

This American Life: No Time to Knock

▶ Page 2

Report



UAE and Israel expanding “security cooperation”

The Wall Street Journal has reported that Israel and the United Arab Emirates are expanding both their security and intelligence cooperation following an increase in attacks carried out by Yemen's armed forces against targets in the UAE.

The newspaper says, according to people familiar with the sensitive matter, that a year after Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv signed an agreement to normalize diplomatic relations, the two sides are discussing new ways to “protect the Emirates bordering the Persian Gulf, including the sale of advanced Israeli air defense systems”

According to the newspaper, the UAE's public acceptance of Israeli military and intelligence support poses a conundrum for Abu Dhabi, as the Emirates aspires to “deepen relations with its new partner without antagonizing Tehran.”

The report says the UAE has “privately welcomed the Israeli offers of military aid as it tries to counter a string of missile and drone attacks in recent weeks”.

It remains unclear if an agreement over installing Israeli air defenses in the UAE has been reached or is close. The newspaper also cites its sources as saying “Israel isn't expected to offer the UAE the crown jewel of its air defenses its Iron Dome system”.

Israeli and Emirati officials have declined to comment.

Cooperation between Israel and the UAE has slowly progressed since the Emirates and the Israeli regime signed a U.S.-backed agreement, the so-called Abraham Accords, in August 2020 to establish official relations for the first time. ▶ Page 5

Interview



U.S. cementing China-Russia partnership through war hysteria: Indian professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A leading Indian academic says that America is helping cement the partnership between its foes by its hostile attitudes towards China and Russia.

“By creating war hysteria over Ukraine and Taiwan and building military alliances like Quad and AUKUS, the U.S. has helped cement the partnership between China and Russia,” Ashok Swain tells the Tehran Times.

Swain, professor of peace and conflict research at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, points to American intelligence assessment that “lists the alignment between China and Russia as the biggest security threat to the U.S. But, instead of diplomatically trying to divide the two, the U.S. is doing everything to make their alliance stronger.”

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you see the escalation of conflict between the U.S. and Russia over Ukraine? Is it media hype or something else?

Ukraine has become the flashpoint between the U.S. and Russia for some years now. Russia sees the NATO enlargement to become almost double of its size after the end of the Cold War with grave suspicion and great resentment. The Russian president has put a redline in Ukraine. ▶ Page 5

U.S. Congress plot against Lebanon revealed

© The New York Times



TEHRAN – While Lebanon is still struggling to get over the ramifications of a deadly 2020 blast at Beirut Port, some people on Capitol Hill are busy drawing up plans to further exacerbate the situation in the country.

Lebanon is in bad shape economically and its people are grappling with day-to-day hardships to make ends meet regardless of their religion or political persuasions. But this does not seem enough for some U.S. congressmen to refrain from fanning the flames

of political divisions in Lebanon at a delicate moment.

Ever since the 2020 destructive explosion that wreaked huge damage on the port of Beirut and the surrounding districts, ▶ Page 3

Iran FM: U.S. has not set preconditions in Vienna talks

TEHRAN — Iran's foreign minister said on Sunday that his country is not seeking an interim agreement, adding that the United States has not raised anything as a pre-requisite in the Vienna talks.

“We did not receive any preconditions from the United States,” Hossein Amir Abdollahian reiterated.

The foreign minister stated that the negotiations are basically a process in which the issue of preconditions is not raised.

“As long as we are negotiating, there is no issue as a precondition. We did not receive a text or a proposal within the framework of a precondition, and these negotiations are definitely based on expert views and agree-

ments that would reach a final conclusion,” the top diplomat remarked.

He added, “A good agreement will be in line with the interests of our nation and country.”

He went on to say that actions taken on paper could be good moves, but Iran seeks real actions from the American side. ▶ Page 2

Hassan Yazdani focuses on 2024 Olympics

TEHRAN – Freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani, known ‘The Greatest’, has denied the rumors that he is going to say goodbye to the sport. Yazdani said he is focusing on 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

The media reports suggest that Yazdani will retire from wrestling but the Olympic gold medal winner says he will compete at the Paris Games.

“I will wrestle as soon as I can. I want to participate at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris,” Yazdani said.

The 27-year-old wrestler won a gold medal in the 74kg of the 2016 Olympic Games but failed to win back-to-back gold after losing to American wrestler David Taylor 4-3 in Tokyo 2020.

Several months later, Yazdani earned a sensational 6-2 win in the 86kg final over Taylor in the 2021 Wrestling World Championships in Oslo, Norway. ▶ Page 3



© IRNA / Amin Jalali

Raisi orders 48 major industrial projects worth \$17b to begin

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday ordered the beginning of 48 major industrial projects with a total investment of \$17 billion across the country, through videoconferencing, IRNA reported. ▶ Page 4

Over a million Afghans have migrated to Iran in 4 months: report

TEHRAN – From October through the end of January, more than a million Afghans have set off down one of two major migration routes into Iran, IRNA reported citing migration researchers quoted by The New York Times.

According to the report which was published on February 2, aid organizations estimate that around 4,000 to 5,000 people are

crossing into Iran each day.

Many fled through Nimruz, a remote corner of southwest Afghanistan wedged between the borders of Iran and Pakistan, the report added.

Even before the Taliban takeover, Afghans accounted for the second-highest number of asylum claims in Europe, after Syria, and

one of the world's largest populations of refugees and asylum seekers — around 3 million people — most of whom live in Iran and Pakistan.

Iran is hosting the world's fourth-largest refugee community. The country has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, which mainly came from ▶ Page 7

From Inside



- Senior MP: Americans first proposed interim nuclear agreement **P2**
- Iran president congratulates Sri Lanka on Independence Day **P3**
- Iran FM, EU foreign policy chief discuss Vienna talks **P3**
- Ahvaz Oil Show hosting 210 exhibitors **P4**
- TCCIMA hosts online conference on Iran-India trade **P4**
- Operation to construct over 209,000 units of National Housing Movement commenced **P4**
- Conference discusses qanat as ‘enduring heritage of Iranians’ **P6**
- Tehran museum to host Fajr crafts festival **P6**
- Iranian researchers win COMSTech Award 2021 **P7**
- Webometrics lists 694 Iranian institutions as top-ranking **P7**
- Iranian photographers honored at Mahfuz Ullah photo contest in Bangladesh **P8**
- “Killing the Eunuch Khan” wins award at Slamdance Film Festival **P8**

Interview



Riyadh presses Lebanon economically to isolate Hezbollah: professor

By Zahra Samimi

TEHRAN – Jamal Wakim, a professor at the Lebanese University (LU), says that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. are putting economic pressure on Lebanon to undercut Hezbollah.

“Saudi Arabia wants to exert pressure on Hezbollah so they thought that exerting pressure on the Lebanese economy would help them achieve their political objective by isolating Hezbollah,” Wakim tells the Tehran Times.

“As the U.S. could not get rid of Hezbollah militarily, it thought of doing so by exerting economic pressure on the Lebanese economy in order to incite the whole population against Hezbollah,” he adds.

As the Lebanese crisis deepens, lines for fuel grow and food and medicine are scarce.

Lebanon is going through a financial crisis that the World Bank has said could rank among the world's three worst since the mid-1800s in terms of its effect on living standards.

Following is the text of the interview with Jamal Wakim about the roots of the economic crisis in Lebanon:

What is the main reason for Lebanon's economic crisis?

The main reason for the economic crisis in Lebanon is that after the Civil War the Lebanese economy was restructured to be solely dependent on the tertiary sector and the financial sector and on marginalizing the productive sectors, i.e. agriculture and industry. ▶ Page 5

Movie on assassination of nuclear scientist Dariush Rezaiejad premieres at Fajr

TEHRAN – “Henas”, a drama about the assassination of nuclear scientist Dariush Rezaiejad, premiered at the 40th Fajr Film Festival on Saturday.

35-year-old Rezaiejad was shot dead by Mossad gunmen before the eyes of his wife and little girl in front of his house in Tehran in July 2011. The movie portrays the terrorist attack through the eyes of his wife.

“We never intended to make a spy drama,” director Hossein Darabi said in a press conference after the premiere of the film.

“Due to the fact that the subject is a matter of great security sensitivity, we wanted to portray the feelings of the wife in that situation,” he added.

He noted that the story of the film has been written based on Rezaiejad's life story and has its roots in reality. ▶ Page 8

This American Life: No Time to Knock

TEHRAN— Hundreds of protesters rallied in downtown Minneapolis on Saturday to protest the police shooting of Amir Locke, a 22-year-old Black man who was shot to death by officers during a no-knock warrant raid on Wednesday.

Protesters gathered outside the Hennepin County Government Center, demanding the resignation of Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey (D), according to CBS Minnesota. They also demanded that Minneapolis police officer Mark Hanneman, who fatally shot Locke, be fired and prosecuted.

Crowds of people gathered and chanted “Amir Locke!” while holding signs with his name written on them, according to videos posted on Twitter. Protesters marched in the streets, causing traffic to back up on several roadways.

Locke was sleeping in an apartment in downtown Minneapolis when the police department’s SWAT squad entered the room about 6:48 a.m., shouting “Police!” and “Get on the ground!” for the St. Paul Police Department’s homicide unit.

Locke was draped in a white blanket as cops converged on his position on the couch, according to body-worn camera footage released on Thursday. Locke then stood up and was shot many times.

The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) stated it was investigating the event and will look into the no-knock warrant rules.

According to a news release, Locke had a weapon pointed at the policemen when they entered. The department also published a video image of a firearm beside his body.

The shooting comes after George Floyd was murdered by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in 2020, causing nationwide outrage. Locke’s killing grabbed the attention of national civil rights lawyer Ben Crump, who held a press conference on Friday with Locke’s parents.

During the news conference, Locke’s parents, Andre Locke and Karen Wells, denounced the no-knock raid and said the police department had “executed” their son.

“My kid Amir was an entrepreneur,” Andre Locke is supposed to have claimed. “He liked learning and asking questions, and he liked the idea of being a part of the music industry.”

“My kid was executed on 2/2 of 22,” stated Wells. “And now his hopes are shattered.”

Following the event, Frey placed a moratorium on no-knock warrants and committed to evaluate the warrant policy with experts who assisted in the creation of Breonna’s Law, which banned the use of no-knock warrants in Kentucky. The law was named after Breonna Taylor, who was shot and murdered by police officers during a no-knock raid in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2020.

“Whatever information emerges, it will not change the fact that Amir Locke’s life was cut short,” Frey said in a statement.

The no-knock warrant appears to have been

signed by the judge who prosecuted Derek Chauvin, the cop who killed Floyd.

According to a source who spoke to KARE 11, a local news outlet in Minneapolis, Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill approved the no-knock warrant that resulted in Minneapolis police shooting and killing Amir Locke.

Judge Cahill rose to fame as he presided over the murder trial of Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer who was eventually convicted of murdering George Floyd.

According to Matt Lehman, a spokesperson for Hennepin County Courts, “Judge Cahill cannot comment on this particular warrant or any warrant he signs since the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial comment in any pending or imminent matter.”

While Minneapolis police have not stated why they chose a no-knock warrant the morning Locke was shot, court documents show that a man who resided in the apartment Locke was visiting had previously threatened police.

According to a law enforcement source who spoke to KARE 11 investigative reporter A.J. Lagoe, the warrant that led in Locke’s death was not intended to be a no-knock warrant. When Minneapolis police were asked to assist St. Paul police in carrying out the warrant, the MPD urged that the warrant be altered so that it could be carried out without first knocking.

Following the murder of George Floyd, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey instituted a policy prohibiting the use of no-knock warrants, which his campaign referred to as a “ban.” In practice, however, Minneapolis cops were still allowed to enter without knocking if they declared themselves before crossing the threshold of the residence they were approaching.

Following the killing of Amir Locke, Frey declared a ban on no-knock warrants in the city.

“I’m issuing a moratorium on both the request and execution of such warrants in Minneapolis to preserve the safety of both the public and officers until a new policy is created,” Frey said in a statement.

Systemic racism, combined with unjustified police violence, has generated a lot of difficulties for the United States, which is now battling to keep the people quiet.

With the poverty rate growing, particularly among Black Americans, people have been deprived of their most basic right: the right to life.

“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

What you just read was the Fourth Amendment of the United States’ constitution. Do Black Americans feel secure in their homes now?

Iran FM: U.S. has not set preconditions in Vienna talks

From page 1 ► President Joe Biden’s administration on Friday restored sanctions waivers to Iran to allow international nuclear cooperation projects, as indirect American-Iranian talks on reviving the 2015 international nuclear deal with Tehran enter the final stretch, according to Reuters.

“In our opinion, any executive order or action that restores the sanctions imposed after the withdrawal of the Americans from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA) and the lifting of sanctions is considered a good move,” Amir Abdollahian noted.

However, according to the foreign minister, Iran is observing what is happening on the ground.

“It is important for us to see the practical performance of Americans in lifting sanctions in a tangible and objective way. What matters to us is the outcome of the talks we are pursuing in Vienna and the agreement that will be reached,” he asserted.

The chief diplomat noted that the Americans are sending messages through the EU coordinator, Enrique Mora, saying that they are showing goodwill.

“Of course, the Americans are sending repeated messages through some intermediaries, claiming that they are in good faith,” he said.

He added so far Iran has not seen any serious initiative from the Americans in the negotiation process.

Amir Abdollahian noted that initiatives must be tangible and visible. “In our view, some of the initiatives should be visible in the P4+1 talks and through the non-papers exchanged between us and the Americans through the European Union, or we should see the lifting of some of the sanctions in practice.”

The practical actions of the United States are the criterion for Iran, he asserted.

In response to some speculations about a two-year interim agreement, Amir Abdollahian reiterated that Iran is looking for a “good and not temporary agreement.”

“We are looking for a good agreement and we are not looking for a temporary and limited agreement,” he concluded.

Senior MP: Americans first proposed interim nuclear agreement

TEHRAN — The Iranian parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee chief has said that there is no need for direct talks with the United States in Vienna.

Vahid Jalalzadeh said many people think that a new nuclear deal is being formed, but this is not the case.

“The Islamic Republic considers itself bound by the obligations of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA) and believes that the other side should also be bound by the JCPOA obligations. This is what we are fighting for,” Jalalzadeh explained, IRNA reported on Sunday.

The senior legislator continued by saying that Iran increased its nuclear capabilities in several stages after the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA.

According to the MP, if an agreement is reached in the negotiations in Vienna, Iran will also return to its JCPOA commitments.

“Iran is not satisfied with anything less or more than the JCPOA. The United States is raising the issue of some commitments beyond the JCPOA, and Iran’s response is that we will not back down from our demand,” he added.

Negotiations are underway to lift sanctions based on the terms of the JCPOA as well as those slapped by Donald Trump after he unilaterally quit the multilateral agreement in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Under Trump, the label of some nuclear sanctions was changed to create obstacles for next U.S. administration to lift sanctions.

“Some companies were sanctioned for their nuclear activities, but Trump changed their sanction labels to sanctions for human rights and terrorism. The move prompted the current U.S. administration to declare that the sanctions were not nuclear and therefore could not be lifted. Iran declares that these sanctions are not human rights sanctions, but their label have changed and this has created problems” in the path to revive the JCPOA, he explained.

Jalalzadeh added the other side is interested in negotiating on nuclear, human rights and regional issues, but Iran negotiates only on nuclear related issues.

Raisi congratulates Italian president on re-election

TEHRAN— In a message on Saturday, President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran congratulated Sergio Mattarella on his re-election as the Italian president.

The text of the president’s message is as follows:



“The Islamic Republic always seeks to destroy the structure of sanctions, but in Vienna we seek to lift the sanctions that were lifted in 2015 in accordance with the JCPOA. In the Vienna talks, we seek to restore Iran’s rights under the 2015 nuclear deal, the obligations of the Islamic Republic and the obligations of the other side,” the MP added.

“Vienna talks are punitive for Americans”

According to the senior legislator, the Vienna negotiations are “punitive talks” for the United States as Iran has refused to talk directly with the Americans.

“We have kept the United States behind the doors of the negotiation room in the Vienna talks. The U.S. presence in the Vienna talks is subject to Iran’s permission,” he explained.

He added that the Vienna talks, which began during the Rouhani administration, are punitive talks in which the Islamic Republic declares that the United States is an “undesirable” member of the JCPOA.

He added, “The U.S. has left the deal, is a liar and violates the obligations. Verification is defined in this regard.”

He assessed the foreign ministry’s decision not to have direct negotiations with the United States as “correct,” saying that Iran is currently negotiating with the United States through intermediaries and informal writings.

However, he added, intermediaries naturally consider their own interests.

“The European countries that mediate these negotiations also consider their own interests. The Europeans believe that sanctions are not ours, talk to the United States, but nuclear issues belong to us, because Iran’s nuclear capabilities

overshadow Europe,” Jalalzadeh noted.

He said based on his views in such circumstances there is no need to directly negotiate with the United States.

The senior MP added that nothing if left of the JCPOA.

“Both sides are already standing at the starting point. Iran has increased its peaceful nuclear capabilities, the (parliamentary) Law of Strategic Actions to Lift Sanctions has upgraded Iran’s nuclear capabilities, and now there is nothing left of the JCPOA signed in 2015. The United States and Europe have not lived up to their commitments from the beginning,” he explained.

Jalalzadeh added that the parliament has not included the United States in the text of the parliamentary ratification to lift sanction.

“Our addressees in this law have been Britain, China, Russia, France and Germany, most of which have failed to fulfill their obligations,” he pointed out.

Regarding the U.S. officials’ remarks about the JCPOA, the senior legislator noted, “The American side declares that if we do not reach an agreement in a timespan, the JCPOA will lose its status, and for us, it has already lost its status.”

Regarding Russia and China’s similar positions on Iran, Jalalzadeh said that the behavior of China and Russia in the recent negotiations has been much more constructive.

“I read the reports. In addition, in the meetings we have with the negotiators at the foreign ministry, the assessment is that China and Russia have been more constructive in the negotiations than before,” he added.

According to the parliamentary committee chief, the second point

is the behavior that Europe and the United States have shown against China and Russia.

“At the moment China and Russia are under the sanctions of Europe and the United States. This has been influential in the proximity of China and Russia to Iran,” he commented.

He then went on to talk about the new Iranian government’s “Look to the East” policy, saying, “Many of Iran’s neighbors and strategic allies complain that whenever Iran sees the smiles of the Europeans, it forgets its allies. After the signing of the JCPOA, Iran’s relationship with the East was damaged. We hope that in the new government, Iran’s relations with the East, Africa, Latin America and neighboring countries will be improved. In these countries, there are excellent grounds for increasing economic, trade, political and cultural relations.”

Jalalzadeh went on to reveal that the idea of a step-by-step and interim agreement was proposed by the Americans during the first six round of negotiations which was held during the time that Abbas Araqchi was Iran’s lead negotiator.

“At the time that Araqchi was leading the negotiations, the Americans, when they saw Iran’s firm and serious position for a permanent agreement and the lifting of sanctions, and believed that this agreement was not within reach, proposed an interim or step-by-step agreement,” he outlined.

The legislator then went on to say that according to the proposal suggested by the Americans, Iran would shut down some key nuclear activities and in return the United States would agree to suspend sanctions on oil sales.

“Iran did not accept such an offer because it would make the economy conditional and would tie it to the negotiations. This proposal was not accepted by the previous government and the current government,” he elaborated.

Jalalzadeh concluded his remarks by saying that the Americans were the first to propose an interim agreement.

“Iran is not looking for an interim agreement but for a permanent one. The interim agreement has been removed from the negotiations table in Vienna,” he asserted.

as well as recalling the long history of political, economic and cultural relations, I hope that the two countries could expand their relations in various areas more and more.

I ask God Almighty for your health and success, and for the well-being of the people of the Italian Republic.



U.S. Congress plot against Lebanon revealed

From Page 1 ▶ the economic situation in Lebanon has been steadily deteriorating, with the country's lira currency significantly losing its value against the U.S. dollar. Many gas stations and power stations ran out of fuel needed to power Lebanese cars and light homes.

The explosion led to a political vacuum in Lebanon after Hassan Diab, who assumed premiership in late 2019 by virtue of consensus among Lebanon's main religiopolitical factions including Hezbollah, resigned. Diab remained in power as caretaker prime minister for about 13 months, highlighting the challenges of forming government in a country where political factions are divided along sectarian lines and pulling in different directions. Diab sought to strike a balance and render services to the Lebanese people without prioritizing foreign pressure to undermine certain groups that are part and parcel of Lebanon's political system.

Saad Hariri sought to form a government but he was given the cold shoulder due to a perception in some regional and transregional countries that he was unable to undertake reforms long demanded by these



countries. And the main target of reforms is Hezbollah. In other words, Hariri was under pressure to form a government bent on weakening Hezbollah. Hariri simply withdrew and then went into self-exile.

But external pressures continued unabated even after Lebanese leaders across the political spectrum formed a new government led by veteran politician Najib Mikati.

Mikati has been trying to improve the economic situation in the country. But he is facing daunting challenges in this regard. Because Lebanon is resource-poor and relies, to large

extent, on foreign aid to shore up its economy. To overcome economic woes, Lebanon needs foreign loans. The Mikati administration has formally begun negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to reportedly take out a \$4 billion loan.

The loan is part of a broader reform plan that aims to improve the economic situation. But it has been conditioned on the Lebanese government undertaking painful economic reforms and more importantly making a pledge to undermine Hezbollah.

The Tehran Times has learned

that Senator James Lankford is spearheading efforts at the U.S. Congress to draw up some legislation on the situation in Lebanon that would direct the U.S. administration to refrain from supporting IMF assistance until needed reforms are made.

The proposed bill also directs the U.S. to support incremental IMF assistance to Lebanon once reforms are made.

In addition, the bill calls on the U.S. to impose sanctions on Lebanese leaders thought to be obstructing reforms.

It goes without saying that reforms here mean measures against Hezbollah, which has long been in the crosshairs of the U.S. On the surface, the bill seeks to ensure stability in Lebanon. But deep down, it may well end up destabilizing Lebanon by pitting the Lebanese against each other.

The draft prepared by Senator Lankford lays out an array of measures to be taken by the U.S. administration in regards to Lebanon. The Tehran Times will shine a spotlight on the main contours of Lankford's bill in the coming days.

SPORTS

Hassan Yazdani focuses on 2024 Olympics

From Page 1 ▶ “I lost to Taylor in Tokyo in the final moments of the final but I trained hard and defeated the strong American wrestler in Oslo. I am very happy since I made my nation happy,” Yazdani said.

“I want to take part in 2024 Olympics but at the moment I am concentrating on 2022 Wrestling World Championships in Serbia and 2022 Asian Games in China,” he added.

Iran to host 2022 Asian Men’s Club Volleyball C’ship

TEHRAN – Iran will host 22nd edition of the Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship.

The competition will most likely take place in Urmia, northwest of Iran.

The competition will be held from May 15 to 2 with participation of 11 teams.

Iran Super League champions and a team from the host city will represent Iran in the competition.

Iran have previously hosted the competition three times in 2002, 2004 and 2013.

Foolad Sirjan are defending champions.

The Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship, previously the AVC Cup Men’s Club Tournament (between 1999–2002), is an annual continental club volleyball competition organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC), the sport’s continental governing body. The competition was first contested in 1999 in China. It was not held in 2003 and 2020 due to 2002–2004 SARS outbreak and COVID-19 pandemic respectively.

The winners of the Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship qualify for the FIVB Volleyball Men’s Club World Championship.

Paykan Tehran hold the record for most victories, winning the competition seven times. Teams from Iran have won the tournament 15 times out of 21 editions, the most for any nation.

Esteghlal goalkeeper Mazaheri joins Sepahan

TEHRAN – Esteghlal goalkeeper Mohammad Rashid Mazaheri joined Sepahan football team on Saturday.

Mazaheri has penned a one-and-a-half-year deal with the Isfahan-based football club.

Sepahan signed Christopher Knett as a replacement for Payam Niazmand at the beginning of the season but Austrian custodian failed to meet the expectations.

Sepahan are favorites to win the Iran Professional League (IPL) in the 2021-22 season.

Iranian coach Mozafar hails Kuwaiti futsal league

TEHRAN – Shahrzad Mozafar, who works as coach in Kuwait futsal league, praised the Persian Gulf’s league.

Mozafar, herself a trailblazer in women’s football, works as head coach of Kuwait futsal team.

“From the development of Kuwaiti players to the recruitment of skilled professional players, I witnessed improvements in both

the technical and tactical aspects of the league.

“The final match day was a glorious occasion with the presence fans who filled the hall. If we continue along this path, Kuwait will have one of the best women’s leagues in Asia.”

Iraqi midfielder Hasan Abdulkareem on Sepahan’s radar

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club have reportedly reached an agreement with Iraqi midfielder Hasan Abdulkareem.

The 23-year-old player represented Iraq against Iran in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier in Tehran, where Iraq suffered a 1-0 loss.

Abdulkareem currently plays in Iraqi football club Al-Karkh.

Persepolis, who are going to win the Iran league for the sixth time in row, had already showed an interest in signing the player.

Eredivisie: Feyenoord beat Sparta as Jahanbakhsh scores

TEHRAN – Feyenoord hammered Sparta Rotterdam 4-0 in the Dutch Eredivisie on Sunday.

Orkun Kokcu opened scoring for Feyenoord on four minutes before Iranian winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh made it 2-0 in the 11th minute.

Five minutes into the second half, Gus Til got Feyenoord’s third and also got their fourth in the 70th minute.

Feyenoord sit third in the table, four points behind leaders Ajax.

The defeat to Feyenoord leaves Sparta Rotterdam second from bottom in the 18-team league table on 14 points.

China reclaim Asian crown in a tournament of shocks

TEHRAN – China PR are once again queens of their continent after producing a remarkable comeback to beat Korea Republic 3-2 in the final of the AFC Women’s Asian Cup.

The final victory – achieved by overturning a 2-0 half-time deficit – capped a stunning campaign from the Steel Roses, who also shocked Japan en route to reclaiming a trophy they had last won in 2006.

Having dominated the early editions of this competition, China’s record overall tally of Asian titles now stands at nine – three times that of any other nation.

Crestfallen Korea Republic, who had never reached the final prior to this year, can also be proud at having set new standards in India – and of securing a spot at next year’s FIFA Women’s World Cup. The Taegeuk Nangja and their final conquerors will be joined at those global finals by Japan and a duo of debutantes in the Philippines and Vietnam, while Australia – despite suffering a shock quarter-final exit – are assured of their place as co-hosts.

That unexpected reverse for the Matildas was typical of a tournament in which shocks abounded, with Japan – winners of the previous two editions – another of its victims. With plenty from India to reflect on, we look at the stars and storylines that dominated this Asian Cup.

Iran FM, EU foreign policy chief discuss Vienna talks

TEHRAN – The European Union foreign policy chief spoke over the phone on Saturday with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian to discuss situation around the talks in Vienna aimed at reviving a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers.

Josep Borrell, the lead coordinator of the Vienna negotiations, said the talks are at a critical juncture. The EU foreign policy chief added that all sides are expected to come to Vienna with a clear agenda and with the aim of reaching a deal and should be ready for adopting political decisions, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

In the telephone conversation, Amir Abdollahian also thanked Borrell, Enrique Mora and the EU for their efforts to coordinate the talks in Vienna. The Iranian foreign minister said since the previous round of the talks, there have been some positive developments in the negotiations but they fall short of meeting Iran’s expectations.

“We are decisively and explicitly after a good deal, but we also insist on safeguarding our red lines and national interests with the same level of decisiveness and explicitness,” the top Iranian diplomat stressed.

Elsewhere in his comments, Amir Abdollahian said the nuclear deal – JCPOA – has unfortunately provided no economic benefits for Iran in recent years. The Iranian foreign minister added, “We will reach a good deal only if it realizes our economic interests sustainably and reliably.”

At the end, Amir Abdollahian once again underlined that Iran is determined to reach a good deal and to this end, it will remain in constant and close contact with the EU as the coordinator of the JCPOA.

On Sunday, the Iranian foreign minister also said Tehran is seeking a good agreement in Vienna. “We did not receive any preconditions from the American side. Negotiations are based

on expert views and agreements, the end result of which is to reach a good agreement and ensure the interests of the country,” he said.

He added, “The Americans send us repeated messages through some intermediaries claiming that we have good intentions, but we have not seen any serious and significant initiative on the part of the Americans in the current process of negotiations.”

The chief diplomat noted, “We are looking for a good agreement and we are not looking for an interim and limited agreement.”

During a visit to the shrine of Imam Khomeini on Saturday, the foreign minister also underlined the need to get guarantees in case a deal is made in Vienna.

He reiterated that Iran is “serious” about getting guarantees in the Vienna nuclear talks that the U.S. won’t renege again on its commitments.

Amir Abdollahian described the issue of getting guarantees as “a basic” one and said that Iran’s negotiating delegation in Vienna is seriously seeking to get “tangible guarantees” and bring the Western side back to compliance with the terms of the JCPOA.

He also said that Iran has partly succeeded in securing some economic and political guarantees.

“What the Iranian negotiating team is seeking at all levels is political, legal and economic, in parts of which agreements have been reached, but still the Iranian negotiating team is serious about taking a tangible guarantee from the Western side,” he said, according to state news agency IRNA.

He added, “We have made it clear to the American side, which conveys messages through intermediaries these days, that they must show their good faith in action. Goodwill in practice, in our view, is something tangible happening on the ground.”

Iran president congratulates Sri Lanka on Independence Day

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has sent a message to his Sri Lankan counterpart Gotabaya Rajapaksa to congratulate him on Independence Day of Sri Lanka.

“I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to Your Excellency and the people of your country on the independence anniversary and the national day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,” Raisi said in the message.

In his message, Ayatollah Raisi also expressed hope that cooperation between the two countries would expand in various fields.

He added, “I hope that in line with the existing political will

between the leaders of the two countries, friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries in various fields and in the mutual interests of the two nations will expand.”

The Iranian president concluded his message by saying, “I wish Your Excellency health and success, and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka prosperity and felicity.”

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian had sent a congratulatory message to his Sri Lankan counterpart to felicitate him on the occasion of the anniversary of Sri Lanka’s independence.

Amir Abdollahian sent the message to G. L. Pieris,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, cordially congratulating him, the Sri Lankan government and the friendly nation on the anniversary of the country’s independence.

“Given the close and friendly relations between the two nations and the existence of favorable grounds for bilateral cooperation in various fields, I am confident that in the future we will witness, further strengthening of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, regionally and internationally,” Amir Abdollahian’s message said.

The Iranian president also

sent a similar message to his Italian counterpart on his re-election.

“I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to Your Excellency on your re-election as the President of Italy. While emphasizing the friendly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Italian Republic, as well as emphasizing the long history of political, economic and cultural relations, I hope that the two countries’ interactions would further expand in bilateral, international and regional fields based on various potentials for cooperation and mutual respect through joint efforts,” Raisi told the Italian president.

Raisi orders 48 major industrial projects worth \$17b to begin



From page 1 ► As reported, the mentioned projects are going to be implemented in 27 cities of 13 different provinces.

A consortium comprised of Golgozar Mining and Industrial Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC), Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, Mines and Metals Development Investment Company (MMDIC), and Parsian Oil and Gas Development Company (POGDC) known as "Iran's Progress Promoters Group" is going to provide the funding for the mentioned projects.

When fully operational, the said projects are expected to produce 54 million tons of minerals, metals and petroleum products, bringing the country \$20 billion of annual revenue while creating 21,000 direct jobs and 64,000 indirect

jobs.

The memorandums of understanding related to the mentioned projects were also signed by the managing directors of the companies, that will make investment and implement the projects, in the presence of the president.

The ceremony to launch the major industrial projects, attended by Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, and Oil Minister Javad Oji, was held in the sixth day of the Ten-Day Dawn (February 1-11), which marks the anniversary of the victory of Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Every year, during the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, numerous infrastructure projects are inaugurated or commenced to mark the development of the country after the revolution.

Operation to construct over 209,000 units of National Housing Movement commenced



TEHRAN – The operations for the construction of 209,212 residential units of National Housing Movement began on Sunday.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operations and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

Following the government's public call for the registration of people needing affordable housing units under the framework of a new

program called the National Housing Movement, so far 2.387 million people have registered in this program.

The registration for the first phase of the program ends on January 5, and the final number of applicants is expected to exceed the above-mentioned figure.

After the National Housing Action Plan, the National Housing Movement is the government's second major program for providing affordable housing units to low-income classes.

As reported, the construction of 750,000 such housing units is underway across the country under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

Since the beginning of the National Housing Action Plan in 2018 so far over 1,461,528 people have registered in the program and considering the applicants in the new program, a total of 3,812,655 people have registered in the government's housing plans.

Ahvaz Oil Show hosting 210 exhibitors

TEHRAN- Ahvaz Specialized Oil Industry Exhibition (Ahvaz Oil Show) kicked off on Sunday at Ahvaz International Permanent Fair Campus, Shana reported.

The four-day exhibition is hosting 210 domestic companies in Ahvaz, the capital city of Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province.

This industrial event is organized with the policy and support of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), Arvandan Oil and Gas Company (AOGC), and Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) and welcomes 210 domestic companies and manufacturers, including manufacturers

of parts and equipment for the oil industry, contractors of oil megaprojects, knowledge-based companies operating in science and technology parks and university growth centers.

As reported, some specialized sessions and seminars are planned to be held on the sidelines of the exhibition, among them it could be referred to the meeting on introduction of investment opportunities in the large environmental project of collecting flare gases in the south oil fields and West Karoun oil fields.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, some drilling equipment, some spare parts, and some instrumentation engineering items will be also unveiled.

TEDPIX loses 22,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 22,447 points to 1.281 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 6.358 billion securities worth 38.104 trillion rials (about \$141 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 22,236 points, and the second market's index lost 27,288 points.

TEDPIX rose 92,000 points (5.8 percent) to 1.301 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

TEHRAN – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) held a virtual Iran-India trade conference titled "Development of Iran-India trade relations: trade and investment opportunities" on Saturday, TCCIMA portal announced.

The conference which focused on exploring ways of developing economic relations between the two countries and solving the existing problems in the way of mutual trade was organized in collaboration with India's PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

As reported, the virtual conference was attended by senior officials from both sides including representatives of the Indian ambassador to Tehran and Iranian Ambassador to India, as well as the heads of TCCIMA and PHD Chamber of Commerce.

During the webinar, existing challenges and problems in the way of trade between the two countries were addressed, and private-sector representatives raised their issues and concerns to be followed up through the two sides' chambers of commerce.

Speaking at the meeting, TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari said holding such events is an indication of the interest and willingness of the two countries' private sectors to develop bilateral trade and economic relations.

He further noted that unfortunately some of the challenges and problems in trade relations between the two

TCCIMA hosts online conference on Iran-India trade



countries have been intensified in recent years.

Khansari stressed that trade relations between Iran and India currently require the efforts of both sides to be developed.

The two sides need to reach solutions and strategies to facilitate trade between the two countries, he said, adding: "The most important problem in the development of bilateral trade is the transfer of money and the problems caused by the lack of banking relations; So far, several

rounds of negotiations have been held to establish bank branches, as well as activating the rial-rupee payment mechanism, which unfortunately have not been realized yet."

The official stressed that the current situation shows that such negotiations need to be resumed and the TCCIMA is ready to provide all the technical assistance and expertise needed to the negotiating teams to establish a trade mechanism with the local currencies of the two countries.

"Also, Iran and India need to set up a credit line to support their priority export sectors in order to reduce the complexities of the trade bureaucracy," Khansari added.

Further in the conference, the president of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India referred to the 116-year history of this chamber, saying that 150,000 enterprises consisting of big, medium, and small industries are members of this Indian private sector institution.

Pradeep Multani further mentioned the two countries deep historical relations and said: "India-Iran relations have been pursued with meaningful interactions for thousands of years. Until 1947, the two countries shared a common border and several common features in their language, culture, and traditions."

The trade between Iran and India has been following an upward trend over the past two years, despite the U.S. sanctions.

According to TCCIMA data, the trade between the two countries increased over 74 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2021) as compared to the same period in the previous year.

India stood at sixth place among the Islamic Republic's top export destinations in the mentioned period, while in terms of imports the country occupied the seventh place among Iran's top sources of imports.

IME's weekly value of trades increases 77%

TEHRAN- The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) rose 77 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, 2.04 million tons of commodities worth \$862 million were traded at the exchange in the past week, also indicating 29 percent rise in terms of volume.

The exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.75 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$645 million.

Commodities sold on this floor included 857,181 tons of cement, 799,003 tons of steel, 43,500 tons of zinc dust, 37,000 tons of iron ore, 7,465 tons of copper, 6,400 tons of aluminum, 2,000 tons of sponge iron, 1,000 tons of zinc ingots, 480 tons of lead, 150 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 18 tons of precious metals concentrate and 1 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 280,048 tons of commodities worth more than \$209 million.

The exchange customers purchased on this floor 90,723 tons of bitumen, 81,739 tons of polymeric products, 63,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 30,825 tons of chemicals, 10,500 tons of lube cut, 2,830 tons of base oil, 1,390 tons of sulfur and 70 tons of argon.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 10,455 tons of commodities traded on it.



As previously reported, more than 7.297 million tons of commodities worth over \$2 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the past Iranian calendar month (ended on January 20).

The exchange sold on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor more than 1.529 million tons of commodities worth over \$856 million.

On this floor the exchange traded 415,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 490,000 tons of bitumen, 306,534 tons of polymeric products, 171,000 tons of lube cut, 108,463 tons of chemicals, 26,285 tons of sulfur, 14,653 tons of oil, 450 tons of argon and 225 tons of insulation.

Next was the metals and minerals trading floor with trades of 5.724 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$1 billion.

Commodities changing hands on this floor

included 3.606 million tons of cement, 1.332 million tons of steel, 367,000 tons of iron ore, 241,000 tons of sponge iron, 35,090 tons of aluminum, 133,340 tons of zinc, 26,911 tons of copper, 630 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of coke, 500 tons of lead, 42 tons of precious metals concentrate and 23 kg of gold bars.

On its agricultural trading floor the exchange saw offering of 50 kg of saffron strands.

It's worth noting that the IME also played host to trade of 43,899 tons of commodities on its side market.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market's various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Export from West Azarbaijan up 150% in 10 months on year



billion in the mentioned period.

According to the official, the weight of exports in the mentioned period also grew by seven percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year's same 10 months.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China, Iraq, and Turkey during the said 10 months.

The IRICA head further announced that the Islamic Republic imported 33 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$41.473 billion in the mentioned period, with a 34-percent growth in value and a 17-percent rise in weight, year on year.

The United Arab Emirates was the top exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China, Turkey, Germany, and Switzerland, he

stated.

According to the official, out of the total non-oil goods imported into the country in the first 10 months of this year, 25 million tons worth \$15 billion were basic goods, which indicates an increase of 26 percent in weight and 56 percent in value, year on year.

Moghadasi noted that currently about five million tons of commodities are stored at the country's customs for which the clearance procedures will be carried out soon.

"There are 160 customs active in the country, and this number is increasing with the creation of new free zones and economic areas," he added.

IRICA has previously announced that the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

IRICA former Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi had put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons and said that the figure showed a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

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

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

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

U.S. cementing China-Russia partnership through war hysteria: Indian professor

From page 1 ► I believe that the U.S. needs to understand Russia's security concerns instead of unnecessarily provoking another military crisis. When the world is struggling to survive the Pandemic, and climate change has threatened the survival of the planet, it doesn't make sense for the U.S. to provoke Russia on the issue of Ukraine further. When Germany and even the president of Ukraine don't want the conflict to escalate and play down the Russian threat, it exposes the hollowness in U.S.'s claim. The U.S. dispatch of more troops, fighter jets, and ships to Eastern Europe brings more insecurity to the region rather than security. The act is an unnecessary escalation of the crisis, and it dangerously comes close to becoming an active military conflict. The U.S. political leadership is bargaining world peace just for some perceived benefits in domestic politics.

Do you think that NATO is going to surround Russia or will surrender?

Surrender is a strong word. However, I don't see any possibility of the U.S. waging war against Russia. We must remember that the U.S. army had made a humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 years of war only five months ago. It is almost unthinkable that the same army will go to a direct war against Russia now. A direct war between the U.S. and Russia could be the last war the world will ever fight. Negotiation is the only way out of



this crisis, as a war between Russia and the U.S. is not an option. The increased American military buildup can possibly have a positive effect if it brings a strategic stalemate and both parties return to the negotiation table. But it is a dangerous strategy if good sense does not prevail from both sides.

What would be the U.S.'s reaction if another power tries to enter into its backyard or sphere of influence?

Each big power in the world considers its neighborhood its area of influence. It should have been kept in mind when NATO expansion was carried out after the collapse of the Soviet Union. But, the problem is that the U.S. has a tendency not to learn from history, and it tends to keep committing the same mistakes.

Why is the U.S. insisting on entering other powers' sphere of influence like escalation with Russia over Ukraine and China over Taiwan?

“The U.S. has a tendency not to learn from history, and it tends to keep committing the same mistakes.”

Riyadh presses Lebanon economically to isolate Hezbollah: professor

From page 1 ► The financial sector was linked to the U.S. which could control it via its Federal Bank policies. As the U.S. could not get rid of Hezbollah militarily, it thought of doing so by exerting economic pressure on the Lebanese economy in order to incite the whole population against Hezbollah. By controlling the Lebanese financial system, the U.S. was able to dry it off, leading the whole economy to collapse.

How do you see the role of the al-Hariri family in the current economic crisis?

The Rafiq al-Hariri governments between 1992 and 2004 were the ones that led to the restructuring of the economy to fit the interests of the financial and tertiary sectors. After his assassination, the economic-political class which benefited from the al-Hariri policies continued



these policies that led to the current crisis.

Why is Saudi Arabia trying to siege Lebanon economically?

Saudi Arabia wants to exert pressure on Hez-

bollah so they thought that exerting pressure on the Lebanese economy would help them achieve their political objective by isolating Hezbollah.

Do you think the current government is able to tackle the economic problems?

No. It is because the prime minister and the government members represent the interests of the political-financial class that rules the country and whose interests lay in continuing the previous policies that protect the interests of the financial capitalist class.

What are the main areas of economic cooperation between Iran and Lebanon?

It is too bad that there are no areas of cooperation between Lebanon and Iran, because Lebanon is under full Western control.

African Union suspends decision to grant observer status to “Israel”

The AU summit unanimously votes on suspending “Israel's” observer status, and forms a committee made of seven heads of state, including Algeria.

Al Mayadeen's correspondent reported that the African Union has suspended the decision to grant “Israel” observer status.

The decision, which was adopted unanimously by the Summit of the African Union's Head of State and Government, suspended the AU's Former Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat's 22 July decision to grant

“Israel” observer status in the AU, and to establish a committee comprised of seven African heads of state to present recommendations to the summit, under whose jurisdiction the case will remain.

According to our correspondent, the committee will comprise Macky Sall, the AU's new chairperson, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo Felix Tshisekedi, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari, and Cameroon's President Paul Biya.

Macky Sall will take the initiative to activate this committee.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh had asked the African Union on Saturday to revoke “Israel's” observer status as heads of state from the 55-member group convened for a two-day meeting.

He firmly proclaimed that “‘Israel’ should never be rewarded for its violation and for the apartheid regime it does impose on the Palestinian people.”

Algerian Foreign Minister Ram-

(Source:almayadeen)

Turkey’s diplomatic mission turns into an arms sale

In recent weeks, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has claimed he was uniquely positioned to negotiate a reduction in tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Turkey is a NATO member state that purchased advanced Russian weapons, and has been at decisive odds with the Western foreign policy in Syria. Earlier this week, Turkey announced Erdogan would travel to Ukraine “to be the intermediary in this conflict.”

However, the Turkish president had other plans. The Wall Street Journal reports that Erdogan changed his peace trip into a weapons sale and inked an agreement that allows Ukraine to manufacture armed Turkish drones. Turkey has already sold Ukraine dozens of its armed Bayraktar TB2 drones, which Kiev soon deployed against separatist forces in the Donbas.

Along with the plans to build Turkish drones, Ukraine is adding to its domestic weapons manufacturing with a new missile program, pursuing multiple missile variants including a cruise missile that could be used to target Russian ships, and a second design that would put Moscow within its range.

The Ukraine-Turkey drone deal was signed as the Biden administration was making a new, evidence-free accusation against Rus-

sia. State Department spokesperson Ned Price claimed Moscow was planning to make a graphic video – using crisis actors – of a ‘false flag’ attack on Russians to create an excuse to invade its neighbor.

While Associated Press reporter Matt Lee pushed Price to offer some evidence for the explosive claim, the spokesman insisted he had provided journalists with all the information they needed. When Lee again pressed for proof, Price snapped, suggesting Lee was promoting the Russian narrative.

“If you doubt the credibility of the U.S. government, of the British government, of other governments and want to find solace in information that the Russians are putting out, that is for you to do,” Price said.

The accusations seem to be a new PR tactic from the Biden administration. When an NPR journalist questioned the Pentagon's narrative about a recent raid on the leader of the Islamic State, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki was indignant, asking whether the reporter was suggesting that “ISIS is providing accurate information?”

The journalists were right to question the administration in both cases, as initial claims from government officials have often proven false. Following drone strikes in Kabul on



August 29 – some of the last acknowledged combat operations in the 20-year war in Afghanistan – Washington initially claimed the mission was a “righteous” success. It was later revealed that 10 civilians, and zero Islamic State terrorists, were killed in the blasts. More recently, after several senior U.S. officials repeatedly predicted an “imminent” Russian invasion of Ukraine for some two months on end, the White House has now backed off from that claim.

(Source: antiwar.com)

UAE and Israel expanding “security cooperation”



From page 1 ► Much of the focus until now has been focused on tourism, business deals, and trade.

The paper cites Yoel Guzansky, a former Israeli regime official and current senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, as saying the UAE had previously asked for air-defense support but its requests were turned down.

He says “they asked a few years ago but Israel refused up until now. There is an indication that Bennett's and Herzog's visits to the UAE might be the beginning of a change.”

Israel is unlikely to provide the Persian Gulf nation with the Iron Dome system, says Guzansky, but could offer components like a radar system.

Critics would argue the UAE is acting out of desperation, as Israel's so-called Iron Dome did not exactly prove effective in neutralizing rockets fired from the besieged Gaza Strip by Hamas in an 11-day war with the regime in May last year.

The UAE currently uses the U.S.-built Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or Thaad, system, which is supposedly helping protect against Yemeni ballistic missiles and drones.

According to a report earlier this month by Breaking Defense, which specializes in armaments, the UAE is seeking the advanced version of the Green Pine radar, part of the Israeli Arrow system that is designed to intercept ballistic missiles, in what could mark the first major arms agreement between Abu Dhabi and the Israeli regime.

If the sale is approved, the radars will be purchased by the UAE and after a short training session with the Israeli regime in the occupied Palestinian Territories, the Emiratis will operate them themselves. While Israeli companies are said to have sold cyber systems and other military equipment to the UAE in the past, a radar system would represent a significant step forward.

According to Breaking Defense, Israel is preparing for a potential Yemeni attack on targets in the occupied Eilat area, the resort city on the Red Sea, with identified threats including both cruise missiles and long-range drones.

The Yemeni government has expressed anger over what it says are the presence of Israeli forces on its country's territory.

In September last year, Yemen's ambassador to Iran, Mohammad al-Deilami, cited Israel's presence in Yemeni territories, especially in a number of strategic islands.

Speaking to the Tehran Times, he said that “there is an Israeli presence, especially in Yemeni territorial waters and some strategic islands, whether on Hanish Island, Mayun Island, or even on Socotra Island in the Arabian Sea.”

Last Wednesday, the Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, during a phone call with his Emirati counterpart, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, stressed that “the presence of the Zionist entity in the region is a threat to all countries and the region itself” and called for efforts to be made to prevent any foothold of the regime to prevent crises in West Asia.

Abdollahian also informed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, that the continuation of the war in Yemen is not in the interest of any party saying “we believe that the continuation of the war and the spread of clashes and dis-

putes are not in the interest of either party or in the interest of the region”.

Meanwhile, the U.S., which has its forces stationed at Al Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, is operating Patriot missile-defense systems that have reportedly also been used to help protect Abu Dhabi during recent attacks.

Washington is also sending advanced warplanes and an American warship you work to work with the Emirati navy, and reportedly will also help provide the UAE with early-warning intelligence to identify Yemeni launch sites.

The U.S. State Department has approved Washington's latest raft of proposed weapons sales to West Asia to the tune of \$4.21 billion, with Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates preliminarily approved for deals, if they are not blocked by the U.S. Congress.

The sales come at a time of heightened tensions in the region as the UAE has seen a series of attacks claimed by Yemeni armed forces in response to Abu Dhabi's support for militants fighting government forces in southern Yemen.

The popular Yemeni Ansarallah movement is spearheading the resistance against a Saudi-led military coalition, of which the UAE is a member, that continues to bomb Yemen on a daily basis damaging the country's infrastructure. In recent years, Saudi Arabia has been regularly targeted by Yemeni missile and drone attacks.

The United States has said it will continue to support the defense capabilities of its allies in the region, notably Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and has emphasized arms sales as one avenue for that support.

However, President Joe Biden announced in February last year that the U.S. was ending support for offensive operations by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen and all “relevant” arms sales.

Critics and legislators say the Biden administration has failed to live up to its promise and strongly denounced the approval of a \$650m sale of air-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia in November as undermining that pledge.

According to the Pentagon, the most recently approved sales to Saudi Arabia include 31 communication and navigation terminals at a cost of \$23.7 million to upgrade the kingdom's missile defense system.

The State Department approved the UAE to buy \$65m worth of spare parts for its Homing All the Way Killer (HAWK), Phased Array Tracking Radar to Intercept on Target (PATRIOT), and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense systems.

It says “this proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important regional partner”.

According to research by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, countries in West Asia accounted for nearly half of all American arms exports between 2016 and 2020, with Saudi Arabia topping the list.

The region was the fastest-growing overall importer of arms during the period.

Critics say pumping weapons to West Asia will not bring peace to the region and while civilians suffer in various war zones, western nations are not only making a lucrative profit but are complicit by dragging the conflicts on with their arms flow.

Tehran museum to host Fajr crafts festival



TEHRAN –The 6th edition of the Fajr national handicrafts festival will take place at the National Museum of Iran on Monday.

“The works of the participants in the festival have been judged, and those that have been approved will be displayed at the National Museum of Iran, where the exhibition will be held,” the deputy

tourism minister has announced.

As well as the selected artisans, some veterans, and leading masters and craftspeople have been also invited to participate in the festival, IRNA quoted Pouya Mahmoudian as saying on Sunday.

A section of the festival is dedicated to showcasing works and honoring children who continue their parents’ path of handicrafts, the official added.

Meeting young artists and finding new talent in the field of handicrafts, as well as allowing people to access handicrafts directly, is one of the main goals of this event, she noted.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

‘Creative house of tourism’ to set up at Tehran palace

TEHRAN – Tourism authorizes a plan to set up a “creative house of tourism” at Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, a local official announced on Sunday.

The house is tasked to develop innovative approaches for tourism as one of the key income-producing and money-making activities for the country, Parviz Karami said, Mehr reported.

By attracting tourists and improving the infrastructure, tourism will help improve the country’s economy and show the world the Iranian culture, the official added.

Although Iran ranks higher than some other countries in terms of heritage and culture, its lack of infrastructure prevents tourists from coming here, he explained.

However, tourism can be boosted by the help of such centers, he mentioned.

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.

The Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, covering an area of about eleven hectares, is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.

The history of the palace complex stretches back to about 280 years ago when Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty ordered for a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital. The two-story Ahmad Shahi Pavilion is one of the highlights of the complex.

Morteza Adibzadeh appointed director of museums, historical properties

TEHRAN – On Sunday, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ali Darabi appointed Morteza Adibzadeh as the director of museums and historical properties.

Adibzadeh replaced Mohammadreza Kargar who was appointed as advisor to Darabi during a ceremony held on Sunday, Mehr reported.

Kargar in 2018 publicized that some three million historical objects were being kept at museums affiliated with the Ministry.

Iran is home to one of the world’s oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. It also hosts some of the world’s oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural

landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa and Chogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

TEHRAN – A host of experts in the Persian qanat system started discussing ways to preserve the time-honored heritage during a three-day conference kicked off on Saturday in Kerman province.

Qanats or man-carved subterranean aqueducts are of very high importance for the nation as they supported agricultural and permanent settlements in arid and semi-arid regions of the Iranian plateau.

‘Enduring heritage of Iranians’ has been selected as the motto of the conference that is also attended by tens of travel insiders and cultural heritage officials.

Addressing the event, Kerman’s tourism chief, Fereydoun Fa’ali, said: “Iran is home to 36,300 qanats, of which 1,930 are situated in Kerman province.”

“Moreover, we have 11 qanats that are collectively registered on UNESCO World Heritage list, of which three are located in Kerman province.”

Moreover, the attendees exchanged views on ways how to draw more attention to qanats and their associated spaces as emerging travel destinations.

“The UNESCO-designated qanats are somehow untapped travel destinations. However, this conference (and workshop) is aimed to discuss ways to safeguard them on the one hand, and explore their potential as exceptional tourist destinations,” the official explained.

“We with the help of the private sector in Kerman province have prepared the ground to enhance the capacity of ancient aqueducts in the realm of traveling and tourism.”

Fa’ali added the philosophy behind making aqueducts in the country, especially in Kerman province, is of very high importance.

“Those aqueducts as tourism attractions can lead many sightseers to Kerman province.”

“Qanat is not simply an architectural structure but a culture of people living in oasis villages and towns,” a veteran cultural heritage expert Mohammed-Ali Qolabzadeh said in an address to the conference.

Conference discusses qanat as ‘enduring heritage of Iranians’



“Qanat is a culture..., according to all experts, the best way to irrigate and live in the desert areas of Kerman, which experiences temperatures above 40 degrees in summer, is to preserve and benefit from these aqueducts.”

“We have to say how great the people were who came and invented the best and most necessary method of irrigation in a dry desert region and were able to organize their lives and leave a great legacy for the future generations.”

According to UNESCO, qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

The qanat system relies on snow-fed streams, which flow down the foothills of surrounding mountains channeling through sloping aqueducts, often over far distances to discharge into the city’s underground reservoirs or ab-anbars. Such constructions are still in practice,

many of which were made from the 13th century onwards.

The concept of “Persian Qanat” was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2016, representing eleven aqueducts across Iran. According to the UN cultural body, the qanat provides exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

The Persian Qanat system is a magnificent example of a technological ensemble illustrating significant stages in the history of human occupation of arid and semi-arid regions.

It works based on complex calculations and exceptional architectural qualities as water is collected and transported by mere gravity over long distances and these transport systems were maintained over centuries and, at times, millennia. The qanat system enabled settlements and agriculture but also inspired the creation of a

desert-specific style of architecture and landscape involving not only the qanats themselves, but their associated structures, such as water reservoirs, mills, irrigation systems, and gardens.

When it comes to architectural elements, each qanat comprises an almost horizontal tunnel collecting water from an underground water source, usually an alluvial fan, into which a mother well is sunk to the appropriate level of the aquifer. Well shafts are sunk at regular intervals along the route of the tunnel to enable removal of spoil and allow ventilation. These appear as craters from above, following the line of the qanat from water source to agricultural settlement. The water is transported along underground tunnels, so-called koshkan, using gravity due to the gentle slope of the tunnel to the exit (mazhar), from where it is distributed by channels to the agricultural land of the shareholders.

Furthermore, the levels, gradient, and length of the qanat are calculated by traditional methods requiring the skills of experienced qanat workers and have been handed down over centuries. Many qanats have sub-branches and water access corridors for maintenance purposes, as well as dependant structures including rest areas for the qanat workers, public and private hammams, reservoirs, and watermills. The traditional communal management system still in place allows equitable and sustainable water sharing and distribution.

The eleven qanats forming a collective UNESCO World Heritage, are still active water carriers and have retained not only their architectural and technological structures but also their function.

According to the UN body, they continue to provide the essential resource water sustaining Iranian settlements and gardens and remain maintained and managed through traditional communal management systems. These management systems have remained intact and have been transferred from the distant past thanks to the collaboration of people and users.

103 relics returned home by Supreme Court order

TEHRAN – The Supreme Court of Iran has ordered the return of 103 historical relics to their original place; the western province of Kermanshah.

The relics were previously being kept by an individual who is obliged to surrender the antiquities to Kermanshah’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, a provincial tourism official announced on Sunday.

“It had previously been ruled by a Kermanshah court that the antiques belonged to the defendant and he could keep them,” CHTN quoted Sediqeh Parvareh as saying.

“A wrong verdict by the Kermanshah Court of Appeals that ordered the return of 103 historical objects to the accused was stopped after it was protested by the legal division of the province’s cultural heritage department,” she explained.

Finally, the Supreme Court upheld the



ruling of the provincial Court of Appeals and confiscated the artifacts, dating back to the first millennium BC, Parthian era (247 BC – 224 CE) and Seleucid era (312 BC–63 BC), in favor of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, she added.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites including Taq-e Bostan and the UNESCO-registered Bisotun.

Inscribed into the base of a towering

cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond. Bisotun is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting king Darius I and several other figures. UNESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

Another popular historical site of the province is the Temple of Anahita in the city of Kangavar, which is believed to have been built circa 200 BC. Several column bases and ruins of a wall remain from the magnificent Greek-style temple. The temple was used during the Parthian era (248 BC–224) as well as the Sassanid era (224–651).

19 tourism projects to come on stream in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – A total of 19 tourism-related projects are scheduled to be inaugurated in West Azarbaijan, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

“In celebration of the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which is known as Ten-Day Fajr celebrations (this year from February 1 to 11), the projects will come on stream,” Jalil Jabbari said on Sunday.

Eco-lodge units, travel agencies, hotels, apartment hotels, tourism complexes, and traditional restaurants are among the projects, the official added.

Among the most significant projects are enhancing the tourism infrastructures at the Monastery of Saint Thaddeus and UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleyman (“Solomon’s Throne”), he explained.

A budget of two trillion rials (\$7.6 million) has been invested in the projects, which are scattered in different cities of the province, he noted.

The projects are expected to generate 150 job opportunities upon their inauguration, he mentioned.

He also noted that the projects will add 250 beds to the hospitality sector of the province.

The northwestern province embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Tepe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According



to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander’s generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

Khah Niavaran Housing Agency Offers a Wonderful, New Duplex Villa around Sadabad Palace, 1,250sqm Land, 860sqm Useful B/up, Spacious Saloon, 6 huge Master Bedrooms, Security Exit, 3 entrances, 5 or more Parking, All Steel Commercial Kitchen, 230sqm Terrace with a nice greenhouse, facing the 4 season Swimming Pool in the Garden, 23 Security Cameras.

Ms.Sonia:

09035755145 / 02126131131
Rent per month 25,000USD Negotiable

Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for Irgafos 168 (ALKANOX 240) // 168100 kg

TABRIZ PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (PLC)



Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Irgafos 168 for polyethylene production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until February 14.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: February 26, 2022

Email: I.allafkari@tpco.ir Phone No.: **+98-41-34282921**

Tender	No	Quantity
Irgafos 168 (ALKANOX 240)	PVS-0041056	168100 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

Nearly 5,000 rural development projects inaugurated

TEHRAN – A total of 4,959 development and service projects have come on stream in rural areas nationwide by the Municipalities and Village Administration Organization.

The projects were inaugurated on the occasion of the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution which is celebrated annually on February 1-11, IRNA quoted Ali Qorbani, an official with the Organization, as saying.

Most of the projects are related to the improvement of rural roads, equivalent to 74 percent of the total projects, and the construction of parks and green spaces, safety and fire-fighting, sports and cultural places are also the other projects, he explained.

A total of 16 trillion rials (nearly \$61 million) has been spent on the implementation of the projects, he noted.

Since 2003, some 37,919 village administration offices have been established nationwide, offering services



to about 95 percent of the country's rural population, he concluded.

Rural development

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages

have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

In Iran, where villages account for generating 20-23 percent of the value-added in the country,

the development of rural areas has been always a top agenda of the governments' activities.

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, said in November 2020 that for the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero.

Highlight: Some 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages.

Webometrics lists 694 Iranian institutions as top-ranking

TEHRAN – The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2022 has ranked 694 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities across the world.

Also known as Ranking Web of Universities, the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, is a ranking system for the world's universities based on a composite indicator that takes into account both the volume of the Web content (number of web pages and files) and the visibility and impact of these web publications according to the number of external inlinks (site citations) they received.

Launched in 2004, the ranking is updated every January and July. In 2021, it provided Web indicators for more than 31,000 universities worldwide.

The University of Tehran tops the list of Iranian universities included in this ranking, followed by Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Sharif University of Technology, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Amirkabir University of Technology, Tarbiat Modares University, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran University of Science and Technology, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran University of Medical Sciences and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences.



The University of Tehran has improved its ranking from 396 in 2021 to 308 in 2022.

Harvard University, Oxford University, and the University of California, Berkeley are the top three ranking universities worldwide in Webometrics.

Academic quality

Most recently, a total of 59 Iranian universities are listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP).

A total of 51 universities from Iran have been listed in the Islamic World University Rankings 2021 announced by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC).

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

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

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

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

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

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

Iranian researchers win COMSTech Award 2021

TEHRAN – Two Iranian researchers were among the biennial award winners of the COMSTech 2021.

COMSTech on Thursday announced biennial award winners of the year 2021 in nine categories. This year, it granted lifetime achievement awards in the fields of Biology and Chemistry, ISNA reported.

Ali A. Mousavi-Movahadi, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the University of Tehran, won the COMSTech lifetime achievement award in Chemistry.

The Award for the best scientific book was also won by Esmail Ghavanloo, Associate Professor, Shiraz University.

COMSTech the Ministerial

Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was established in January 1981.

COMSTech Awards are conferred to recognize the outstanding research work carried out by scientists who are citizens of and working in, OIC member states. Each award carries a certificate, a shield of honor, and a cash prize.

These awards are given in four basic sciences; Biology and Chemistry alternat-

ing biennially with Mathematics and Physics.

Iran's scientific growth

Studies show that Iran enters the year 2022 with the 15th rank in science production worldwide and it is expected to make progress over the next years as the coronavirus pandemic is going to ease.

According to the latest information on science production, Iran is 15th in the world in the international system of 2021Web of Science, with an h-index of 383, which indi-

cates the quality of Iranian articles registered.

Scientific studies and analyses extracted from the Scopus International Citation Database showed that the rate of scientific contributions of Iranian researchers to the world increased from 22.24 percent in 2017 to 35.6 percent in 2021.

Three groups of engineering, chemistry, and materials science have been the most important research areas in the country over the last 5 years.

In the SCOPUS international regulations, the most important research areas of Iran in the production of science in 2021 have been medicine, engineering, and materials science, respectively.

Studies show that Iran enters the year 2022 with the 15th rank in science production worldwide.

Over a million Afghans have migrated to Iran in 4 months: report

From page 1 ► Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees are living in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran – some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

The recent fast-paced turn of events in Afghanistan has the potential to create additional population movements; displacing families internally and potentially driving them to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

It is estimated that up to 300,000 Afghan asylum-seekers have fled to Iran this year alone in search of safety, while UNHCR has only been able to screen some 24,000 newly arrived Afghans for protection needs.

António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has praised Iran's generosity which – for decades – has hosted millions of Afghans in need.



As many of 30 people climb into one truck to drive three hours to the border with Pakistan, with single men in the back and families and children in the front.

“At this moment, we need the global community to put their hands on the wheel of progress, provide resources, and prevent Afghanistan from spiraling any further.

I will never forget the generosity of countries like Pakistan and Iran, which – for decades – have hosted millions of Afghans in need,” Guterres said in a statement released on January 26 to the Security Council on Afghanistan.

Love of nature is in the genes, say scientists



A person's love of nature is partially inherited, a large-scale study of twins has found.

Scientists from the National University of Singapore studied how much time twins spent in natural spaces compared with each other and found that they shared a similar level of desire to be in nature.

“The reason we decided to study this in twins is that we could estimate heritability based on the genetic similarities in identical twins (100%) versus genetic similarities in non-identical twins (50%),” said Chia-chen Chang, who led the study.

“If a trait, [such as the] desire to be in nature, is clearly more similar between identical twins than non-identical twins, this will then suggest a trait is heritable.”

She said that those who live in urban environments without access to nature could end up having a lesser appreciation of it, explaining: “We did not test this in our study but it is possible because previous studies have shown that spending time in nature is linked to increased love of nature.”

Using the TwinsUK registry, researchers surveyed 1,153 pairs of twins – identical and

non-identical – about how they experienced nature. The twins were asked to rate their familiarity with and desire to be in nature, and how frequently they visit natural spaces such as public parks and private gardens.

The study, published in Plos Biology, found that identical (monozygotic) twins, who share almost 100% of their genes, were more similar to each other in their orientation towards nature and how frequently they visited nature compared with fraternal (dizygotic) twins, who share about 50% of their genetic material.

However, heritability declined with age, perhaps showing that environmental factors such as access to nature and green spaces bring about a love of the outdoors as one grows older.

While previous studies have found that spending time in natural spaces improves mental wellbeing, this varies from person to person. For the first time, the researchers say, this study has indicated why that is by suggesting there is likely to be a genetic component in our predispositions towards nature and our likelihood to visit natural spaces.

Though proximity to nature increases the likelihood of having an appreciation for it, those with a strong disposition towards enjoying nature may actively seek it out even if it means travelling.

The authors added that diverse urban planning is needed to provide access to natural spaces – and the benefits they offer – for all.

“Spending time in nature links to better health and wellbeing,” Chang added. “A twin study shows that a person's desire to be in nature and how often they experience it are influenced by both genes and personal experiences.”

COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 6

New cases	35,429
New deaths	85
Total cases	6,579,266
Total deaths	132,830
New hospitalized patients	2,199
Patients in critical condition	2,395
Total recovered patients	6,152,908
Diagnostic tests conducted	45,399,262
Doses of vaccine injected	134,804,694

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Yahya award honors dedicated rangers

Three rangers have been selected to receive the Yahya award for their outstanding efforts to safeguard the country's wildlife and environment, Fars news agency reported on Tuesday.

Ataollah Sadeqi form Kordestan province, Ali Akbar Imani Berenjestanaki from Mazandaran province and Hamid Reza Azimpour from Khorasan Razavi province were the three rangers who earned the award.

Bahman Izadi, an environmental activist, who has been active in freeing rangers who are jailed on involuntary manslaughter charges from prison, also received an honorable mention.

Launched in 2014, the Yahya award annually honors the rangers who have gone far in a yearlong to protect the environment, which was first introduced by an Iranian couple, Mojtaba Ramzi and Paridokht Moshkzad, members of the Iranian Cheetah Society, through a generous donation.

جایزه یحیی سه محیطبان برگزیده را اعلام کرد

در مراسم اهدای پنجمین جایزه یحیی به سه تن از محیطبانان برگزیده به پاس از زحمات برجسته آنها در دفاع از محیط زیست کشور هدایایی اهدا شد.

به گزارش گروه محیط زیست و گردشگری خبرگزاری فارس، محیطبان عطاءالله صادقی از استان کردستان، محیطبان علی اکبر ایمانی برنjestانکی از استان مازندران و محیطبان حمیدرضا عظیمپور از استان خراسان رضوی برندگان در این دوره برگزیده شدند. همچنین از خانوادهگان محیطبانان شهیدنیز قدردانی شد. بهمن ایزدی فعال محیط زیست که همواره در راهی محیطبانان از حکم قصاص یا زندان نقش داشته نیز مورد تقدیر ویژه این برنامه قرار گرفت.

جایزه یحیی یک جایزه مردمی است و دو هنرمند ایرانی از اعضای انجمن یوزپلنگ ایرانی پربدخت مشکزاد و همسرشان مجتبی رمزی، بنیانگذار آن هستند.

