotiations, it will not compromise on its legal rights.

"We must get enough guarantees from

the other side to fulfill their obligations" if the nuclear deal is revived, he reiterated.

Noting that the Western side did not adhere to the legally binding nuclear agreement, Karimi also noted that a temporary agreement is not in Iran's interest, and therefore, Tehran won't accept it.

A temporary agreement with the West definitely "will not benefit us," the MP remarked.

He added that a possible agreement in the Vienna talks must be "transparent" with "enough guarantees" to serve Iran's national interests.

Amir Abdollahian says Iran ready to implement agreements with Nicaragua

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held a phone conversation on Friday evening with his Nicaraguan counterpart, Denis Moncada.

According to the Foreign Ministry website, the conversation focused on deepening bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Iranian foreign minister offered congratulations on the victory of Daniel Ortega and the Sandanista Front in Nicaragua's recent presidential election, stressing that Iran stands ready for expansion of cooperation between the two states.

Amir Abdollahian referred to the participation of Iranian Vice President Mohsen Rezaei in the Nicaraguan president's swearing-in ceremony, saying his attendance in the event indicates that Iran attaches significance to the enhancement of cooperation with



the Latin American states, especially Nicaragua.

The foreign minister added that Iran stands prepared to implement all the agreements reached during the Iranian vice president's trip to Nicaragua.

The chief Iranian diplomat also invited his Nicaraguan counterpart to visit Iran.

He said political relations between the

two countries are at a good level, and that he hopes the two sides can bolster economic cooperation in the near future.

For his part, the Nicaraguan foreign minister thanked Iran for congratulating their presidential elections and said it was an honor for his country that hosted the Iranian vice president during the swearing-in ceremony.

Moncada also conveyed the Nicaraguan president's warm greetings to the Iranian nation, president and government.

The Nicaraguan minister said different agreements have been inked in various economic fields, including medicine, science, technology and industry, voicing Nicaragua's readiness to implement and advance the agreements at the earliest.

In turn, the Nicaraguan minister also invited his Iranian counterpart for a visit to his country.

Iran condemns attack on Baghdad airport, says the move intended to undermine Iraq's stability

From page 1 ► At least three rockets landed on Friday in Baghdad International Airport compound and near an adjacent U.S. airbase, damaging one disused civilian airplane, Iraqi police sources said.

The rockets hit the airport's runways or parking areas, a source at the Interior Ministry said, noting that a "civilian plane has been hit and damaged".

The attack was not immediately claimed, Al Jazeera reported.

The officials did not report any other damage or any injuries in the Friday, adding that the damaged Iraqi Airways aircraft was out of use.

On its social media pages, Iraqi Airways posted pictures of the damage, consisting of a hole near the nose of the plane.

No flights were affected by the attack, the airline added.

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Fighting subsides in Yemen as UAE-backed forces retreat

TEHRAN – Yemeni forces trained and backed by the United Arab Emirates have announced the end of their military operations after a month of severe fighting that resulted in the Sanaa-based forces targeting Abu Dhabi with missiles and drones.

The fighting in Yemen seems to be heading toward a de-escalation after a month of heavy fighting that rattled the entire region.

The UAE-backed Giants Brigades, which have been leading the fighting against the Sanaa-based government's forces in Shabwa governorate and Marib, announced on Friday that they had begun withdrawing from a key area of the conflict and repositioning their fighters and equipment after achieving their goals.

"After the great success achieved by the southern Giants Brigades in Operation Southern Storm, it began transferring its brigades to the main headquarters," the Brigades said in a statement. "The Brigades repositioned its forces in Shabwa governorate after liberating the districts of Bihan and Harib and securing them completely from the Houthis militias."

The surprise announcement came against a backdrop of heightened tensions in the wake of missile-and-drone attacks against Abu Dhabi. Vital oil installations and an airport in



Abu Dhabi came under attacks from Yemen for the UAE's involvement in providing military support to the Brigades during their push to capture a number of strategic districts in Shabwa and Marib governorates.

The drama began in the last months of last year when the Brigades were moved from their base in areas along Yemen's western coasts to Shabwa. A mid-November statement by the Saudi-led coalition said the redeployment was intended to support the Saudi-backed Yemeni government "in its battle on all fronts."

They made some advances in Shabwa over the last few weeks and recently even moved toward Harib in Marib, the last stronghold of the Saudi-backed government in northern Yemen. After taking over Harib they seemed ready to advance

into the city of Marib but they suddenly announced the withdrawal on Friday, a move that sparked speculations over what drove them to change their calculus.

An article published by Al-Masirah, a news network affiliated with Yemen's Ansarallah movement, suggested that the Yemeni strikes against Abu Dhabi dissuaded the UAE from moving ahead with its plans in Yemen. "The Yemeni strikes are a painful strategy that will greatly reduce the UAE's efforts to attract foreign investment, 'as it greatly encourages foreign investments in the oil and gas sectors,' and thus negatively affects trade and tourism, which are the lifeblood of this state. The UAE is an oil country that ranks third in the world among the major oil-producing countries in the

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries," the article said.

It also said, "The Yemeni Armed Forces targeted the depths of Saudi Arabia and the UAE with ballistic missiles and drones hitting sensitive sites. This operation will be repeated unless the countries of aggression take their actual, real steps to stop the unjust aggressive war and lift the siege on Yemen ports and airports."

The Yemeni ambassador to Iran, Ibrahim Al-Dailami, also echoed the same assessment. He told Almasirah that the UAE's escalation was met with a bold and courageous decision to target the UAE, and it turned out to be a soft side of the forces of aggression.

"The UAE cannot continue any confrontation, and today it resorts to deception, announcing withdrawals and repositioning its forces in Shabwah," He added.

He noted, "We are ready to continue targeting all the countries involved in the aggression, including the UAE, and the courage of the leadership has been demonstrated."

The ambassador continued, "Unless we see on the ground the departure of the forces, the treatment of the prisoners' issue, the payment of compensation and the lifting of the siege first and foremost, the coalition of aggression will suffer blows that they never expected."

Raisi visit to Russia had great achievements for Iran: FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has commented on the recent visit by Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi to Russia, saying the trip resulted in great achievements for the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Raisi paid a two-day visit to Russia in mid-January where he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Mr. Raisi's trip to Moscow had great achievements for the country. Mr. Putin behaved with full and special respect during three hours of talks and necessary decisions were adopted regarding important issues considered by the two sides," Amir Abdollahian said in a post on Instagram.

He added, "Regarding foreign relations, we are witnessing a thaw in ties while as for the foreign policy, mutual interests are defined in line with national interests of countries. Agreements, achievements and diverse plans of the president in Moscow show that a successful trip has been made that is a token of the president's active diplomacy."

He concluded, "We are resolved to not forget the integrity of Iran and Iranians in order to pass through the crisis and overcome difficulties."

Earlier, Ayatollah Raisi expressed hope that his recent visit to Russia would be a turning point in improving relations between Tehran and Moscow.

Upon returning from a two-day visit to Russia,

Ayatollah Raisi spoke to reporters about the achievements of the visit, saying, "The topics of discussion in this visit were in line with the realization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, which is maximum interaction with world countries, especially allies."

Noting that a fundamental agreement was reached during the visit to expand comprehensive, stable and beneficial relations between the two countries, the president added, "Undoubtedly, the development of relations with Russia will contribute to the security and welfare of the two nations."

He said, "I hope that the visit to Russia will be a turning point in improving relations with the friendly and neighboring country of Russia, and that the combination of these relations will help improve the level of security in the region and resolve regional and global crises."

In a speech delivered before the Russian State Duma, Ayatollah Raisi said Iran seeks "maximum interaction" with all countries around the world with the aim of forming a "civilized global community".

"The Islamic Republic of Iran seeks 'maximum interaction' with all countries around the world, especially its neighbors and allies. The purpose and basis of this cooperation and interaction is the mutual interests of nations and the increasing formation of a 'civilized global community'. This path can be achieved through the cooperation

of independent countries with rich cultures and attention to the principles of 'justice, morality and spirituality'. Undoubtedly, the root of what human society suffers from today is the separation of politics from morality and spirituality. Violence, terrorism, the collapse of the family institution, and the spread of drugs do not come from a spiritualist mindset. Any structure created on the basis of this segregation intensifies the suffering of humanity and, instead of promoting justice, structures oppression and creates the root causes of domination," he stated.

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali has said that possible coalition of Iran, Russia and China would be very painful for the West.

"Naturally, the United States and the West, in general, are concerned about new coalitions, which are currently [being created] on the international arena. A coalition of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China is an example of such strategic coalitions," the ambassador said on Monday, according to the Russian news agency TASS.

The ambassador described Russia as a major power with huge economic, defense, military, and technological potential. China, in his words, was about to overtake the United States in terms of economic growth. Iran, according to Jalali, is a large and economically developed country, which has made huge progress in its defense industry.

Raisi wraps up visit to Gilan

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi wrapped up a visit to the Caspian Sea province of Gilan on Friday night.

Ever since taking over as president last August, Ayatollah Raisi has been paying weekend visits to Iran's provinces. His visit to Gilan marked his 15th provincial trip.

He arrived at Sardar Jangal International Airport in Rasht on Friday morning and was welcomed by the representative of the Supreme Leader in the province, the governor-general and local officials.

Speaking on Friday upon arrival in Gilan province, Ayatollah Raisi told reporters about the objectives of the trip. "Gilan province has many capacities in the field of maritime economy, tourism and industry, which can be activated to address the problems and concerns of the people of the province, and especially eliminate unemployment."

The president noted, "Before this provincial trip, the needs and problems of the province have been examined and proposals for solving the problems have been prepared, which will be approved in the meeting of the administrative council of the

province after discussions."

He added, "I hope that the serious measures that have been started for the development and prosperity of Gilan province will lead to solving the problems and improving the status of the province in various fields."

During his visit, the president visited Iran Pooshesh Industries Company immediately after entering the province. He toured different parts of the industrial complex.

He also paid a visit to the Caspian Port Maritime Traffic Control Center and the construction site of the Qazvin-Rasht-Anzali railway project.

He examined the situation of the Goharrood River in the center of Rasht in person. During the visit, the head of the Department of Environment and the officials of Rasht Municipality presented a report on the reasons for the pollution of this river and the environmental damage caused by it, according to the official website of the presidency.

The president also visited the tomb of Mirza Kuchak Khan Jangali and commemorated his bravery against domestic tyranny and foreign colonialism. "The bravery of figures

like Mirza Kuchak Khan Jangali should be introduced to the youth and the future generations," he suggested.

During the provincial tour, Raisi also held a meeting with elites, clerics, families of martyrs, veterans and representatives of various groups of the people in the province.

At the meeting, Raisi considered the aging of the population as one of the problems of Gilan province and stated, "There are many solutions to overcome this problem."

The president pointed out, "Solving the problems of the people and strengthening the spirit of hope is the duty of the government and all those who serve in the name of the Islamic system."

Ayatollah Raisi also visited the Presidential Public Relations Centre in Rasht on Friday evening and stressed the need to respond accurately and quickly to the demands of the people.

The president held a meeting of the Administrative Council of Gilan Province.

At the end of the trip, Ayatollah Raisi held a press conference during which he said, "The president feels a duty

and responsibility towards the people, and we seek to address the concerns and problems of all people."

Referring to the God-given capacities and gifts of Gilan province, the president said, "Gilan enjoys the advantages of forests, sea, fertile soil, pleasant weather, as well as great dignitaries, scholars and commanders, and these capacities can be a great support for the growth and excellence of this province."

Raisi added, "Protection of forest, coast and land is an inevitable necessity and any misuse of these blessings must be countered."

The president also said, "Due to its geographical location, Gilan province can be the hub of the country in trade and economic exchanges with the northern neighbors."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Raisi said, "In using beaches, the law stipulates that no administrative or governmental body has the right to prevent people from exercising their rights."

"The administrative apparatus should consider itself more obliged than others to observe the rules and rights of the people."

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Karimi named 2022 CAFA Women's Championship MVP

TEHRAN – Fereshteh Karimi of Iran was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the first edition of the 2022 CAFA Women's Championship.



Team Melli Banovan defeated Tajikistan 9-0 on Friday and claimed the title with 16 points, out of six matches.

Iran goalkeeper Farzaneh Tavasoli was also named the best goalkeeper of the competition.

The competition was held from January 19 to 28 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Tajikistan, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan took part in the tournament.

The CAFA Women's Championship is an international futsal competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

Iran, UAE match to be played behind closed doors

TEHRAN – The match between Iran and the UAE football teams in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier will be held without spectators.

The match is scheduled to be held on Tuesday in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Iran's National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control has announced that the match will be held behind the closed doors.

Iran booked their place as the first Asian team on Thursday after edging past Iraq 1-0 in Group A at the Azadi Stadium.

More than 10,000 fans attended the match for the first time after about two years.

Persepolis eye Iraqi midfielder Hasan Abdulkareem: report

TEHRAN – Media reports suggest that Iran's Persepolis football team have set their sight on signing Iraqi midfielder Hasan Abdulkareem.

The 23-year-old player represented Iraq on Thursday against Iran in the 2022 World Cup qualifier.

Abdulkareem currently plays in Iraqi football club Al-Karkh.

Persepolis, who are going to win Iran league for the sixth time in row, want to strengthen midfield in the January transfer window.

Iran's women's football forward Ghomi retires

TEHRAN – Iran's women's football team forward Sara Ghomi announced her retirement from the international duty.

She bade farewell to Team Melli Banovan at the end of the match against Chinese Taipei in Group A of the AFC Women's Asian Cup.

She represented Iran 54 times and scored 17 goals.

Ghomi started her football in 2005 with Malavan Bandar Anzali club and played for Malavan team until late 2015, when the women's team of Malavan got disbanded.

Through her years in Malavan, she was chosen as the top goalscorer of Iran premier league five times.

Iran volleyball setter Karimi undergoes surgery

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team setter Javad Karimi underwent a successful foot surgery on Thursday.

He had sustained a Lisfranc injury.

Karimi will be sidelined for at least four months.

The Team Melli setter will miss the 2022 Volleyball Nations League.

Iran goalkeeper Beiranvand tests positive for COVID-19

TEHRAN – Iran national football team goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand tested positive for COVID-19.

Some Iran football team players namely, Ehsan Hajsafi, Majid Hosseini, Mehdi Ghaedi and Ahmad Nouroollahi had already contracted the virus and missed the Iraq match.

Iran are scheduled to meet the UAE on Tuesday in the 2022 World Cup qualifier in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Beiranvand remained an unused substitute in the match against Iraq, where Team Melli defeated its rival 1-0 and qualified for the 2022 FIFA World Cup as the first Asian team.

Forouzan Soleymani sees bright future for Iranian women's futsal

TEHRAN – Coach Forouzan Soleymani believes the Iranian women futsal team can steal the show in the 2022 AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup.

Iran will participate in the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup to win the title for the third time in a row.

Team Melli Banovan defeated Tajikistan 9-0 on Friday and claimed the title of the inaugural edition with 16 points, out of six matches.

The competition was held from January 19 to 28 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

"First of all, I would like to congratulate Iran football team players and coaching staff on booking their berth in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Then, I have to say winning CAFA was a great job since we competed in the competition without any warm-up matches," Soleymani said.

"The four-team tournament helped us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the team. From now on, we will regularly hold our preparatory camps," she added.

"We want to shine in the 2022 AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup. The newly-invited players showed us in Tajikistan how good they are," Soleymani concluded.

Iran lose to Qatar in 2022 Asian Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Qatar 34-19 in the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship on Saturday.

Iran will play loser of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia match for third place match on Monday.

Iran have previously qualified for the 2023 World Handball Championship for the first time since 2015 in Qatar.

The top five teams from the Championship directly qualify for the 2023 World Men's Handball Championship, to be held jointly by Poland and Sweden.

Saudi Arabia was awarded the tournament after the Championship was moved in September by the Asian Handball Federation due to the spread of COVID-19 in the initial host country, Iran.

More than 10.5m tons of steel products produced in 9 months



TEHRAN- Iran produced 10.502 million tons of steel products in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2021).

The country's nine-month steel products output indicates a four-percent drop as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The Iranian steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years

against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

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

The production capacity of the country's steel chain increased from 123 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 230 million tons in the previous year (ended in March 2021).

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

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

National digital currency to be available to public soon: CBI

TEHRAN – Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced that the national digital currency will be available to the public soon.

A week ago, CBI Vice Governor for IT Affairs Mehran Moharamian announced that the bank plans to launch the national cryptocurrency in a pilot phase in the near future; although he provided no further details.

The official said the bank sees cryptocurrencies as a solution for resolving inconsistencies and decentralizing resources, something that many countries have started to benefit from recently.

In 2018, Informatics Services Corporation, the executive arm of the Central Bank of Iran in charge of operating the country's banking automation and payment services network, was tasked with developing a national cryptocurrency.

The company's officials later said the Iranian cryptocurrency has been designed using the Hyperledger Fabric platform.

It is a blockchain framework implementation and one of the Hyperledger Company's projects hosted by Linux Foundation.

Production by major automakers exceeds 760,000 in 10 months



From page 1 ► Pars Khodro also manufactured 100,151 vehicles in the period under review, 24.1 percent more than the output in the first 10 months of the past year.

Earlier this month, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin announced the implementation of a two-year plan for the auto industry based on which this industry will undergo serious changes and improve significantly.

Stating that nine transformation projects have been prepared for the automobile industry, Fatemi-Amin said: "The general plan is that

in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (begins on March 21) the structure of the automobile industry and the relations between parts manufacturers and automakers will be reformed and the overall promised production target will be achieved in [the Iranian calendar year] 1404 (begins in March 2025)."

Iran's major carmakers had manufactured 900,714 vehicles in the previous year (ended on March 20, 2021), which was 4.3 percent more than the figure of its preceding year.

According to Codal data, during the past year, IKCO manufactured

480,338 vehicles, which was 21.9 percent more than the output in its preceding year, which was 393,812 vehicles.

SAIPA manufactured 317,321 vehicles, with a 12.6-percent fall from 363,379 vehicles manufactured in 1398. And Pars Khodro manufactured 103,055 vehicles in the past year, showing a 2.8-percent drop from the output of its previous year, which was 106,072 vehicles.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's programs for the current Iranian calendar year show that the manufacturing of

1.2 million cars has been put on the agenda.

According to the Industry Ministry data, since Iranian automakers had produced 984,200 such vehicles in the previous calendar year, the country's car output is planned to increase by over 21.9 percent in the current 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).

Trade between Iran, Russia likely to break record

TEHRAN- The trade turnover between Russia and Iran is likely to reach record-breaking \$4 billion as of 2021 year-end, Russian Trade Representative in Iran Rustam Zhiganshin told TASS on Friday.

"The turnover surged by 89.4 percent during the first eleven months against the like period of the last year and stood at \$3.76 billion. Grounds are in place to expect we will reach the record-high figure of \$4 billion as of 2021 year-end," the trade representative said.

"Agricultural produce account for about 80 percent in the trade turnover between the countries," Zhiganshin said. "Grains and oil-bearing crops moved up in our export in the first instance," he said. "Export of vaccines can be noted among new positions – our relevant supplies to Iran totaled \$45 million," he said.

"Implementation of certain projects in the energy sphere is underway, which became more active in 2021. This backed the turnover



growth over the last year," Zhiganshin noted. "Vegetables, fruits, dried fruits and nuts are imported from Iran in the first instance," he said.

Also, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced last week that the value of trade between Iran and Russia rose 41 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2021), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

120 companies attending intl. jewelry expo in Tehran

TEHRAN – The 13th International Exhibition of Gold, Silver, Jewelry, Watch and Related Industries is hosting more than 120 companies at Tehran Permanent International Fairground from January 29 to February 2, IRIB reported.

The attending companies are showcasing their latest products and achievements in this event.

According to the Head of Iran's Union of Gold, Silver, Jewelry and Precious Stones Hojjat Shafahi, in this exhibition, all kinds of jewelry, gold, silver, precious stones, and watches, as well as machinery, tools, and



equipment related to the design and production of jewelry are showcased.

The exhibition seeks to introduce the country's latest products and services in this industry,

while introducing domestic producers to destination markets and improving their competitiveness. It also tries to encourage exports and services of the domestic jewelry sector.

Smart mining discussed at TCCIMA Industry, Mining Committee meeting

TEHRAN – The 12th meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Industry and Mining Committee was held on Saturday to discuss smart mining and the ways of supplying the machinery needed by the mining industry.

The meeting was attended by mining sector's officials including Mohammad Fatemi, head of the Association of Iranian Heavy Machinery for Construction, Mining and Roads (Manufactures and Importers), and Head of TCCIMA Industry and Mining Committee Ali Naghib, the TCCIMA portal reported.

During the gathering, the attendees discussed various issues related to the smartening of Iran's



mines, and the outcomes of the previous meeting of the committee, which was dedicated to evaluating the development strategies and supply mining machinery were also discussed.

Speaking at the meeting, Naghib, who attended the meeting virtually, referred to the positive outcomes of the previous meeting of the committee and said: "One of the results of this meeting was that the

government has agreed to allow the import of 500 heavy mining machinery."

He then expressed hope that such meetings would lead to an improvement in the business environment in the mining sector.

Further in the meeting, Sajad Ghoroghi, the deputy chairman of the committee, also pointed out that one of the problems of the mining sector is the lack of the necessary machinery, and said: "This issue has become severe to the point that we even have problems in supplying second-hand machinery to the mines."

"Therefore, it is necessary to meet this need through a combination of imports and domestic production,"

he added.

Emphasizing that "Smartening and the use of new technologies pave the way for increasing mining productivity", Ghoroghi pointed to the most important technologies that nowadays are being used by the mining industry across the world, such as artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, blockchain, and augmented reality (AR).

Elsewhere in the meeting, Vahid Vaziri, advisor to the Committee, presented a report on smart mining experiences in a number of mines around the world.

According to Vaziri, studies show that mines with an annual production of more than 10 million tons have the most use of new technologies.

‘European companies willing to provide Iran with solar panel production lines’

TEHRAN – Head of the Energy Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has said European companies, especially German firms, are currently willing to provide Iran with solar panel production lines, IRNA reported.

According to Arash Najafi, the mentioned companies are also ready to purchase the electricity generated by the solar farms established by the mentioned panels on a guaranteed price basis.

Najafi noted that the government should consider bartering crude oil and oil products with the necessary equipment and machinery for manufacturing solar panels and renewable power plants in order to help develop this sector.

"The government can invest in renewable energies for a limited time by bartering oil and petroleum products in order to help the development of renewable energy and increase the capacity of such power plants in the country, and this is a logical solution," he said.

He also mentioned the Energy Ministry's program for obligating high-consumption subscribers to install PV stations to generate their own electricity, saying: "The government's offer to high-consumption subscribers to use

renewable energy is a sensible offer that will help develop this sector."

The official noted that promoting the use of rooftop PV stations is a good way for developing the renewable industry in the country.

Earlier this month, Energy Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of renewable power plants to generate 10,000 megawatts (10 gigawatts) of electricity across Iran.

The MOUs were signed following the Energy Ministry's public call for the contribution of private companies in a project for developing renewable power plants in the country.

Speaking in the signing ceremony, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian said: "When the private sector invests in this industry [the renewables], the government is obliged to return the equivalent of the investment plus its interests to the investor."

Mehrabian noted that the government has allocated over 30 trillion rials (about \$105.4 million) for the development of renewables in the budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (begins on March 21), saying that it is an unprecedented budget in this area.

TEDPIX rises 29,000 points on Saturday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 29,608 points to 1.258 million on Saturday.

Over 4.222 billion securities worth 31.179 trillion rials (about \$107.5 million) were traded at the TSE.

TEDPIX lost 50,000 points (four percent) to 1.229 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Mobarakeh Steel Company, Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company, Isfahan Oil Refinery, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, and National Iranian Copper Company were the most widely followed ones.

Government Economic Coordination Headquarters in its latest meeting has approved five new resolutions for supporting the country's stock market, and the directives in this regard have been sent to relative ministries, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber announced on Wednesday (January 26).

The mentioned resolutions include the reduction of petrochemical feed prices, the reduction of interbank interest rates, the restriction of the sale of securities, preventing the increase of government mining salaries, and the increase of the exchange rate of banks.

According to Mokhber, the decisions made in the meeting of the Government Economic Coordination Headquarters have been communicated with Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Reza Fatemi-Amin, Oil Minister Javad Oji, Head of Planning and Budget Organization (PMO) Masoud Mir-Kazemi, and Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Ali Saleh-Abadi.

Speaking about the positive impacts of the mentioned decisions on the capital market,

Finance Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said on Tuesday that the mentioned resolutions carry the message of government's serious support for industries and indicate stable economic activity, predictability of variables, and ultimately a positive outlook for the economy in the coming months.

Earlier on Tuesday (January 25), President Raisi had called on all related authorities to take the necessary measures for resolving the stock market problems.

Following the president's remarks, his cabinet held a meeting with the presence of the PBO head, the first vice president, the vice president for economic affairs, and the head of the country's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to discuss ways for resolving the mentioned issues and to support the market.

Mentioning the decision regarding the reduction of petrochemical feed prices, Khandouzi noted that the government has approved a ceiling of 50,000 rials (about \$0.18) for the feed prices and a ceiling of 20,000 rials (about \$0.07) for the fuel rate to support the mentioned industries which have a great role in the stock market.

Insulated state of America persists despite being a relatively diverse country: researcher

“The benefits of social media have been disastrous for American democracy”

From page 1 ▶ Like the technologies of muskets and rifles that attributed to the violent coercion of non-European populations to the ideologies and customs of colonial powers, cinema served as a coercive tool in colonial times. Colonizers were given a unique ability to control narratives and images surrounding themselves and others. So, if we are considering how America is a discursive leader in global cinema, the Western genre serves as a perfect example of this. There is a strong nostalgia for this genre because it upholds America's legacy as a conquering force over Indigenous peoples and lands. This is also why the Western has been used as a cast for adaptations like the spaghetti Western or Black Westerns; as parody in Kung-Fu Hustle (2004), Sukiyaki Western Django (2007), or The Big Lebowski (1998); or as borrowed iconography to shape a character like Travis Bickle, the vigilante in Taxi Driver (1976). It is worth discussing when these adaptations are subversive or updated renditions of the same American-centric plays. However, the main point of bringing this genre to the surface is to reiterate the fact that the ideological primacy that America has over global cinema is connected to these early technological uses that produced the American myth of the past.

A film like Sean Baker's Tangerine () proves that decentered populations can wrest control of their narratives, that it can be done in tasteful, favorable, empathetic, and playful ways and that expensive technology and props are not required for doing so. The film has a leading cast of transgender women, whose personal experiences shaped the film's narrative. Furthermore, the entirety of the film was shot on three iPhones with augmented lenses and was edited in apps. A film like Tangerine does not solve the issue of representation in American cinema, nor does it mean that everyone who owns an iPhone should go out and make feature-length films, however, it does help to shift discourse away from the dominant Hollywood hegemony and serves as a great example of how ideological and technological restrictions can produce beautiful and world-changing works of art.

Some critics say that American media (including cinema, TV, and newspapers) works to keep people negligent and ignorant about the reality of the world and their own society. It is well known that the American public doesn't care about current politics. Your views please.

As I sat down to write this, I opened my browser and the top news headline amped up a meeting that took place between Kim Kardashian, Hilary and Chelsea Clinton. I avoided clicking on it but even if I did, I doubt that I would have benefited much from the update. Celebrities and entertainment personalities like Donald Trump, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kanye West, Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson, and Kaitlyn Jenner, holding political positions or voicing an interest in doing so, is why America looks like, and in fact is, such a freak show. This is a continuation of my aforementioned point: representation and visibility does not equal credentials and value.

Social media has been an asset in organizing and communicating across borders. People are able to find their voices and join communities through social media. Nonetheless, the benefits of social media have been disastrous for American democracy. In The Need for Roots, Simone Weil explains the need for over-worked societies to receive their news in a clear and concise manner. Instead, we are forced to tirelessly sift through click-bait and gossip columns that posture as news. It is very difficult to find news sources that are not sensationalized or politically biased. In search of the truth, Americans are expected to bounce between media platforms, create spreadsheets, and log the common issues, highlight all the gaps and things not being said to arrive at an inkling of the truth. While my interdisciplinary background has primed me for research of this sort, it is an injustice to put people through so much work to simply stay informed.

The pseudo-journalist, Tucker Carlson is a prime example of the problem. Not only is he one of the most watched news talk show hosts in America, but the lawyers of Fox News won't even back Carlson as an ethically informed and fact-based journalist. The tragedy is that people feel emboldened and responsible by watching Carlson because it's the alternative to news that they absorb from their Facebook feeds or Reddit accounts. Tucker Carlson is as much of a journalist as Tony Soprano is a garbageman, and yes, this is an underlying critique of the manipulative and mob-like moves that the Republican party has been making, especially under Trump's tyranny. All of this is meant to show that we are already too late. The fusion of politics and entertainment in America is not only insulting but it is disabling and dangerous—not just for Americans but for the entire world.

It should come as no surprise that Americans



seek news outlets that they politically align with. There is no news where information is delivered plainly, inviting Americans to think for themselves. Instead, the news functions as a self-affirming tool, where ones pre existing opinions and beliefs will be affirmed—not challenged. American media, whether it is a Hollywood film or the daily news, is no longer a companion but an authority—albeit a gentle, sometimes fun, sometimes affirmative, but always postmodern one. We are given the illusion of freedom but really, American media makes the truth so convoluted and difficult to source that most Americans are more comfortable with knowing partial truths or contesting the truth as a whole. The relationship that Americans have with the media exposes how insular and individualistic American ideology truly is.

How do you assess the notion of the “other” in America's cinematic legacy?

I mentioned the insulated state of America, which persists despite being a relatively diverse country with access to the world's leading technology. This insulation can be considered through Edward Said's reference to the West as an “unchallenged centrality.” America's centrality is somewhat straight forward: the West, in this case America, was largely birthed from self-aggrandizing narratives which included superiority claims to race, religion, knowledge, culture, and civility as a whole. The East or the Orient was constructed as a gauge of opposition within this narrative. The fact that this centrality is unchallenged is the interesting part, because it would appear to suggest some passivity, some intellectual or political laziness on behalf of the “other,” but for Said, this is far from the case. Having almost nothing to do with the East, this unchallenged centrality has everything to do with the insulated imagination of the West. How could the East challenge a myth that was, for a long

“Tucker Carlson (of Fox News) is as much of a journalist as Tony Soprano is a garbageman, and this is an underlying critique of the manipulative and mob-like moves that the Republican party has been making, especially under Trump's tyranny.”

time, withheld from them and disseminated at a distance?

Today, these myths are much easier to access, identify, challenge, and subvert, and this is being done here in the states and overseas. Unfortunately, America has had a tight and unforgiving grip on such narratives, which have now fused with a national identity. Teaching alternative histories becomes a personal assault on white America. Those who have benefited from these ideologies have done so for millennia, and they do not feel that they should be made to apologize or absorb any guilt created from the past, even though they remain beneficiaries of these ideologies today. This is why, in our digital age, challenges to America's centrality have forced America to move a bit differently. It becomes less about America's centrality going unchallenged than it becomes about manufacturing consent.

Unfortunately, the first examples that come to mind, when conjuring up representations of the “other,” are those presented in children's fiction. I'm given fewer opportunities to watch all of the contemporary children's films, but the Disney classics remain celebrated and parents nostalgically watch these films with their

children. The Jungle Book () is a great example of how the “other” is manufactured and presented in ways that are somewhat subliminal to the viewer. A little boy named Mowgli is raised by wolves in a forest of India before he is given over to a black panther, Bagheera, who teaches him discipline, respect, and the etiquette of the forest. Ultimately, Bagheera's aim is to deliver Mowgli to the human village. However, Mowgli's childish curiosities get him in trouble along the way.

For instance, Mowgli is kidnapped by a band of monkeys who are led by King Louie, a minstrel-like orangutan. Louie wants to learn the “life of fire,” to become a man. The apes reside in ancient ruins, crumbling and clad with moss and ivy and they speak in a Black vernacular in contrast to the British English spoken by every other character. Louie is portrayed as lazy and greedy, slumped in his throne eating bananas. When he does make demands, they come with an air of buffoonery—his tongue hangs out of the side of his mouth and his wide eyes wander in different directions. While Mowgli and Louie become friends during Mowgli's captivity, Louie's lifestyle of partying and jazz is deleterious. Eventually Mowgli is saved by Bagheera and Mowgli's original jungle companions, who graciously allow Louie to join them on their continued journey; however, Louie is still portrayed as careless, ungrateful, and greedy, reluctant to carry out favors for others unless there is something in it for him. This is one example of how racialized “otherness” has been historically embedded in narratives that work to socialize young people. Not unlike Mowgli, Blackness exists between two worlds, between animal and human, between nature and man.

This narrative was somewhat repeated, though reversed, in the newest version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005). After Willy Wonka (Johnny Depp) has introduced his tourists to his whimsical, edible world of candy, one of the tourists spots an Oompa Loompa (Deep Roy) working in the distance. Members of the group ask, “Is it real?” and “Is it a real person?” to which Wonka responds, “Of course they're real people. They're Oompa Loompas, imported from Loompa Land,” which, according to Wonka, is a “terrible country.” Viewers are then shown a flashback of Wonka adventuring through the dark and damp forests of Loompa Land with a machete, “infested” with dangerous beasts and megafauna. The purpose of Wonka's trip to Loompa Land was to discover new and exotic flavors for his candy creations but he found Oompa Loompas instead, suggesting a fungibility between the two. Before “saving” the Oompa Loompas from their native country, they survived off of caterpillars and tree bark while praising the cocoa bean, which grew sparingly in their land. Wonka offers the Chief of the Oompa Loompas unlimited cocoa beans if they return with him, to work in his factory.

Unlike The Jungle Book, where these racialized fantasies are embedded a bit deeper in the narrative, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory portrays colonial conquest, pillaging resources from “exotic lands,” and acquiring human capital. Cocoa beans speak directly to the racialized economy of European and American trading systems that continue to rely on exploited labor overseas. This narrative, originally written by Roald Dahl, featured the Oompa Loompas as pygmies, a hunter-gatherer society who live in the rainforests of central Africa. After backlash to Dahl's children's book, the Oompa Loompas were given white skin and quirky haircuts, however, they stayed dressed in traditional garments of leaves, skins, or nothing at all. In the story, the Oompa Loompas have their own language, which the worldly Willy Wonka is somehow able to speak, but as they become domesticated in their new environment, they learn to speak English. Despite tinkering with the aesthetics, the underlying narrative is sustained. Just like the pygmies, whose complex cultural practices and intelligences are belittled or overlooked, the Oompa Loompas are cast for a diminutive role in the American fantasy, as childlike beings who are saved from their savage lifestyles by a white Western savior.

The closing shot of Wonka's flashback to Loompa Land shows a close-up shot of his hand and the hand of the Oompa Loompa Chief's coming in to shake in agreement. In size, the Chief's hand looks like that of an infant's, his fingers barely making it around the circumference of Wonka's pointer finger. This child-like dependency that Wonka has created in the Oompa Loompas is a reenactment of early colonial fantasies, suggesting that America's paternalistic approach to other nations is ongoing.

While these examples appear somewhat more innocuous, compared to dramatized threats of the “other” as external contagions or alien invasions, I think it's an important reminder: the “other's” autonomy—over their image, resources, land, politics, religion, or economy—is the gravest threat to white America.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

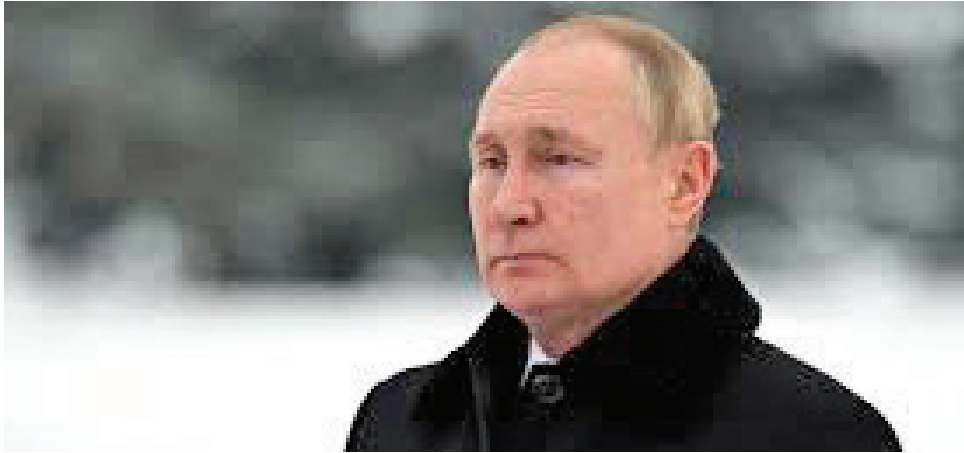
Russia says security demands not addressed

From page 1 ▶ The Kremlin did say that “Putin noted the Russian side will carefully study the written answers to the draft security guarantee agreements from the US and NATO... and then decide on its further actions.”

Following negotiations between Russia and the U.S.-led NATO alliance, Moscow's outlined its key demands as being concerned over NATO's eastward military expansion, ending the deployment of offensive weapons near Russia's borders and returning NATO “military capabilities and infrastructure” to how they were before former Warsaw Pact states in Eastern Europe joined the alliance.

Russia is also seeking guarantees that Ukraine, which sits on Russia's border, will be permanently banned from joining NATO.

During the conversation between the French and Russian leaders, an agreement was reached that the two sides will continue talks on a range of security issues on the continent.



“Macron informed Putin about Paris's approaches on the pan-European track,” the Russian president's press service said, highlighting that France will take on the role of president of the European Union Council for the first half of 2022.

An official from the French presidential office says Putin had pointed out that Moscow is not seeking to intensify the situation, echoing similar remarks by the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who said Russia does not want war. The official also says Putin has agreed to continue talks, so there was a feeling that “things have moved”.

According to the French official, Putin added that the French president was “the only one who he could have such serious discussions”.

The official added that there was “disagreement, but agreement in the necessity for dialogue and that the Europeans and France are part of the ongoing dialogue, dialogue is difficult and there were no solutions from this call”.

The two leaders also touched on the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Putin highlighted the importance of Kiev implementing the 2014 Minsk Agreements, which were designed to bring an end to fighting in the region.

Macron has long called on the EU to have a “frank, exacting dialogue with Russia” to defuse tensions.

Speaking in Paris at the start of France's six-month EU presidency, Macron said: “I think that the European Union must have a dialogue with Russia. To have a dialogue doesn't mean to concede – dialogue means above all to take stock of disagreements.”

Meanwhile, the United States has called a UN Security Council meeting scheduled on Monday for Russia to explain its “military operations” within Russia's own borders near Ukraine; with the White House warning about the “horrific casualties” should Russia act militarily.

U.S. President Joe Biden has even told reporters “I will be moving U.S. troops to Eastern Europe in NATO countries in the near term” in response to “Russia's escalation” on the Ukrainian border.

The U.S. and the UK have already sent military equipment to Ukraine.

This is while Germany has once again refused to send any form of military assistance to Kyiv.

Earlier this month, French President Macron marked the start of his country's presidency of the EU by calling for a new “European order free of threats, coercion, and spheres of influence”. The remarks have been widely viewed as an attempt by Paris to be a more active player in the negotiations with Russia, rather than entrusting the discussion of Europe's security to Washington.

Macron said, “for the sake of the security of our continent which is indivisible, both for us and for Russia, we need this dialogue [to be] a frank and demanding dialogue in the face of destabilization, interference, and manipulation”.

Some analysts have suggested the U.S. administration and the British government are increasing their anti-Russian rhetoric in an attempt to distract the public from problems both governments are facing back at home.

Even Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, has criticized the west, in particular

the White House, for creating “panic” over claims about a possible Russian attack.

Speaking at a news conference in Kyiv, Zelenskiy said “we don't need this panic, I don't consider the situation now more tense than before. There is a feeling abroad that there is war here. That's not the case.”

The West has accused Russia of massing troops and military hardware along its border with Ukraine with the intention of attacking its neighbor, an accusation that Moscow has regularly denied.

Experts say the number of Russian troops and military hardware on Russia's border with Ukraine is not sufficient enough to launch an invasion.

A top NATO official who chose to remain anonymous told a European media outlet that “to invade such a large country with such military forces [like Ukraine], you need military capabilities other than those that have been currently deployed [by Russia].

At the same time, Russia views the Western military buildup so close to its borders as a security threat and wants official assurances that the North Atlantic Alliance will not expand further eastward.

Observers say if Russia wanted to go to war with Ukraine, it would do so for a reason. And there is no reason, nothing even mentioned by Western officials for Russia to wage such a war. There has been no hysteria or public frenzy in Russia to indicate the government is preparing the people for armed conflict.

Analysts say it was already agreed in the Minsk agreement that the Ukrainian government would negotiate with the Eastern “autonomous” leaders to formalize their autonomy, however, no progress has been made by Kyiv on that front. Instead, the U.S. and the UK are shipping military aid to Ukraine to escalate tensions.

According to observers and political commentators observing the developments, there is nothing in Ukraine for Russia to fight about. Analysts say the country is struggling to pay its debt. Unlike Lithuania and Poland, the European Union has not allowed or does not want Ukraine to join the 27-nation bloc perhaps because of its financial issues, even NATO has so far rejected its membership; so why would Russia want to take over Ukraine?

This is while, the Ukrainian President has called for direct negotiations with Russia to solve the conflict in the country's east, an initiative that NATO has strangely not strongly backed nor desired.

200 inmates trained as crafters in Lorestan

TEHRAN – A total of 200 inmates have recently been trained as crafters in prisons across the western Lorestan province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The prisoners were trained in the fields of kilim carpets, woodwork, leatherwork, and toreutics, Seyyed Amin Qasemi said on Saturday.

The courses aimed to empower the prisoners and provide job opportunities for them after their release as well as promoting handicraft fields, the official added.

Lorestan is one of the lesser-known travel destinations in Iran and mainly acts as a gateway to the neighboring Khuzestan province which hosts UNESCO sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System.

Lorestan is also a region of raw beauty that an avid nature lover could spend weeks exploring, living with a nomad or rural family.

Lorestan 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. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from

this turbulent period.

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

Bisheh Waterfall, Snow Tunnel, Poldokhtar ponds, Falak-ol-Aflak Castle, Soltani Mosque of Borujerd, Shapouri Bridge, and Shiraz Canyon are amongst tourist sites of the mountainous province.

Tourism ministry seeks to empower inmates

In October 2020, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts signed a memorandum of understanding with the Prisons, Security, and Corrective Measures Organization to create jobs and make income for prisoners.

The MOU also aimed at implementing special educational and promotional programs, identifying talented prisoners, and improving their social status.

The deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian said that handicraft products made by prisoners have been displayed in various exhibitions, and the income generated from selling these products has been returned to the prisoners and their families.

Cultural heritage elements in western Iran added to national list

TEHRAN – A total of nine cultural elements, which are practiced in Kordestan province, have recently been added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Saturday announced the inscriptions in a letter it submitted to the governor-general of the western province, CHTN reported.

The skill of making spindles, local games of Khaliran and Qolan, and the talent of making traditional tasbih (prayer beads) were among

the elements added to the prestigious list.

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

Time to restart? Tehran tourism fair kicks off amid virus concerns

From page 1 ► As a wallet-friendly destination with hospitable people, Iran has long been a desired destination for nature lovers, birdwatchers, powder chasers, culture devotees, pilgrims, museum-goers, foodies, adventurers, and medical travelers to name a few.

Going to statistics, some 1.47m foreign nationals visited the ancient land from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year to January 1, a span most of which was subject to severe travel bans due to coronavirus. Citizens from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main source of tourism for Iran from October 23 to December 22, 2021. "226,000 people from Iraq, 103,000 from Afghanistan, 90,000 from Turkey, 22,000 from Azerbaijan, and 18,000 from Bahrain arrived in Iran during the mentioned period," according to data released by Mehr news agency.

As the data suggests, neighboring countries have been the main source of tourism for the Islamic Republic. That is why the fair has invited travel insiders, tour operators, and exhibitors from neighboring states to reinforce the trend.



The average of international travels to and from the Islamic Republic fell by 80 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) from a year earlier. "During this period, 4,343,163 passengers entered the country, which included 3,030,464 Iranian passengers and 512,699 international travelers," according to Arezou Ghaniun, an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration. "From the beginning of 1399 to the end of it, we saw a significant reduction in passenger traffic to the country or vice versa in land, sea, rail and air borders, which were caused by

various coronavirus restrictions."

In the international scene, tourism experienced a 4% increase in 2021, 15 million more international tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) compared to 2020 (415 million versus 400 million), according to data compiled by the World Tourism Organization. International arrivals, however, show 72% below the pre-pandemic year of 2019, according to preliminary estimates.

To find a solution, panels of travel experts and tourism officials have mapped out new marketing strategies so far, to help tourism would get back on its feet once

again. One of the strategies is to help lesser-known destinations to gain footholds on the tourism map. For instance, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has said much more attention should be devoted to lesser-known travel gems of the country.

"Introducing the lesser-known or less-favored travel destinations is part of the ministry's policies, and paying more attention to the western axis of the country is in line with those strategies," a tourism official Mohammad Qasemi has said. "The west axis is our concern for tourism, which we intend to raise at [various] international tourism conferences," the official stated. Other solutions are reinforcing medical tourism, ecotourism, and pilgrimage.

All things considered, mass COVID-19 vaccinations, consecutive famtours for foreign tour operators, easing travel procedures, and fresh strategies, altogether, suggest Iran is determined to get through the coronavirus crisis to experience a tourism rebound with a greater reliance on its numerous tourist spots of which 26 are UNESCO World Heritage, and above all, its welcoming, sociable people.

Iranian nostalgic Paykans stage rally to mark Tehran tourism fair

TEHRAN – A selection of nostalgic Paykans, the first Iranian-made cars, held a rally on Tehran streets on Saturday morning to mark the opening of the 15th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition.

The rally was staged by 30 absolute mint-condition vintage Paykans picked from various Iranian cities, CHTN reported.

Organized by the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI), the rally's itinerary started from the headquarters of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts

Ministry to the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

Often colloquially referred to as the Iranian chariot, Paykan was very popular in the country from its introduction in 1967 until its discontinuation in 2005. Paykan was initially Hillman Hunter built under license but had some unique bodywork and locally developed variants.

In 1967, Rootes Group began exporting Hillman Hunters to Iran Khodro in the "complete knockdown" (CKD) kit form, for assembly in Iran.

By the mid-1970s, full-scale manufacturing of the car (minus the engine) had started in Iran. In 1977, Roy Axe designed a new Paykan facelift model using many interiors and exterior parts from the Chrysler Alpine.

Although the Paykan was based on a 1966 Hillman Hunter, there were many changes and modifications made to it over the years – notably the substitution of the original 1725cc Rootes engine with a Peugeot 504-derived unit.

The 15th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition will be running through February 1.

Tehran meetings hoped to encourage tourism among neighbors

TEHRAN – On Friday, the Iranian capital hosted business-to-business (B2B) meetings between Iranian travel insiders and counterparts from Pakistan, Iraq, and Iraqi Kurdistan to promote reciprocal tourism.

Iran offers a variety of tourist attractions in the realms of historical, cultural, pilgrimage, and medical services, Iranian tourism activist Akbar Ghamkhar said during the meeting, CHTN reported.

Reasonable prices for incoming tours, hospitable people, and Halal food, as well as the possibility of obtaining easy visas and the accurate facilities in the field of air and land transportation, are among the factors motivating foreign tourists to visit Iran, he noted.

For his part, Tehran's tourism chief Parham Janfeshan said that in terms of tourism, Tehran is an important province for the country, where Iran's largest international airport, Imam Khomeini Airport, is the primary destination for foreign tourists is located.

"Tehran embraces many tourist attractions, including cultural, natural, and religious attractions, as well as facilities for health tourism," he added.

Tehran has well-developed hotel accommodations and well-equipped recreation facilities, he mentioned.

Dusani Mohammed Hanif, a Pakistani travel expert said that Iran has a rich history and cultural tradition, and many efforts have been made in the last 40 years, despite cowardly sanctions.

He also expressed hope that such meetings could expand cooperation in the field of tourism development between the two countries.

In terms of religion and health tourism, Iraq and Iran have a lot in common, and the countries can reach good agreements on tourism development, said Iraqi tour operator Valid Zobeidi.

The ground is fertile for the Islamic Republic and its neighboring states to interact well for the development



of tourism, despite the outbreak of coronavirus that disrupts tourism market, he added.

Last week, Mehr reported that some 1.47m foreign nationals visited Iran from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021) to January 1, a span most of which was subject to severe travel bans due to coronavirus.

Of the number, 635, 862 foreign nationals arrived in Iran as of mid-October when the Islamic Republic started issuance of tourist visas after a 20-month hiatus, the report added.

Citizens from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main source of tourism for Iran from October 23 to December 22, 2021.

Over the past couple of years, neighboring Iraq has been one of Iran's most important markets for tourism and pilgrimage. Earlier this month, the deputy tourism chief Ali-Asghar Shalbafiana announced that Iran had renewed arrangements to facilitate travels for Iraqi nationals. "For Iraqi tourists visiting Iran, a new system has been implemented to ensure their safety and comfort."

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

Before the resumption, groups of Iranian tourism insiders urged the three ministries of interior, tourism, and foreign affairs to facilitate travel to Iran for foreign tourists from the mentioned countries who have obtained tourist visas and are en route to Iran or about to visit it. Also, some believed that preventing the spread of new variants of the virus and maintaining public health are preferable to the benefits of tourism.

Months of steep recession have taken its toll. Many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators have faced big dilemmas such as bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level. The pandemic has taken a huge toll on Iran's civil aviation sector. For instance, airlines reportedly lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of flight cancellations during the busy New Year travel season last March.

Tourism authorities say Iran has the potential to experience a tourism boom after coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

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

First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

EXTENTION OF INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER IN TWO STEPTS

No. :444896

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
3,000 MT UHP Grade Graphite Electrode 450 mm with respective nipples

WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

Description: UHP Grade Graphite Electrode with respective nipples as per following specification

Bulk Density:	1.65 – 1.75 g/cm ³
Real Density:	2.22 – 2.25 g/cm ³
Porosity:	21 – 27 %
Ash Content:	0.2 % Max.
Specific Resistance:	4.5– 6.5 $\mu\Omega\text{m}$
Bending Strength:	110 -140 Kgf/Cm ²
Young's Modules:	7.8 – 11.8 GPa
Co-efficient Of Thermal expansion:	0.3 – 1 10 ⁻³ /°C

Graphite Electrode Dimensions:

Electrode Diameter:	450 mm
Electrode Length:	1800 mm

Nipple Specification:

Nipple Diameter:	317.50 mm
Nipple Length:	457.20 mm
Socket Depth:	234.60 mm
Number of Thread:	4 Thread per Inch
Thread Type:	Tapered Thread

INTRESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN SET OF DOCUMENTS, CONTAINING THE RELEVANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APLICATION AND PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF:

EUR 20 "TWENTY EURO" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

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2) ACCOUNT No.**1902-750-4019644-1** AT "EGHTESAD NOVIN BANK- OF IRAN AHVAZ SHARIATI BRANCH" OR
Rials 6,000,000, "SIXMILION RIALS" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

1) ACCOUNT No.**0102513186002** AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

2) ACCOUNT No.**0100304453001** AT "SADERAT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

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KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)
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P.O.BOX: 1378
POST CODE: 61397-31398
AHVAZ– IRAN

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Note2: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO **8thFeb, 2022**. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFOSAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE **26thFeb, 2022**. THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10:30 AM ON THE **27thFeb, 2022** IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHVAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

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EMAIL: Ha.Faramarzi@ksc.ir

OR VISIT:<http://WWW.KSC.IR>

Two decades of struggling with climate change

From page 1 ► and evaporation rate, shows that our country has been in a period of drought since 1998, however, over some years, normal averages of rainfall poured over the country, he added.

Referring to rainfall fluctuations, he explained that sometimes an area received a year of rainfall only in a few days, as it has recently rained as much as a year in one day in Bushehr.

Today we face a series of extreme, and abnormal events that can be a sign of "climate change" and the nature of climate change is creepy and its gradual occurrence, so that the exact time of these events and changes cannot be understood, he highlighted.

"Since the beginning of the twentieth century and the increasing use of fossil fuels in the world, the average carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen from 250 ppm to more than 400 ppm, and this 1.7-fold increase in carbon dioxide is directly related to rising global temperatures and events such as torrential rains, dust, etc.

About 60 years ago, Iran has moved towards industrialization, during which the pressure on water resources and lands with all kinds of exploitation has increased, and to-



day we are witnessing the destruction of land in the form of water and soil erosion, as well as vegetation depletion.

In exchange for this destruction and excessive exploitation, nature has not been able to regenerate itself, so that it reacts with natural incidents," he further lamented.

Implementation of watershed, rangeland, desertification management in the plains can be effective in reducing natural incidents risks in the short and medium-term.

Dam construction and dredging of waterways alone cannot be effective in flood management.

Climate change impact

Increasing consumption of fos-

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

One of the most important challenges is climate change, known as the silent death of nature. In the future, a large part of the desert areas of the country will lose their capabilities. On the other hand, we will face forced wildlife migration.

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

address the phenomena.

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

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

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

Iran, Armenia to enhance healthcare co-op

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Armenia, Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri, discussed expanded cooperation in the healthcare sector in a meeting with Armenian Healthcare Minister, Anahit Avanesyan, in Yerevan on Friday.

Pointing to the importance of promoting mutual understanding between the two countries, especially the existing capabilities in the production of medicine and medical equipment, Zohouri highlighted expanding bilateral partnership in the field of health and treatment, ISNA reported.

"The big potential of the Armenian-Iranian partnership in pharmaceuticals is obvious. We constantly consider the opportunities to mutually engage the Iranian-made medicine into the Armenian market," Avanesyan said.

Investment programs, development of healthcare tourism and regional cooperation in



the health sector, educational programs, and exchange of experience were discussed during the meeting.

Medical exports

Iranian companies producing medical equipment export their products to 54 countries across the world, Es'haq Ameri, deputy health

minister for medical equipment and supplies, said in November.

In the light of the coronavirus pandemic, the domestic knowledge-based companies were at the forefront of the fight by expanding production lines, making us highly independent, IRNA quoted Ameri as saying.

In 2018, the National Medical Device Directorate reported that the Iranian medical equipment market was worth \$2.5 billion, 30 percent of which belonged to over 1,000 domestic firms.

On a global scale, 56 percent of 500,000 medical equipment items available in the world market have Iranian versions. In pharmaceuticals, around 70 percent of Iran's \$4.5 billion markets are domestic products and, in 2018, 97 percent of pharmaceuticals consumed in the country were manufactured locally.

270 biotech projects to improve food quality

TEHRAN – Some 270 national projects have been developed to improve the quality of food and agricultural products with the help of biotechnology in the country, in addition to reducing production costs.

The processing of food and agricultural products is done in different ways and the use of biotechnologies is flourishing worldwide.

The projects focus on the production of edible oils, fermented beverages, grain and dairy processing, as well as the use of biocatalysts in the production of bread and dairy and non-dairy beverages and packaging agricultural and food products with an export approach, IRNA reported.

The full implementation of these plans will create sustainable employment for 2,400 people in the country. Also, the development of

bioprocessing in food production and agriculture, in addition to improving product characteristics and reducing production costs, is also an effective way to ensure the health of food products.

Biotechnology development

Biotechnology today is widespread in all fields and is no longer limited to biomedical drugs so it has replaced the injured limbs.

Nearly 800 knowledge-based companies in the country are currently operating in the field of biotechnology and supplying their products and services to the domestic market

In May 2021, the Biotechnology Development Council launched 129 production projects with the aim of saving up to \$1.44 billion of

foreign currency.

Iran is ranked 12th in the world and first in West Asia in terms of biotechnology, as 9.5 percent of the income of knowledge-based companies and more than 60 percent of their exports are related to biotechnology.

Foreign exchange savings of \$1 billion per year by producing 22 biopharmaceuticals, gaining the first rank in biotechnology products and vaccines in West Asia, and the presence among the top five biotechnology producers in Asia are among the country's achievements, Mostafa Ghanei, secretary of the biotechnology development office of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, said in October 2020.

So far, 27 biotechnology medicines, 12 vaccine projects, 90 phar-



maceutical raw materials, and 55 projects in agriculture and food security have been implemented in order to gain a 3 percent market share and biotechnology assistance to the development of the economy, he explained.

Some 8 major companies are responsible for managing the country's 117 priority products in the fields of biopharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical raw materials, vaccines, probiotics, equipment, and chemical drugs, he emphasized.

SOCIETY

JANUARY 30, 2022

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

“Environmental knowledge” being taught at universities nationwide

TEHRAN – A course called “environmental knowledge” is being taught in universities to promote public awareness of nature protection.

The course, previously taught optional at the universities, become mandatory with the efforts and follow-up of the Department of Environment (DOE), Nourollah Moradi, deputy head of the DOE for education and public participation, said, IRNA reported.

Since September 2021, 10 universities have been teaching the course as a pilot program for two years, he stated, expressing hope that the course will become a public lesson leading to the institutionalization of environmental culture and knowledge among the people.

Earlier in January, the DOE has prepared various programs to educate local communities in order to strengthen environmental protection, Hassan Akbari, caretaker of natural environment and biodiversity of the DOE, said.

As most of the discoveries and assistance in protecting the environment are made by local communities and nature lovers, we are planning to hold training courses for local communities on environmental awareness and biodiversity, he explained.

Importance of environmental protection

There are 1,300 species of animals in the country, 130 of which are endangered and threatened, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, said in December 2021.

Over 10,000 environmental violators are arrested on average annually. Asiatic cheetahs, great bustards, Siberian cranes, Persian onagers, and some reptiles and amphibians are among the endangered and threatened species, he said.

Significant smuggling and habitat destruction are the main threats to the species, and promoting a culture of kindness to the environment and strengthening social participation is one of the most important and effective strategies in pro-



tecting the environment, he explained.

The availability of large quantities of weapons and ammunition to the poachers is another risk factor for wildlife populations, Akbari added.

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and natural national monuments. In 1997, the DOE held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas.

Currently, the supervised areas reached about 18.5 million hectares, including, 30 national parks, 170 protected areas, 45 wildlife refuges, and 37 national natural monuments.

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman in the south.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, human activities have led to alarming degradation of ecosystems, deletion of genes, species, and biological capabilities; Human threats to biodiversity have accelerated the most over the past 50 years over the entire history of human life.

Fish growth slowed by high temperatures and plastic chemical BPA, research finds

Fish grow slower when exposed to higher temperatures and a common chemical in plastic, according to new research. It suggests that a combination of plastic pollution and global heating could have a concerning impact on marine populations.

Scientists at the University of Sydney have found that fish exposed to the industrial chemical bisphenol A – commonly known as BPA – require more energy to grow in high-temperature waters.

BPA is a common chemical used in plastics manufacturing and is known to disrupt hormone signalling, with impacts in marine animals on metabolism and growth. In humans, it has also been linked to reproductive and developmental dysfunction. Millions of tonnes of the compound are produced globally each year.

The researchers exposed zebrafish to a level of BPA commonly found in waterways, the Guardian reported.

They discovered that the chemical decreased

the amount of energy the fish needed to grow at 24C, but hampered growth for those in 30C water – a temperature the animals would be likely to experience more often in their natural habitat under global heating.

The study's corresponding author, Frank Seebacher, a professor of biology at the University of Sydney, said the finding urgently highlighted the need for both climate change mitigation and plastic waste reduction.

"The combination of high temperatures and BPA increases the energetic cost of growth – how much food animals have to eat to produce a given amount of biomass," he said, adding the problem would be more pronounced for larger fish and predator species.

"Because there's a trophic cascade ... [higher up the food chain] you'd expect to find fewer and smaller animals," he said. "There's a potential problem for sustainability in catch rates, if that combination [of warming and BPA] results in reduced stock"

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19: Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

The back-to-school ceremony is officially inaugurated by the president each year, as he rings the bells in a symbolic gesture at a chosen school.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival.

More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Haji Mirzaei stated.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted, highlighting, all schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

زنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می‌شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است. او افزود: همه مدارس باید شیوه نامه‌های بهداشتی را به طور جدی رعایت کنند تا مشکلی برای دانش آموزان پیش نیاید.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 29

New cases	11,731
New deaths	24
Total cases	6,322,183
Total deaths	132,380
New hospitalized patients	754
Patients in critical condition	1,362
Total recovered patients	6,098,675
Diagnostic tests conducted	44,607,091
Doses of vaccine injected	130,044,477

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JANUARY 30, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Wealth converts a strange land into homeland and poverty turns a native place into a strange land.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18 Evening: 17:49 Dawn: 5:39 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:05 (tomorrow)

Hafez and music

Part 4

String instruments or alat-e zawat-al-awtar, of which Maraghi names 28 kinds: Hafez mentions rud 8 times (4/10g, 4m) in the meaning of lute, or string instruments in general. Maraghi does describe two specific instruments with rud as an element of their name, viz., tarab-rud and shah-rud, the former apparently with sympathetic strings, the latter apparently revived by the author from desuetude.

Hafez himself seems to use rud rather vaguely or generically. He does once (saqi-nama: 30b) explicitly link the rud with the celestial muse, Venus (Zohra), who elsewhere appears playing the oud or chang.

The number of lute strings varied by instrument, region and period, though Hafez apparently alludes to the proper names of four rud strings: the outer “low and high” strings (bam o zir) and between them the second (masna, pl.masani) and the third (maslas, pl.masales) strings, mentioned in a qet’a and possibly also in one ghazal.

Words used denotatively or connotatively for the strings of such instruments include abrisham, muy and rag. Possible allusion to the plectrum, zakhma or mezbab, used in plucking the strings, have also been detected.

Specific lutes mentioned by Hafez include: Barbat (Barbat, where During suggests a Kushan/Gandharan origin, but note also the etymological similarity to Gk.barbiton, a lyre associated with Dionysus, Ionian lyric, and the sympotic poetry of Anacreon) 7 (6g, 1r), a short-necked instrument existing already in Sassanid times. In the time of Hafez, this was probably identical with the oud, as Maraghi does not mention the barbat by name.

Chang: 42 (38/42g, 1qa, 2m, 1qe), the most frequently mentioned instrument in the Divan. Though a word with multiple meanings (i.e., claw; clutches; grasp; harp), it usually occurs in the Divan in the sense of a harp, or of instrumental music generally.

As depicted in the pre-Islamic period, the chang was an angular frame harp which, when strung, would form a triangle; in performance, the harp would be held against the chest or rest in the lap.

In the Shahnameh, as apparently in Sassanid times, the harp was mostly played by women, which perhaps in part explains its association with Venus and suggests the metaphor of the harpist as Love personified, embracing the lover and running her fingers through his hair as she sings.

The harpist, or muse (changi 1g, 1m), is this archetypal Venus (nahid-e changi in the moghanni-nama, Divan; zohra-ye changi; chang-e zohra), playing the instrument by holding one edge of the frame to her chest and plucking the strings with her fingers (“claws” = chang).

Maraghi describes the chang as a well-known instrument (mashhur), typically with 24 strings. By the 16th century this instrument is said to have become obsolete, but it apparently retained its trigonal shape through the time of Hafez, who compares it to a person bent with age (chang-e khamida-qamat), and a sage elder whose

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Top German Iranologist Heidemarie Koch dies at 79

TEHRAN – Prominent German Iranologist Heidemarie Koch, who wrote over 20 great books and numerous articles about ancient Iran, has passed away at the age of 79.

Arkeolojik Haber, a Turkish website for archaeological news, made the announcement on Friday in a report that did not mention any details about the cause of her death.

Koch studied mathematics as her major between 1963 and 1966. Subsequently, she worked as a teacher until 1972 in Hannover.

In 1972, she started Iranian studies at the University of Gottingen and received her doctorate in 1976. The topic of her dissertation under Walther Hinz was “Religious Conditions under Darius I with Reference to the Elamite Tablets of Persepolis”.

Koch took as her minor subjects classical archaeology, Byzantine art history and Christian archaeology.

From 1977 to 1986, she was employed by the Department of Iranian Studies and Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Gottingen.

In 1986, at the University of Marburg, she worked on the labor administration and the economy in

of Iranian studies in the context of ancient history at the University of Marburg.

Her main subject areas were the Persian history and Persian languages of the pre-Islamic period. She laid special emphasis on the cultural and economic history, management and religion.

She utilized both written sources and archaeological remains. A second

research focus was the exploration of Elam and its neighboring regions, especially in terms of the influences that they exerted on the subsequent Persian Empire.

She was married to the Christian archaeologist Guntram Koch.

The Persian literary monthly Bokhara honored Heidemarie for her lifetime achievements during a ceremony at the Mahmud Afshar Foundation in Tehran in 2014.

Her spouse, and many Iranian scholars including Hekmatollah Mollasalehi and Jaleh Amuzgar, attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Heidemarie said that she was a teacher of mathematics but became familiar with archeology when she married Guntram, who was studying archaeology at university.

Her interest in archaeology led her to study in that field and then she learned Persian and began her studies about Iran.

“It took a long time for me to travel to Iran and see Persepolis. When I was asked if what I saw was like what I read about Iran, I was happy to say yes. I visited Persepolis several times afterwards, yet still I like it,” she added.

A file photo shows Heidemarie Koch smiling during a ceremony held in Tehran on May 29, 2014, to honor the German Iranologist Archaeologist Guntram Koch, who is Heidemarie's husband, is also seen in the photo. (ISNA/Borna Qasemi)

House of Lucie opens Iranian branch in Kashan

A poster for Iranian photographer Mehrdad Oskui's exhibition at the House of Lucie in Kashan.

TEHRAN – House of Lucie, a major New York-based photography exhibition venue, opened a branch in the central Iranian city of Kashan on Thursday.

The branch has been set up in a Qajar-era house, which has been restored to host photography events hereafter.

The historical house embraces three yards, 30 rooms and two wind towers, a trademark of

Iranian architecture in cities located in the desert region.

The house came on stream with opening two exhibitions showcasing works by Italian photographer Yvonne De Rosa and Iranian photographer Mehrdad Oskui, who is most famous for his documentary films.

The Kashan branch of the house has been set up by Hassan and Hossein Roshanbakht with contributions from the U.S.-based Iranian curator Hossein Farmani, who established the House of Lucie in 2016 to put works by the Lucie Awards honorees on view.

Established by the Lucie Foundation in 2003, the Lucie Awards ceremony is an annual gala that celebrates master photographers and their contributions to the field of photography.

So far, over 160 photographers, including Henri Cartier Bresson, Mary Ellen Mark, Steve McCurry, Annie Leibovitz, Gordon Parks,

Sebastiao Salgado, Lillian Bassman, Lord Snowdon, Dawood Bey, Tsuneko Sasamoto and Peter Magubane, have received the award.

The Roshanbakht brothers spent about two years converting the dilapidated house into an art exhibition facility. In the restoration process, they enhanced the historical house with some modern architectural elements, which did not detract from the authenticity of the house.

Farmani has previously has established the Hasht Cheshmeh Art Space and Steve House, a photographer's haunt, in Kashan in collaboration with the Roshanbakht brothers.

The Lucie Foundation also grants the Lucie Photo Book Prize. This program is a juried competition open to a diversity of book submissions from traditionally published to prototypes, hand-made books to zines. The awards are presented to photographers, editors, curators or publishers in the two categories of traditional and independent.

Istanbul cultural center to host Iranian Film Week

TEHRAN – The Ali Emiri Efendi Cultural Center in Istanbul, Turkey, will be playing host to an Iranian Film Week beginning on February 4.

Eight films, including director Reza Mirkarimi's “As Simple as That” and “A Cube of Sugar”, will be screened during the program organized by the Iranian cultural attaché in Istanbul to celebrate the anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

“As Simple as That” depicts a day in the life of Tahereh, a devoted housewife, a helpful neighbor and an attentive person, who feels that she is unnoticed by everybody especially by her own family. This is a film about the inner emotions of a simple Iranian woman.

The story of “A Cube of Sugar” takes place in an old house in an old city in Iran. Because of the wedding of the youngest sister, Pasandide,

Merila Zarei and Saman Saffari act in a scene from “Track 143” by Narges Abyar.

all of her sisters come to their old house to help their mother.

Director Maziar Miri's acclaimed drama “The Painting Pool” and “Sara and Aida” are other highlights of the program.

“The Painting Pool” is about Maryam and Reza, a couple who are different from other people. It's not just a simple difference, but a very big difference. They must try to prove to others they have

solved the big difference with the miracle of love.

Sara and Ayda are two intimate friends. When the reputation of one of them is in danger they both try to help resolve the situation. But how far will they go to support each other?

The program also features “Track 143” directed and written by Narges Abyar.

Iranian bookstores unfold story of Ursula Dubosarsky's “Too Many Elephants in This House”

TEHRAN – “Too Many Elephants in This House” by Australian children's book writer Ursula Dubosarsky was published in Persian.

Robabeh Nasiri-Amini is the translator of the book released on Saturday by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA - Kanoon) with its original illustrations by Dubosarsky's compatriot Andrew Joyner.

This delightfully energetic story takes children to Eric's house, where there are too many elephants – in the living room, in the kitchen, in the bathroom, even in his bedroom!

The elephants take up a lot of space, but Eric loves every one of them. So when his mum says they have to go, Eric comes up with a clever

solution to a very BIG problem.

Dubosarsky is widely regarded as one of the most talented and original writers in Australia today.

She is the author of over 40 books for children and young adults, which have won a number of national prizes, including the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Premier's Literary Awards.

Alongside her fiction for older children, Ursula has a wonderful talent for picture books such as the highly popular “The Terrible Plop” and “Too Many Elephants in This House”, which have both been adapted as successful stage productions.

She has also written the non-fiction “Word Spy” books about the English language, both of

A copy of the Persian edition of “Too Many Elephants in This House” by Ursula Dubosarsky. (Kanoon)

which also won major national awards.

Ursula has a Ph.D. in English literature from Macquarie University and lives in Sydney with her family.