



**Congratulation on
43rd anniversary
of the Islamic
Revolution of Iran**

Report

U.S. Congress set to turn up the heat on Lebanon

TEHRAN – A U.S. congressman has drafted a bill on Lebanon that aims to significantly increase pressure on the Lebanese leadership and political system.

In its Monday edition, the Tehran Times revealed 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 assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to Lebanon until needed reforms are made in the Arab country.

The Tehran Time can now reveal that the bill, officially called the “Lebanon Stability and Prosperity Act” includes an array of aggressive measures against Lebanon’s politicians and political system.

The bill comes at a time when Lebanon continues to grapple with a sea of economic hardships of historical proportions. Since the 2020 destructive blast at Beirut Port, Lebanon’s economy has been in tailspin. The country’s national currency, lira, lost much of its value against U.S. dollar.

Lebanon is also in the throes of a silent political crisis, with many political factions racked by concerns about their political fortunes going into the next elections which are scheduled for this year’s May 15. ►Page 3

Opinion

How’s Iran adventure on two wheels

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Cycling is a marvelous way to see and experience Iran whether you want to find a leisurely ride with scenic lookouts or challenging routes to test your cardio.

It doesn’t matter if you’re an experienced cyclist or brand new to riding, a biking holiday in the ancient land takes you right into a modern-meets-ancient world to discover amazing ruins, labyrinthine bazaars, deserts, coastlines, and exquisite gardens all on two wheels.

You may also discover wild mountain landscapes, rural villages and stay in local homes and spend time with Iranian families, sharing their homes, their delicious meals, and their stories. Iranian consider travelers to be honored guests and want their guests to feel welcomed, so they shower them with hospitality. ►Page 6

Iran looking for glory at CAFA U19 Futsal Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian 14-team member futsal team will participate at the first edition of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) U19 Futsal Championship, aiming to win the title.

The tournament “CAFA U19 Futsal Championship” will be held in Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan from Feb. 12 to 19 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Iran will open the campaign with a match against Afghanistan on Feb. 12.

Ali Sanei’s men are scheduled to meet Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on Feb. 13 and 17, respectively.

Iran will finish the four-team tournament with a match against Uzbekistan on Feb. 19.

National teams of juniors of futsal, made up of players under the age of 19, will converge for the title of the best team in the Central Asian countries. The tournament in this age category will be held for the first time. ►Page 3



Give a Voice to Your People, See How They Reject Normalization

►Page 2



IRGC’s “Noora” vaccine awaiting emergency use license

TEHRAN – Noora coronavirus vaccine, developed and produced by Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), has completed the third phase of the human trial and is waiting to receive an emergency use license.

After the emergency license is issued, the

vaccine will be available for the public, in other words, it will be offered in the vaccination centers, Jafar Amani, the vaccine project manager, stated.

Regarding obtaining the emergency license from the World Health Organization, he said that we are pursuing to obtain the license from this international organization.

Overseas musicians to perform at Fajr Music Festival

TEHRAN – Several overseas musicians from across the globe will give performances at the 37th edition of the Fajr Music Festival opening in Tehran on Friday.

Najmeddin, an Afghan qawwali group, will perform at the Arasbaran Cultural Center on Friday. The band features Javad Tabesh, Asef Habibi, Abdolqader Azizi, Abdolkhaleq Azi-

zi, Gholamsakhi Rasuli, Hushang Javid and Nematollah Hosseinzadeh.

Qawwali is a form of Muslim Sufi musical performance.

Egyptian oud virtuoso Mohamed Abozekry and Macedonian percussionist Ersoj Kazimov will give a duet at the Niavaran Cultural Center on Sunday. ►Page 8

Saudi money for anti-Iran ‘terror channel’ and demonstrations in the Netherlands

The controversial anti-Iran satellite channel Ahwazna TV in Rijswijk has been financed with money from the Saudi intelligence service. The Saudis were also billed for demonstrations by the separatist movement ASMLA.

The financing of the TV channel and at least one demonstration in The Hague is apparent from research by Argos, the Danish public broadcaster

DR and the Norwegian NRK. The Denmark-based leadership of the Arab-Iranian movement ASMLA requested and received large sums through the Saudi intelligence service for its organization in Europe and its armed branch in Iran. The ASMLA – Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz – fights against oppression of the Arab minority in the Iranian region of Khuzestan and for independence. ►Page 2

Report

Sayyed Nasrallah: “Iran is a regional superpower”

Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says that Iran is a regional superpower that cannot be easily ignored or fought.

In a television interview marking the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the Hezbollah Chief says “Iran is a country with real independence and complete sovereignty, and it is the people who rule in Iran”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is a model of independence and freedom in the Islamic world and the world as a whole. Many in the region who talk about independence and sovereignty are working for foreign embassies”

He says “America has not and will not be able to stop the development of Iran’s nuclear program, and the Islamic Republic is not interested in creating nuclear weapons”

He noted the Islamic Revolution “pushed Israel and the U.S. out of Iran”.

Turning to Lebanon, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says “the resistance considers that it is interested in possessing any weapon that would enable it to defend Lebanon and its people.” ►Page 5

Petchem, gas supply projects worth over \$1.5b put into operation

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday inaugurated petrochemical and gas supply projects worth 400 trillion rials (about \$1.5 billion) in a ceremony held on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

As Shana reported, in the mentioned ceremony President Raisi inaugurated the projects for supply natural gas to 14 cities, 1459 villages, and 4,114 industrial units in Khorasan, Kermanshah, Sistan-Baluchestan, Fars, and Khuzestan provinces through a video conference.

These projects were implemented with a total investment of 52 trillion rials (about \$196 million).

Raisi also ordered the beginning of the executive operations for supplying natural gas to 10 cities, 1,239 villages, and 1351 industrial units in which 200 trillion rials (about \$757.5 million) has been invested. ►Page 4

The article on the results of the first phase of the human test has been completed and we hope it will be published in the near future, he said, adding, we are also compiling the article of the second phase of the clinical trial.

No serious side effects were observed in the first and second stages of the vaccine clinical trials, he further emphasized. ►Page 7

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Interview

Russia-NATO dispute may lead to a new Cold War: ex-diplomat

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A former Lebanese diplomat says that the ongoing conflict over Ukraine can lead to a new Cold war if the stalemate continues.

“If a political solution is reached, a new Cold War could be avoided,” Massoud Maalouf tells the Tehran Times.

“But if the stalemate continues or develops into an armed conflict, we will, unfortunately, experience a new Cold War,” notes Maalouf who served as Lebanon’s ambassador to Chile, Poland, and Canada.

While certain Western powers accuse Russia of planning to invade Ukraine, some world leaders have stepped up talks amid the tension.

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed hope that war could be avoided as he held talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Monday.

U.S. President Joe Biden, who hosted German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, said they were “in lockstep to address Russian aggression”.

Russia currently has more than 100,000 troops massed on Ukraine’s borders, amid new Cold War fears.

“The weapons in a renewed Cold War would most likely be technological tools like websites hacking and the spread of disinformation distributed through social media, as well as other tools of artificial intelligence,” Maalouf says. ►Page 5

Iran unveils new missile with 1,450 km range



TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on Wednesday unveiled a new surface-to surface ballistic missile with a range of 1,450 kilometers.

The missile, called “Kheibar Shekan” (Castle Buster), is able to hit its designated target with pinpoint accuracy and an extremely high speed, IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Amir Ali Hajizadeh explained. ►Page 2

Give a voice to your people, see how they reject normalization



TEHRAN — In a strategically important interview, Hezbollah chief Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah sat down on Tuesday night with Al-Alam TV network and touched upon many points, including the so-called normalization deals of certain Arab countries with the Zionist regime of Israel.

In his interview, Nasrallah praised the Palestinian resistance, saying that undermining al-Quds equals to weakening all axes of resistance movement and this fact still stands.

“The martyrdom of these young people is an obvious and painful crime and aggression,” he said, adding that the option of resisting and confronting the Zionist regime “must be strengthened.”

The Palestinian people have no choice but to resist, he added.

Meanwhile, Nasrallah indicated that the Bahraini people are still holding protests despite the regime’s policy of arrest and persecution.

Nasrallah also highlighted the Algerian stance pertaining the Palestinian cause, underscoring Algiers’ rejection of granting Israel the observer status in the African Union.

Nasrallah emphasized that the Palestinian people are committed to resistance despite the normalization deals.

The Hezbollah secretary general noted that the two-state solution in Palestine is rejected by the Israelis and the Americans, adding that the Zionist enemy merely seeks security coordination with the Palestinian Authority (PA).

The head of the PA, Mahmoud Abbas, said on Monday that if the two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict weakens, the Palestinians will have several options, one of which is a one-state solution and the establishment of an independent state in all Palestinian territories with equal civil rights.

According to Al-Sharq al-Awsat, in his speech at the 31st session of the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Ramallah, Abbas said that the current situation can no longer be tolerated and that the people should let the PA make “crucial choices for our land, for Jerusalem, and for Palestine.

“I reiterate that we are reconsidering all our options. We have cooperated as much as possible with international efforts to find a fair solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and we have fulfilled all our commitments, and no one can blame us for sabotaging the peace process,” he stated.

Abbas said that unilateral adherence to agreements is no longer possible.

Meanwhile, informed sources revealed to the Tehran Times that a document, titled “Abraham Accords Scholars and Fellows Programs”, has been drafted according to which a network consisting of New York University, Stanford University, and Cambridge University, as well as universities of the countries member to the Abraham Accords and Arab countries will be formed.

The plan is of utmost importance for the United States and Israel.

A prominent conservative has said that the coalition of Abraham Accords members is a way to compete with Iran, the Tehran Times has learnt.

Informed sources also revealed that one of the main thinkers behind this document is Robert Greenway, who is referred to as Jared Kushner’s man.

David Aaronson, deputy director of the Abraham

Accords Peace Institute (AAPI), told Israel Hayom on January 18 that “the scholars and fellows program that we’re working on – with a goal of having student and faculty exchange between universities in the region – is something that’s going to be a game-changer because this is bringing peace between peoples.”

The AAPI, founded by Greenway, Kushner, Avi Berkowitz and Haim Saban, have a small team in place in Washington, with plans to open offices in each member country, according to Israel Hayom.

The Tehran Times can reveal that other academic scholarship programs and the European University Institute Policy Leader Fellowship, Mira Fellowship, Obama Foundation Fellowship, William Randolph Hearst Endowed Fellowship, GEM Fellowship; Microsoft Fellowship, NSF Fellowship, Ford Foundation, and the NDU International Fellows Program will be a part of this complex plan.

According to the plan, each government will nominate five students to the program annually based on their demonstrated potential for leadership in either the public or private sector.

The Tehran Times has learnt that scholars will study at the flagship academic institution of another Abraham Accords country and will have the chance to study science, technology, engineering, math, business, language, music, art, history, public affairs, or government.

One of the main features of the document is that participating Arab member states could also each select one Palestinian scholar each year to join the cohort providing an opportunity to build cultural bridges across the political divide, the Tehran Times can now reveal.

The Abraham Accords Scholars and Fellows Programs is another ruse to improve the already low position of the illegitimate regime of Israel in West Asian countries. The public in West Asian countries hate Israel. However, a regime with a dark reputation may resort to such measures to buy legitimacy for itself, and normalize “normalization” treaties for the people of these countries.

‘Arab governments differ from nations’

Nasrallah smartly touched on this issue, pointing out that the Arab governments differ from the nations.

“The main goal of normalization is to make the Palestinian people despair and feel defeated,” he said, noting that the Zionist regime intends to dominate Palestine through normalization and move beyond a two-state solution.

“If Israel thinks that through normalization it will be able to form a coalition against the axis of resistance, it is in an illusion,” he elaborated.

According to the Hezbollah chief, the normalization of relations of some Arab countries with the Zionist regime is in Israel’s financial interests.

“If Israel makes economic, diplomatic, and political relations with some Arab countries, it immediately begins to propagate that Arab countries sold Palestine. The goal is to disappoint the Palestinians from their resistance and surrender them.”

Nasrallah also underlined that the Palestinian people are committed to the resistance path despite the normalization deals, adding that the people in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE reject normalization.

Using Palestinian scientists and academics to facilitate normalization with Israel is a strategy that is doomed to fail, as the brave nations and people of the Islamic world reject this notion. These people cannot be silenced even with oppression and aggression. It’s high time Arab governments give a voice to their people.

About the normalization of ties with Israel, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on October 21, 2021 that “any country that sits at the negotiating table with the usurping Zionist regime will have its position rattled among its people.”

A false friend is worse than an open enemy.

From page 1 ► ASMLA leader Habib Jabor and two other leaders were found guilty of spying and financing terrorism in Iran on Friday after months-long closed-door trial in Denmark. They worked closely with the Saudi intelligence service under the code name MS32. However, many details have not been disclosed. On Monday, a journalistic investigation made it clear that the group also spied against people in the Netherlands, including the well-known activist Abdullah Mansouri.

Last autumn, the Rotterdam court already convicted another ASMLA member: presenter and manager of Ahwazna TV Eisa S. from Delft. Despite denials, he was jailed for four years for coordinating and financing attacks in Iran in conjunction with the Danish ASMLA leaders.

The Arab-Iranian separatist movement ASMLA has secretly collected information for the Saudi intelligence service about a large number of people in Europe, including the Netherlands. Among them is the Dutch-Iranian activist Faleh Abdullah al-Mansouri.

Ahwazna TV

Satellite channel Ahwazna TV of ASMLA has been based in Rijswijk since 2017 and calls for a fight against the Iranian ‘occupier’. The channel even brought news of attacks that ASMLA was probably behind. An example is the liquidation of two alleged members of the Revolutionary Guards on a motorcycle on November 12, 2018 in Abadan. This action was filmed and published through Ahwazna TV’s social media channels. In app conversations between Eisa S., ASMLA leader Habib Jabor and a contact person ‘Issi’ in Iran, the attackers are called ‘our boys’, it is about the amounts that the perpetrators have received and it is stated that the attack should be breaking news.

Of a total budget for ASMLA of more than seven million euros for the period 2017-2019, about 12 million was earmarked for Ahwazna TV in the Netherlands, according to police documents that were viewed by journalists from DR in collaboration with Argos and NRK. The TV channel is one of the targets for which funding has been sought through liaison officers from the Saudi intelligence agency GIP. While it cannot be ruled out that part of the final budget came from other donors, the Danish court has assumed that

Saudi money for anti-Iran ‘terror channel’ and demonstrations in the Netherlands

The long arm of Riyadh



ASMLA did in fact receive “significant sums” from the Saudis in response to these applications.

Response

Ahwazna TV says in a response to Argos that Iranian media are behind the allegations and that they have ‘unfortunately’ been taken over by the Danish prosecutor. The station says it has never promoted terrorism. The TV station reportedly only reported on the situation in Iran: “There are daily crimes against the Arabs, the original population of Ahwaz, by the Iranian regime.”

Ahwazna TV said the channel “must be silenced as it has become a source of disruption to Iran.” According to Ahwazna TV, the amount of 1.2 million euros cannot be correct, because the channel uses volunteers and second-hand equipment. The broadcasts from the Netherlands would have been suspended in the meantime. The Saudi embassy in the Netherlands has not responded to a request for a hearing.

In Denmark, Ahwazna TV has been

banned for two years because the channel ‘has grossly broken the law by showing programs that promote both direct and indirect terrorism’.

Demonstrations

ASMLA also organized demonstrations in Europe against Iran and for the Ahwaz cause. For this, the ASMLA leadership also requested funding from Saudi Arabia and a budget was drawn up. Money was needed for plane tickets, hotels, buses and allowances for journalists. Refugees from asylum seekers

centers also had to be paid to participate. That would have cost 60 euros per person. Arab news channels were promised to report.

Police documents mention an amount of 400 thousand euros, including 190 thousand euros for a demonstration in The Hague and 80 thousand for a demonstration in Copenhagen. The communication dates from late 2014 and early 2015. In 2015, there were manifestations of ASMLA in Copenhagen and Brussels,

ASMLA also organized demonstrations in Europe against Iran and for the Ahwaz cause.

Iran’s security chief: U.S. not united to make political decisions about Vienna talks

TEHRAN — Iran’s Supreme National Security Council secretary said on Wednesday that the United States is not united in making a “political decision” to advance the ongoing negotiations in Vienna intended to lift sanctions on Iran by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal ditched by the Trump administration.

“Voices from the US government show that there is no coherence in the country to make political decisions in the direction of advancement in the #ViennaTalks. The US administration cannot pay for its internal disputes by violating #Iran’s legal rights,” Ali Shamkhani tweeted on Wednesday.

The tweet comes after the chief negotiators, who had traveled to the capitals for consultations, returned to Vienna on Tuesday to resume talks.

During the hiatus, Bagheri Kani, Iran’s chief negotiator, briefed MPs on the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on the conclusion of the negotiations. According to MPs who attended the briefing, Bagheri Kani saw the conversations as “forward-moving” and “good.”

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian reaffirmed on Saturday that Iran is “serious” about obtaining assurances at the Vienna nuclear talks that the U.S. will not breach its commitments again.



Amir Abdollahian said Iran’s negotiating delegation is working hard to obtain “tangible guarantees” and bring the Western side back into compliance with the terms of the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The foreign minister also stated that Iran had partially succeeded in gaining some economic and political guarantees.

“What the Iranian negotiating team is seeking at all levels is political, legal, and economic agreements, but the Iranian negotiating team is serious about obtaining a practical guarantee from the Western side,” he added, according to state news agency IRNA.

Bagheri Kani met with EU coordinator Enrique Mora on Tuesday. He also met with the Russian

Iran unveils new missile with 1,450 km range

From page 1 ► The missile, which is propelled by solid fuel, is classified among the third generation of the IRGC missiles. It is unique in terms of weight and firing. Its weight is reduced by one-third in comparison to similar ones and the time needed to launch it has been reduced by six times.

The Kheibar Shekan missile also enjoys high maneuverability in face of anti-missile systems at the stage of landing. The missile was launched as Iran

is celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is consistently improving its missile capabilities to counter aggressors, oppressors, arrogant powers as well as murderous Zionists,” Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri said during the unveiling ceremony, emphasizing that the Islamic Republic will continue promoting its missile technology both “quantitatively and qualitatively”.

He added the enemies of the Islamic Republic don’t understand anything other the language of force.

If the enemies feel that by attacking Iran, they will gain anything more than what they will lose they never care about “ethics”, “humanity”, “human rights”, or “admonishment” by the media.

Bagheri also hailed the “dynamic” dissuasive power of the Iranian armed forces, saying the country is broadening both its inventory

among others, and in 2016 at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, where Eisa S. and Habib Jabor were present.

Armed Branch

Despite public statements approving and even claiming responsibility for attacks in Iran, it has long remained unclear whether ASMLA leaders in Europe themselves had a hand in violence. Significant is a tapped board meeting of ASMLA in February 2020. There it was discussed that it would be better to refrain from aggressive and violent statements from now on, because the Danish authorities and international partners would no longer tolerate this. When asked ‘does this mean that we should put aside the armed struggle’, Habib Jabor answers that this is not the case, but that ‘there must be a new definition’.

Chat conversations between the ASMLA leaders, Eisa S. and individuals in Iran explicitly discussed targets, payments, recruiting perpetrators, purchasing weapons and filming attacks. ‘If you can hit them and shoot the film well and there will be deaths, then help will come for you that is unimaginable to you’, said Eisa, for example, to his contact person ‘Issi’ in Iran. In 2018, in particular, there was a series of bank arson attacks and attacks associated with ASMLA in the Iranian region of Khuzestan. The Danish criminal case showed that converted at least 2 million euros was obtained from Saudi Arabia for the armed branch of ASMLA.

Hunt for ASMLA leaders

Tehran has accused ASMLA and Saudi Arabia of terrorism for years and repeatedly asked the Dutch and Danish governments to intervene. Meanwhile, Iran was hunting for ASMLA leaders. In the Netherlands, co-founder Ahmad Mola Nissi was shot dead in The Hague in 2017, although he had already broken up with Habib Jabor’s group in 2015, precisely because of Saudi Arabia’s influence on the group. An assassination attempt on Jabor in Denmark was narrowly thwarted in September 2018. Habib Chaab from Sweden was lured to Turkey in 2020 and kidnapped to Iran. An investigation by Argos in 2019 showed that Iranian spies had great interest in Ahwazna TV in Rijswijk. Eisa S.’s life may have even been in danger.

ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov.

“Met with the Head of the delegation of #Iran Mr. A.Bagheri Kani immediately upon resumption of the #ViennaTalks on #JCPOA,” Ulyanov tweeted after the meeting.

A group of 33 U.S. Republican senators threatened in a letter to Biden that they would make every effort to block the implementation of the agreement with Iran if it did not allow Congress to vote on it.

After talks with his visiting French counterpart Emmanuel Macron at the Kremlin on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the position of Moscow and Paris on the situation around the Iran nuclear deal are very close.

“We discussed the situation around the Iran nuclear deal and the restoration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that was adopted in 2015 and approved by United Nations Security Council resolution 2231. We share the opinion that it is necessary to continue diplomatic efforts and encourage compromise solutions in the interests of saving this major document,” TASS quoted Putin as saying.

“We agreed that our positions on this matter are very close or, as diplomats say, coincide,” he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei appoints army advisor

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the commander-in-chief, issued a decree on Wednesday naming former defense minister Amir Hatami as his army advisor.

In addition to holding the post of defense minister in the second administration of

Rouhani, Brigadier General Hatami held a variety of other positions, including deputy defense minister, armed forces deputy chief of staff, deputy commander of army intelligence, and commander of units in the country’s west and northwest.

U.S. Congress set to turn up the heat on Lebanon

From Page 1 ► The U.S. seems to have seen an opportunity in the parliamentary elections to achieve the desired political change in Lebanon. This may be the reason why U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea has emphasized the holding of the elections on time.

“The international community is unanimous that the elections must be held on time in a fair and transparent manner,” Shea told Reuters. “There’s no wiggle room.”

The importance of the elections to the U.S. is evident in the Lankford bill which calls on the U.S. government to actively draw up a list of Lebanese nationals including government officials who are thought to be “significantly obstructing or undermining” the elections.

Aside from the elections, the bill also pushes for a host of other measures in Lebanon that could well end up upsetting the country’s delicate power-sharing system. For instance, the bill stipulates that the



U.S. secretaries of state and defense are authorized to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces with the purpose of countering Hezbollah. This is while Hezbollah is part of the Lebanese government.

In other words, Hezbollah is part and parcel of Lebanon’s religiopolitical composition. And using one Lebanese faction to target or undermine another Lebanese faction would hardly serve stability

and prosperity in Lebanon.

The bill seems to be designed to put Hezbollah in the crosshairs. It stipulates that the U.S. secretary of state should do an array of measures to “undercut the influence of Hezbollah.”

To this end, it calls on the secretary of state to work toward resolving border disputes between Beirut and Tel Aviv including the Blue Line demarcation line and the disputed

maritime boundary in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The bill goes as far as to call on the secretary of state to encourage the Lebanese government to normalize relations with Israel.

In parallel, the bill calls on the U.S. to use its influence over the IMF as leverage to force reforms in Lebanon. Since September last year, the Lebanese government has been engaged in a process with the IMF to take out a multibillion loan.

But the assistance has been conditioned on Lebanon making reforms. The bill lays out the circumstances under which the U.S. would approve the IMF loan to Lebanon. It instructs the U.S. Department of the Treasury to use its influence over the international organization to extract a commitment from the Lebanese government to implement needed reforms before supporting the disbursement of financial assistance.

Iran has made political decision regarding Vienna talks: report

TEHRAN – Iran has made the political decision needed to push the talks in Vienna forward, according to a Tasnim report.

A source close to Iran’s negotiating team in the Vienna talks told the semi-official news agency that unlike Washington, Tehran has made its political decision.

“Iran has made its political decision,” the source told Tasnim on Monday, commenting on the course of the Vienna negotiations about the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and lifting of the sanctions on Iran.

“The main obstacle is the lack of a political decision by the U.S.,” the source added.

“Washington should be worried about the loss of opportunity,” the source said.

Iran’s chief negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, headed to the Austrian capital on Tuesday after a weeklong hiatus intended to make consultations in the capital Tehran.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told a weekly news conference on Monday that agreements have been reached on the issue of guarantees, but nothing will be agreed unless everything is agreed.

Bagheri Kani met with heads of other negotiating delegations immediately after arriving in Vienna. Before the recent break, it was announced that progress in the talks depended on political decisions in capitals.

Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, said Iran has “carefully” set the agenda of Iran’s negotiating team ahead of its return to Vienna.

“The agenda for the Iranian negotiators to continue the eighth round of the Vienna talks has been carefully defined,” he said on Twitter. The top Iranian security official also hinted that the U.S. needs to make a decision regarding the lifting of sanctions.

“An agreement in which the sanctions that form the maximum pressure are not lifted will condition the country’s economy and cannot be the basis of a Good Deal.”

Earlier, Khatibzadeh suggested that the U.S. needs to make political decisions regarding the Vienna talks.

“Today, the United States should come to Vienna with a clear agenda and political decisions to remove the sanctions and fulfill its obligations, instead of creating propaganda,” Khatibzadeh noted.

The spokesman added that the Iranian negotiating team has gone to Vienna from the first day with all its necessary authority and competence, and Iran hopes that the decisions will be taken by the other side.

He continued, “It is natural that Iran expects the necessary decisions have been taken by the other parties, especially Washington, on the issue of lifting sanctions and Iran’s benefits from the JCPOA.”

Khatibzadeh added that Iran expects the delegations, including the Americans, to return to Vienna with clear instructions to fulfill their obligations in line with the 2015 nuclear deal and the lifting of sanctions.

“There are significant issues on the agenda that are unlikely to be resolved except with Washington’s political decisions,” he concluded.

Bagheri Kani, briefed Iranian lawmakers on the outcome of the talks during the hiatus. During the meeting, Bagheri Kani viewed the talks as “forward-moving” and “positive,” according to lawmakers who attended the briefing.

Khatibzadeh echoed the same assessment at his weekly presser on Monday. He said the talks have made significant progress.

The spokesman said, “We had remarkable progress in various spheres including the issue of guarantees on which some ideas have been raised and written.”

According to Khatibzadeh, the framework of a deal has been laid out and its prospect is very clear.

At issue are a number of important points such as the guarantees Iran is demanding the U.S. to provide and verification measures Iran says it needs to undertake in case a deal is reached in Vienna. Iran has said it needs guarantees from the U.S. that it won’t renege on its commitments again after it reenters the 2015 nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

All sanctions have adverse consequences for civilians: Iran

TEHRAN – Iran’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York has denounced all sanctions, unilateral or multilateral, as having adverse consequences for civilians.

In statement issued on Monday, the mission outlined Iran’s position regarding the humanitarian and unintended consequences of sanctions.

The statement said, “Sanctions, according to the Secretary-General, disproportionately harm the most vulnerable and often the most innocent parts of the society. All sanctions, unilateral or multilateral, have adverse consequences for civilian populations, disproportionately affecting the children, women, elderly, sick, and poor. Sanctions also bring about grave humanitarian consequences. In a pandemic crisis like COVID-19, sanctions give rise to far-reaching repercussions, placing the health and lives of civilian populations in peril more than others.”

It added, “Furthermore, humanitarian actors usually face difficulties working under the environment dominated by sanctions. Unintended effects of such measures can stymie the delivery of life-saving humanitarian supplies where they are needed most, wreaking havoc on populations. While Article 41 of the UN Charter empowers the Security

Council to impose sanctions, the Security Council’s mandate is limited by Article 24, which states that ‘in discharging its duties, the Security Council shall act in accordance with the United Nations’ purposes and principles.’ In simple words, the Security Council is not above international law, and its sanction’s authority should be exercised in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter.”

The statement continued, “In this context, the imposition by the Security Council of sanctions that amount to ‘collective punishment’ and result in widespread death and suffering among innocent people violates the Charter and is thus ultra vires. It is deeply regrettable that the authority and powers of the Security Council have been repeatedly abused by certain States who, in pursuance of their own illegitimate political objectives particularly against developing countries, regard sanctions as their preferred tools to exert maximum pressure on those countries.”

The statement pointed out, “Such behavior constitutes not only a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and basic principles of international law, but also a sign of disrespect for the authority and powers of the Council, undermining its integrity and effectiveness.”

Iran has been suffering from blanket economic sanctions ever since 2018 when the Trump administration pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Trump administration imposed sweeping sanctions against Iran that caused so many sufferings to ordinary Iranians.

The statement continued, “We believe that nothing in the UN Charter can be interpreted as authorizing unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to general principles of international law, breach the prohibition on interfering in the internal affairs of other states, and violate their sovereignty. Disregarding their international obligations and violating the UN Charter and international law, certain Member States are spearheading the application of applying unilateral coercive measures against other countries. The imposition of such unlawful measures against the Iranian people is a case in point.”

It stated, “Iran has been under harshest economic and financial sanctions imposed by the U.S. for decades, unprecedented in history. These illegal actions have directly impacted the lives of Iran’s most vulnerable citizens, including children, elderly and patients. It is a sad reality that some patients, including children suffering from

rare diseases, have lost their precious lives as a result of sanctions on imported medicine and medical supplies.”

The statement noted, “The illegality of such inhumane measures is clearly underlined by the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures, who states that ‘while the right of States to disagree should be respected, harming the human rights of ordinary civilians should not be used as a means of political pressure on a targeted Government. This is an infringement on international human rights law.’ We believe that unilateral coercive measures, whether in the form of unilateral sanctions or restrictive measures, that target civilian populations as part of a widespread or systematic policy and create undue suffering constitute a flagrant violation of international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law.”

The statement concluded, “As our President stated in his address to the 76th UNGA session, ‘imposing unilateral sanctions against the Iranian people, particularly sanctions on medicine and humanitarian items, are criminal acts on par with committing crimes against humanity. Sanctioning countries should not go unpunished for such heinous crimes.’”

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iran looking for glory at CAFA U19 Futsal Championship

From Page 1 ► Earlier, competitions under the auspices of CAFA were held only in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

Central Asian Football Association subdivision and association in Asian Football Confederation (AFC), controlling football in Central Asian countries. Based on June 10, 2014, launched officially on Jan. 9, 2015. It unites the football federations of Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Until mid-2015, the organization was called the Central Asian Football Association.

The formation of CAFA was spearheaded by the Iranian Football Federation following disputes with West Asian Football Federation members. It was reported that AFC President Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa gained politically from the creation of the new zone.

Esteghlal complete signing of Uzbek midfielder Amonov

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Esteghlal completed signing of Uzbek midfielder Azizbek Amonov.

The 24-year-old player has penned a 2.5-year deal with Esteghlal.

Amonov is a member of Uzbekistan national football team as well.

He has joined Esteghlal from Lokomotiv Tashkent.

Amonov is Esteghlal’s third foreign player after Rudy Gesteira and Arthur Yamga.

The Blues lead Iran Professional League (IPL) table and are looking to bring an end to their nine-year title drought.

Iranian Alpine skier Ahmadi fails to complete her run: 2022 Winter Olympics

TEHRAN – Iranian female skier Atefeh Ahmadi failed to complete her second run in the women’s slalom of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old skier finished the first round in 57th place with a time of 1:11.88 minutes, however she failed to complete her second run.

Petra Vlhova of Slovakia won the gold medal with a combined time of 1:44.98 minutes.

Austria’s Katharina Liensberger earned silver with a time of 1:45.06 and defending silver medalist Wendy Holdener of Switzerland took bronze with a time of 1:45.10.

The 2022 Winter Olympics started on Feb. 4 and run through Feb. 20 in Beijing, China.

Iran remain unchanged in futsal ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team remained unchanged in the world futsal ranking released on Tuesday.

Team Melli sit sixth in the table with 1580 points. Brazil lead the table with 1791 points.

Portugal (1763) and Argentina (1756) have moved up to second and third place after winning title in UEFA Futsal EURO and Copa América de Futsal respectively.

Spain (1754) and Russia (1687) are fourth and fifth in the table.

Persepolis defender Shiri deemed surplus to requirement

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team right back Mehdi Shiri has been deemed surplus to requirement.

The 31-year-old defender joined Persepolis in 2019 and helped the Reds win three titles in Iran Professional League.

He was a member of Persepolis football team in the 2020 AFC Champions League, where the Iranian team lost to South Korean team Ulsan Hyundai 2-1 in the final.

Shiri touched the ball in the second half in the

area and Ulsan Brazilian forward Junior Negrao found the back of the net from spot.

In the match against Foolad in Iran’s Super Cup, Shiri was sent off early in the second half after receiving his second yellow card.

Persepolis failed to win Super Cup for the fifth time in a row.

Marouf’s Fenerbache debut highlights weekend in Turkey

TEHRAN - Iranian star Saeid Marouf made a successful debut for Fenerbahce HDI Sigorta Istanbul over the weekend and helped his new team move up to the top three in the current Turkish league standings, despite a 27-point tally from Canadian international Nicholas Hoag that fueled direct rivals Arkas Spor Izmir towards a hard-fought five-set win.

Marouf demonstrated his brilliant playmaking skills on Friday as Fenerbahce mastered a 3-0 (25-21, 25-20, 25-21) shutout of visiting Altekma Izmir, in addition to making three spiking attempts himself and converting all three of them to points.

“I am very happy for the win. It has been a week since I came here. I am trying to get used to the team. We are trying to find our rhythm. It was not easy after two losses in the league, but I am very happy that we won.”

The three-point win improved Fenerbahce’s record to 13-5 and 39 points, just enough to slide into the third position in the table, leaving Arkas behind on 13-5 and 38.

On Saturday, Arkas battled it out against fifth-placed Galatasaray HDI Sigorta Istanbul to claim a sweet home victory with a 27-point match high (including four blocks and an ace) from Canadian outside Nick Hoag. However, that win came after a five-set duel, 3-2 (19-25, 27-25, 25-20, 19-25, 15-11), not enough for Arkas to hold on to their spot among the top three in the standings.

Table leaders Halkbank Ankara are still unbeaten in 18 matches (51 points). Their city rivals Ziraat Bankkart Ankara are trailing in second on 15-3 and 46.

Kanaanizadegan misses next two Iran matches

TEHRAN – The Ethics Committee of the Iranian Football Federation has banned Mohammad Hossein Kanaanizadegan from two upcoming national matches.

Accordingly, the central defender cannot play against South Korea and Lebanon in March in the final matches of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers, PLDC reported.

Iran and South Korea have already booked their tickets to the 2022 Qatar World Cup but the remaining matches are important because they can affect the FIFA ranking and hence, the seeds that teams will be put in the final draw.

The ethics committee has also levied a 1 billion rials (nearly \$3700) fine on the defender.

He has the right to appeal to the higher court.

Dragan Skocic had called up the defender for the last two matches against Iraq and UAE some two weeks ago.

Kanaanizadegan and Vahid Amiri are the two players that have been on the pitch for Iran during all games of the qualifiers so far.

Petchem, gas supply projects worth over \$1.5b put into operation

From page 1 ► Also, 11 gas transmission projects valued at 100 trillion rials (about \$378.7 million) were inaugurated.

Further in the mentioned ceremony, a petrochemical complex was also put into operation in southwestern Khouzestan Province by the president's order through video conference.

Over 12 trillion rials (about \$50 million) has been invested for establishment of the mentioned complex.

After the inauguration ceremony, Raisi also visited the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Dispatching Center and was briefed about the condition of the country's gas network and gas supply by Oil Minister Javad Oji.

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

Transport and Urban Development Ministry had announced the plan for the inauguration of numerous port development, maritime, and transport projects during this year's Ten-Day



Dawn celebrations (February 1-11).

The mentioned projects include 484 transport projects with a total investment of 60.42 trillion rials (about \$228.8 million), 53 railway projects valued at 26.72 trillion rials (about \$101.21 million), and 19 maritime and port development projects worth 6.8 trillion rials (about \$25.75 million).

Agriculture Ministry also inaugurated 1969 water and soil preservation projects across the country during the mentioned celebrations.

Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry also put into operation some 468 industrial and mining projects worth 626 trillion rials (about \$2.37 billion).

'Developing Iran-Russia trade requires solving transport issues in third countries'



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and RIDS Chairman Vladimir Obydenov meet in Tehran on Tuesday

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has said resolving the problems related to the transportation of goods through third countries is the prerequisite for the development of Iran-Russia economic relations.

Gholam-Hossein Shafeie made the remarks in a meeting with Vladimir Obydenov, chairman of the Russian-Iranian Business Council (RIDS) on Tuesday, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"To send their goods to Russia, Iranian traders have to pass through third countries, which always cause hardships for them," Shafeie said.

During this meeting, the official also emphasized the need to establish a joint chamber of commerce with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states.

He pointed to the lack of necessary infrastructure, especially in the transportation sector, and called for cooperation between the

two countries to remove existing restrictions on trade and investment between Iran and Russia.

The ICCIMA head further underlined the comprehensive relationship between the two countries in recent years and said: "To achieve the goals defined in the two countries' comprehensive cooperation plan, we need to resolve some infrastructure issues and the first point is to solve problems related to transportation."

Regarding the maritime transport of exported goods, he pointed to Iran's inadequate port infrastructure and called the unavailability of Ro-Ro ships a serious weakness in trade relations between the two countries.

According to Shafeie, today the two countries face many problems not only in the maritime field but also in the rail and road transportation sectors, including the low speed of rail transportation and the increase in the cost of goods.

Further in the meeting, Obydenov for his part noted that economic relations between the two countries are following an upward trend.

He pointed to the establishment of a center in Russia to provide trade and legal services to the two countries' businessmen and, in some cases, support them financially.

This center will try to establish the necessary communication between the two countries' traders by introducing them to each other, he said.

Alireza Moghadasi said Iran exported over 100 million tons of non-oil products worth \$38.763 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.

Iran-UAE trade conference held in Dubai

TEHRAN – Iran Trade Center in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted an Iran-UAE trade conference on Tuesday, chairman of the mentioned center announced.

According to Mohammad-Reza Talaei, over 120 Iranian companies along with 40 companies from UAE attended the mentioned conference, the portal of Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry Shata reported.

As reported, a virtual exhibition is also being held alongside the conference during February 8-19.

The conference was attended by Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin who visited the UAE on top of a high-ranking delegation including Head of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak.

Talaei noted that ambassadors of Venezuela and Kazakhstan,



Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin (C)

as well as representatives of the Swiss Business Council also attended the conference.

The official said positive B2B meetings were held during this conference and several meetings are also set to be held on the sidelines of the online exhibition in which over 240 companies are

participating.

"We hope that an UAE trade delegation will also visit Iran in the next few months to further facilitate the improvement of trade relations between the two sides," Talaei said.

According to Talaei, about 25,000 members of the Dubai

Chamber of Commerce were also informed in this regard.

"Good information was provided for holding these programs and a very good atmosphere was formed, the effects of which we will see soon," he added.

The Iranian delegation also visited Expo Dubai during their stay in Dubai.

Talaei had previously said that the purpose of this conference is to develop trade relations between Iran and the UAE and to introduce Iran's trade and investment opportunities to companies based in the UAE.

"In this conference, we intend to introduce the existing potentials of the country in various sectors of agriculture, industry, mining, and trade and also promote the capabilities of our knowledge-based companies," the official said.

Domestic companies ink deals with NISOC to supply equipment

TEHRAN – Seven domestic companies have signed deals with National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) in order to manufacture the company's required equipment and parts in various fields, Shana reported.

The deals, worth a total of 930 billion rials (about \$3.522 million), were signed on Wednesday on the sidelines of Ahvaz Specialized Oil Industry Exhibition (Ahvaz Oil Show) in the southwestern Khouzestan Province.

These contracts include the manufacturing of spare parts for turbines and compressors, as well as anti-corrosion materials, and drilling muds which are used in the process of oil extraction and drilling operations.

The contracts were signed by Yousef Mazraeh-Fard, NISOC director of procurement and commodity affairs, and heads of the mentioned companies including Turbine Machine M.E., Mapna Mavad Karan, Payvaran Parsian Company, Ekbatan Petrokar, Mehrtash Sepahan Company, Isfahan Copolymer Company, and Kian Eksin Company.

Attended by 210 domestic companies and



manufacturers, Ahvaz Specialized Oil Industry Exhibition was held during February 6-9 in southwestern Ahvaz city in Khouzestan Province.

The indigenization and domestic production of oil and gas industry equipment have been always among the objectives of the Iranian Oil Ministry. However, the issue became further highlighted since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions and Washington's determination for cutting off the Islamic Republic's ties with the world advances in knowledge and technology, especially in the oil and gas sector.

In this regard, over the past few years, the ministry has been seriously supporting

knowledge-based companies and startups and several events, exhibitions, and panels have been held to encourage the mentioned companies' contribution to the country's oil and gas industry.

Back in January, Oil Minister Javad Oji said domestic producers are currently supplying over 70 percent of the oil industry's needed equipment, adding that this figure can increase to 95 percent.

Speaking in a meeting with the representatives of the country's oil and gas equipment manufacturers, Oji said: "Currently, a major part of the equipment and parts needed by all sectors (upstream and downstream) are supplied by domestic manufacturers."

The minister noted that various meetings have been held with domestic executors and contractors to ensure the implementation of the oil industry projects, adding: "We have also had several meetings with members of parliament about the next year's budget bill because since most of the budget funding comes from the oil industry we have to pay close attention to it."

Bushehr province's 10-month fishery export stands at over 21,000 tons

TEHRAN- Fishery export from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, stood at over 21,000 tons in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), a provincial official announced.

Ali Bazdar, the director-general of the province's Fishery Department, said that of the figure 2,000 tons was the export in the tenth month.

He put the ten-month farmed-shrimp production at 28,100 tons, of which 90 percent is exported.

Farmed shrimp export from the province indicates 20 percent

growth in this year from the previous year, the official added.

Iran has exported 62,500 tons of fisheries in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22, 2021), according to an official with Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO).

Isa Golshahi, IFO's director-general for quality improvement, processing, and market development, said that live, frozen and processed fisheries and aquatic products have been exported to different countries in the first six months of this year.

The official has previously said in terms of accessing some new target markets in the field of fisheries, cooperation with the relevant organizations such as chambers of commerce, Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the non-governmental sector to open new markets in the international arena is one the agenda of the IFO's plans.

Over the past two years, the efforts of the Aquatics' Production and Trade Union of Iran, and the non-governmental sector have

led to the addition of markets in countries such as Oman and Malaysia to Iran's target export markets in this field, he further noted.

Fishery production has increased noticeably in Iran in recent years.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products were sold easily in the export markets, and also some new export destinations welcomed these products in the past two years; as new markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations opened up for Iranian fishery products.

Export from Kermanshah rises 10% in 10 months on year

TEHRAN – The value of export from Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, rose 10 percent in the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Bakhtiar Rahmanipour, the supervisor of the province's Customs Department, said that 5.324 million tons of commodities worth \$2.196 billion were exported from the province in the ten-month period.

The official further announced that the ten-month export indicates one percent growth in terms of weight year on year.

He named ceramic and tiles, rebars, petrochemical products, dairy products, disposable containers, plastic products, constructional stones, fruits and vegetables as the major products exported from the province in the said time span.

As previously announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports rose 38 percent during the first 10 months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past 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.

TEDPIX gains 3,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 3,043 points to close at 1.284 million points on Wednesday.

As reported, over 5.63 billion securities worth 29.955 trillion rials (about \$119.8 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 1,380 points and the second market's index gained 7,754 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 Refinery, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, and National Iranian Copper Company were the most widely followed ones.

The Money and Capital Market Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a meeting with Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Head Majid Eshqi on January 30 to discuss the capital markets' current issues and challenges.

The meeting was attended by the members of the mentioned committee as well as the representatives of some of the companies active in the stock market.

Sayyed Nasrallah: “Iran is a regional superpower”

From page 1 ► Nasrallah also stressed “Washington’s talk about war with Iran is just exaggeration,” stressing that “if Iran is bombed by Israel, the response will be violent.”

On the subject of normalization with Israel, Nasrallah clarified that “normalization with the regime benefits the latter financially.”

Regarding the Saudi-led coalition’s war on Yemen, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah indicated that “the UAE has resorted to Western powers and Israel to protect it in the face of Yemen.”

Sayyed Nasrallah says the solution to the UAE problem in Yemen is its withdrawal.

Regarding the Emirati military intervention in Yemen, through the Saudi coalition, Sayyed Nasrallah declared that “the solution to the issue between the Yemenis and the UAE is easy, and the [leader of the Ansarallah movement] Sayyed al-Houthi announced it previously, which is its withdrawal from the war.”

He added, “The Americans talk about sending reinforcements to protect the UAE reflects the state of terror it is living in.”

Nasrallah noted the air defense force of the resistance has given very effective results.

In any future confrontation with “Israel”, Sayyed Nasrallah asked: “When Israel says it wants to eliminate Hezbollah’s missiles, does it know their numbers?” And he indicated that “the extent of the distance of the resistance’s missile capability does not allow the enemy to do anything against Lebanon.”

Nasrallah added that “the resistance’s air defense force has given very effective results since it was activated two years ago,” reiterating that “the resistance considers that it is interested in possessing any weapon that would enable it to defend Lebanon and its people”.

He also declared that “there is no Iranian party interfering in the Lebanese elections, or any other internal affair”.

On the other hand, Sayyed Nasrallah said that “the American embassy being built in Lebanon, its role extends beyond Lebanon to

the whole region,” stressing that “we are facing American security, political and economic influence, and what issues related to the intervention in the Lebanese army must be addressed.”

Regarding the U.S. sanctions, Sayyed Nasrallah indicated that “U.S. sanctions are harmful to some environments, but they cannot negatively affect Hezbollah,” adding that “American attempts to open channels of communication with Hezbollah, through various parties, have not stopped.”

Sayyed Nasrallah noted Lebanon is a sovereign country, and no one should dictate any dictates to it.

The Secretary-General of Hezbollah declared that the party “is not willing to accept anything that affects the resistance, which is the only guarantee for the protection of Lebanon.”

We do not interfere in the negotiations on the demarcation of the border because we do not recognize the existence of “Israel”, he said.

He added, “Our position on the issue of border demarcation is principled, and its background is related to the non-recognition of Israel,” noting that “any suspicion of normalization, cooperation or coordination with the enemy, within the framework of border demarcation, we are against it.”

Regarding foreign interference in Lebanese affairs, Sayyed Nasrallah said that “Lebanon is a sovereign state, and it is not right for anyone to dictate any dictates or stipulations to it,” stressing that it would have been better for matters to go towards a dialogue between Lebanon and the Arab countries, and this is something we support.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister visited Lebanon on January 22 and presented to the Lebanese authorities a week ago a list of proposed measures that should be taken to ease diplomatic tension with the Persian Arab Gulf states.

Sayyed Nasrallah continued: “If they are under the illusion that we are interfering with Arab countries because of the Yemen file, then they should not interfere in our affairs,” stressing that “we should not be a party dictated to.”



Sayyed Nasrallah stated that “the security work did not stop, and the political pressure as well, and it did not reach a result, so they resorted to economic war.”

Regarding the decision of Future Movement leader Saad al-Hariri to suspend his political career and that of his party, Nasrallah said that “the decision to withdraw the Future Movement from the elections is unfortunate,” and declared that “the talk that the Future Movement’s withdrawal will open the door to extremism is exaggerated.”

“Hariri’s decision is unfortunate, and his absence from the Future Movement has a significant impact on the elections, and the opportunities for cooperation with the Future Movement were and remain”

And he indicated that “there are parties that have clearly declared that their program and goal in the upcoming elections is to withdraw the resistance’s weapon,” noting that “it is important to us that there are many friends of the resistance in Parliament, to form a defense for it.”

Nasrallah explained that “our presence in Parliament has an aspect related to internal files and laws related to the lives of the Lebanese.”

Regarding the role of U.S.-backed civil society groups, Sayyed Nasrallah revealed that “embassies began to realize that the influence of civil society organizations is an illusion,” and added that “our information is that the U.S. ambassador has recently directed (a conspiracy) to officials of civil society organizations.”

Sayyed Nasrallah also offered his condolences to the martyrs in the occupied territories.

Nasrallah directed his condolences to the families of the three Palestinian martyrs, who were murdered by the bullets of the occupation forces in the city of Nablus, and indicated that “the occupation wants the Palestinian Authority to continue security coordination to confront the resistance,” stressing that “the equation of harming Al-Aqsa means harming the entire axis of resistance is still in place.”

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry

described the attack by Israeli regime forces as “an ugly field execution”.

“Israel is responsible for this criminal assassination. It is part of their ongoing crimes,” said Monir Al-Jaghoub, a Fatah spokesperson in the occupied West Bank.

Sayyed Nasrallah went on to say Operation Sword al-Quds proved that the resistance is still alive among the Palestinian people. He clarified that “the goal of normalization is to push the Palestinians to despair and frustration and give up their rights,” and that “Operation Sword of al-Quds proved that the resistance is still alive for the Palestinians”.

Regarding the stances opposing the normalization of some Arab countries with “Israel”, he said: “We must stand at the positions expressed by artists and athletes when they refused normalization,” paying a salute of appreciation and homage to them.

Elsewhere, Sayyed Nasrallah say the war on Syria is over. The Secretary-General of Hezbollah announced that “the global war on Syria has ended, and it has not been able to bear fruit,” noting that “the situation there still requires more care and caution.”

Sayyed Nasrallah added, “The situation in Syria requires us to be by each other’s side, and we are present within the limits of need.”

Sayyed Nasrallah revealed that “there is a project to revive Daesh again in Syria and Iraq,” adding that “Syria remains an open arena, and the Americans are stealing oil and gas from the east of the Euphrates.”

He also explained that “the Israelis targeted places of resistance in Syria, and there is a formula we have imposed in this context,” and added that “the air defenses in Syria are effectively responding to the Israeli attacks.”

In Iraq, Sayyed Nasrallah says that Hezbollah “plays a role in bringing the parties closer together when they ask us to do so.” And in Bahrain, Sayyed Nasrallah pointed out that “there is severe repression of the opposition, which insisted on its peaceful movement.”

Russia-NATO dispute may lead to a new Cold War: ex-diplomat

From page 1 ► Following is the text of the interview:

How do you see the recent escalation between U.S. and Russia over Ukraine?

Since the crisis started three months ago, the concentration of Russian forces on the Ukrainian border has resulted in an escalation of warnings and threats from the U.S. and NATO. Russia accuses the West of trying to expand NATO even closer to the Russian borders. The West, on the other side, accuses Russia of trying to find an alibi to invade Ukraine and threatens Russia with very serious economic and financial sanctions. These dangerous developments are widely covered by the media, which is a normal thing to happen in such a situation.

After seeing many former USSR countries join NATO, President Putin seems to be determined to prevent Ukraine from becoming a member of this Organization. I personally have no doubt that Putin will do whatever it takes to prevent this from happening.

How could Russia-U.S. escalation affect West Asia? Do you expect formation of new coalitions?

Both U.S. and Russia have their respective allies and friends in the Middle East (West Asia). So far, most countries of the Middle East (West Asia) have not yet taken a clear position on the Ukrainian crisis. As long as the crisis is limited to a war of words, no serious development is expected in countries of the Middle East (West Asia).

However, if the situation evolves into an armed conflict whereby Russia invades Ukraine and the West imposes harsh sanctions on Russia, countries of the Middle East (West Asia) will have to take a position. It is expected that (Persian) Gulf countries might be asked by the U.S. to provide gas and petroleum to European countries if Russia cuts its supplies to Germany, France and others. The U.S. has already asked Qatar for that during Emir Tameem’s visit to Washington on January 31st. Israel’s stance will be more problematic since it has good relations with both Russia and Ukraine, the latter of which is home to a significant Jewish community and where Israel has substantial investments, including in technology. This connection explains why Israel’s Prime Minister tried, from the beginning, to play a reconciling though unsuccessful role between these two countries.

Do you think that the Ukraine crisis is a sign of new Cold War?

It all depends on how this crisis will evolve. If a political solution is reached, a new Cold War could be avoided. But if the stalemate continues or develops into an armed conflict, we will, unfortunately, experience a new Cold War. The weapons in a renewed Cold War would most likely be technological tools like website hacking and the spread of disinformation distributed through social media, as well as other tools of artificial intelligence.

Why is the U.S. insisting on entering other powers’ spheres of influence? For example, escalation with Russia over Ukraine and with China over Taiwan.

Although Ukraine is neither a U.S. ally nor a NATO member, there are friendly relations between the two countries. We should also note that it is Ukraine that asked to join NATO and not the U.S. that started the process. Ukraine is expressing its pro-Western



desire despite the fact that about 20% of its population is of Russian extraction and it shares a more than 2,000-kilometer border with Russia. Of course, the U.S. would welcome such a position on the part of Ukraine because every loss to Russia is a gain for the U.S., and vice-versa.

Regarding Taiwan, the U.S. has maintained strong relations with the island since it separated from mainland China and became an independent state. Within the strong competition taking place these days between China and the U.S., the latter is expanding its influence in the South China Sea, by striking new alliances with Australia in sync with the UK (AUKUS), and by strengthening its military presence in the area. The Biden administration, since coming to power, has also focused on the issues of the Uyghurs and Hong Kong, within its declared policy of protecting human rights throughout the world.

How do you read new moves of Iran, China, and Russia in inking strategic partnerships and exercising joint military parades? Is that a reaction to U.S. interventionist policies?

It is well-known that Iran, Russia and China’s relationships with the U.S. are not good. By joining forces through cooperation to create a common front, these countries stand to win some concessions from the U.S., each country within its own interests and priorities. If the Ukraine conflict is not solved peacefully and a new Cold War emerges, it is very likely that these three countries will constitute the backbone of an alliance opposed to the U.S. They will definitely be joined by their traditional allies like Venezuela, Cuba, Syria, among others.

I strongly believe that the world does not need more crises. A new Cold War should be avoided at any price. The escalation has been going on from both sides of the Ukraine crisis to the point where each side has to achieve some of its declared requests. Russia will not let Ukraine join NATO and NATO cannot accept to dismantle its military equipment from former USSR member states, neither can it sign a treaty confirming that it will not expand further eastward as Putin is requesting. Therefore, a solution could be found if NATO declines to accept Ukraine’s membership and agrees to some autonomy for the Russian separatists in the Eastern part of Ukraine, as provided in the Minsk II agreement. This should satisfy Russia, and Putin can then declare victory and boast that he prevented Ukraine from joining NATO. Russian forces will then withdraw from the border. The US and NATO can also declare victory boasting that they defended Ukraine and did not allow Russia to invade it. The Russia-NATO Council, established in 2002, can then be revived and future potential problems could be discussed within this council.

Low-flying threats challenge NATO’s deterrence in the East

According to U.S. Air Force Gen. Jeffrey Harrigian, the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa, the service has found “opportunities to go train, largely with our partners across Europe,” on close air support. He confidently asserted that he was “very comfortable that we...[can] operate with their joint terminal air controllers, their entities on the ground, from the Baltics down into the Med and even into Romania,” pointing out the “continued interaction with them that has allowed us to keep our close air support capabilities at the right level and continue to improve our readiness.”

But such confidence is misplaced.

In the event of a conflict with Russia, U.S. and NATO air forces will confront a contested air littoral — that is, the airspace between ground forces and high-end fighters and bombers. Russia’s integration of small tactical drones, low-flying missiles, electronic warfare systems, and loitering munitions will vie for control of the air from below the altitudes of conventional air superiority.

With a contested boundary standing between the air and ground, NATO ground forces cannot count on fighting under a protective aerial

umbrella or effective close air support.

Russian Chief of the General Staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov noted in 2018 that modern combat is “... unthinkable without drones – they are used by gunners, scouts, pilots – everyone.” Large numbers of Russian combat drones and radar-guided anti-aircraft artillery, as well as short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) and man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) like the SA-24 Igla-S and SA-25 Verba series will make the air littoral both more dangerous and more deadly. In eastern Ukraine, since 2014, Russia and its proxies have used multiple small drones, flying at different altitudes, to acquire targets and spot artillery strikes. Russian artillery fires were deadly accurate as a result. In the future, Russia plans to use swarms of loitering munitions — also known as “kamikaze drones”—to create a kind of “aerial minefield.”

With Russia disputing control of the air littoral, NATO will struggle to deliver effective close air support. High-end aircraft are simply too expensive and few in number to put at risk in a contested air littoral. With these aircraft pushed further back from the ground fight, they will be less effective in a close-air-support role.

Although the F-35 can deliver ground fires from safer altitudes, the standoff distance required by advanced SAMs will lengthen the window for Russian ground units to shoot and scoot; by the time the munition arrives there may be no target.

A critical challenge for NATO is that this close-air-support mission shortfall cannot be offset by land-based fire systems, given NATO’s deficit in heavy artillery. Whereas Russia relies on artillery for 65 percent of its firepower, NATO depends on airpower for approximately 80 percent of its total fires. The end of the Cold War, and three decades of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations, which favored precision airstrikes often from high altitudes, have left U.S. and European armies with critical shortages in heavy artillery.

At the start of military conflict with Russia, NATO ground troops would be seriously outgunned and at risk of defeat in detail. Although NATO militaries awakened to this danger after the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, they remain unprepared to fend off swarms of drones and short-range missiles. Such systems, operating at a range of frequencies and close to the ground, will be resistant to jamming and offer

an unfavorable economic exchange rate.

Adding to the challenge, these small and low-flying platforms are also harder to detect and engage than traditional air combatants. The Pentagon has invested billions of dollars in counter-drone systems in recent years, but it still fails to detect 60% of drones in tests, according to reports.

Effective air defense is inherently difficult.

Most dangerous of all, it might give the Russians the idea that they could win a quick victory at a relatively low cost, leading to deterrence failure.

What practical steps can NATO take to meet this new threat? The alliance must first close the capabilities gap. NATO militaries could upgrade or acquire more heavy artillery and ground-based air defense systems, but correcting this shortfall would take considerable time and investments. The better option is to effectively contest the air littoral from above and below. Allied forces should acquire and integrate large numbers of small, cheap aerial drones with other high-end air assets and ground-based fires into NATO’s scheme of maneuver to gain localized air superiority and added firepower

delivery, as well as blunt Russian advantages. It might just be enough to help turn the Russian advance into a tough and costly slog, buying time for NATO reinforcements to arrive in theater.

But technological solutions alone will be insufficient. NATO must also close the conceptual gap. NATO’s Joint Air Power Strategy, published in 2018, fails to address emerging threats to lower-altitude airspace. Addressing these threats requires a reconceptualization of air control, which NATO currently defines as “the required degree of freedom in the air domain necessary for the exploitation of the air.” As control of the air littoral rapidly decouples from that above, NATO’s doctrinal concepts must adapt accordingly, with air control understood in three dimensions, as a function of time, distance, and altitude.

Above all, NATO must prepare to control the air littoral, even if it may not be the easiest—or most appealing — mission to U.S. and NATO air forces. The glory days of fighter planes and swirling dog fights may or may not have passed, but they are no longer the only or most important fights in the sky.

(Source: news.yahoo.com)



Archaeological survey begins on Persian Gulf's historical port



TEHRAN – A team of archaeologists has commenced work on the historical port of Najm, which is one of the most important and largest commercial, industrial, and demographic centers of the Persian Gulf in Bushehr province.

This historical port, which extends for more than two kilometers along the coast, had never been investigated archaeologically, the head of the excavation team Hossein Tofiqian announced on Wednesday.

Parts of this historical site have been destroyed and occupied in recent years as a result of the expansion of industries in the area, and large portions of it are on the verge of destruction, he explained.

As its first archaeological survey, the project aims to determine the legal boundaries of the historical area in order to prevent further damage and illegal construction within it, he added.

In addition to the demarcation of the site, stratigraphic excavations are also underway to

determine the cultural sequence of this historical, he noted.

It has been proven through the studies that Najm has been a dynamic and active port in a wide area during all historical periods up to the early, middle, and late Islamic eras, he mentioned.

He also expressed the hope that the underway project would mark the beginning of archaeological research on the Persian Gulf.

The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Ports and Maritime Organization, and the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science under the supervision of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism (RICHT).

Bushehr province in southern Iran is home to several ancient ports including Siraf, which Iran seeks to register on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Moreover, Bushehr is one of the most significant historical regions along the Persian Gulf, embracing significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens. Bushehr is also home to various archaeological mounds including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion.

Exquisite handicraft on display at Fajr festival

TEHRAN – Over 300 handmade artworks made by Iranian artisans and craftspeople are currently on display at the 6th edition of the Fajr national handicrafts festival, which officially opened to the public on Tuesday at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

The opening ceremony was attended by the deputy culture minister Mohammad-Hossein Imani-Khoshkhu, Pouya Mahmoudian and Ali-Asghar Shalabafian, who are respectively deputies for handicrafts and tourism at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

All and all, 320 works, selected from 570 submitted ones from 31 provinces, are on show at the festival, Mahmoudian announced during the ceremony.

In selecting the works, the judging panel considered useful designs and aesthetic features as well as works that had the National Seal of Excellence, the official added.

A section of the festival is dedicated to

showcasing works and honoring children who continue their parents' path of handicrafts, she explained.

In addition to identifying artists, discovering new talents, and showcasing their work, the handicraft festival also allows those interested in Iranian culture, handicrafts, and traditional arts to communicate directly with artists, she noted.

The festival will come to an end on February 13.

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.

The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

How's Iran adventure on two wheels

From page 1 ► Commonly, Iranians are caring and feel responsible for being by your side. If you ask for directions, they will probably walk you to your destination. Some locals may pull over to offer you food and drinks, invite you to their home to share a meal, and even spend the night. Village dwellers and nomads are fairly welcoming and might farewell you with a pot of their own produced dairy or bread. Even cabbies, shopkeepers, and restaurant owners may refuse payment. Lonely Planet has named Iran the most rewarding destination on Earth because of this generous hospitality.

It is probable to bike Iran in any season, you only need to pick when and which routes to go as it enjoys a varied climate that provides people to sightsee in both high and low seasons. And, that's due to the vastness of the country which is well extended in both east-west and north-south coordinates. However, there is a significant difference in climate from region to region; central Iran is quite dry and desert-like, the northwest is mountainous, the north is largely covered with thick forests, and the south is somehow semi-arid and tropical.

Thus preferred and safe options



are spring and autumn to avoid extremes in temperature. Experts say the best time to cycle in central and southern Iran is from November to April. January and February are appropriate to discover the islands in the Persian Gulf. Besides, the cool mountain regions in the northwest call you for the most pleasant cycling during the summer.

Most cyclists decide to take a route through central Iran from Tehran and

head southward to Kashan, Isfahan, Shiraz then loop back to Yazd. Tehran and other metropolises are notorious for their heavy traffic jams and reckless drivers, however, there are many other destinations a little off the beaten track. Outside the big cities, cyclists will mostly have the roads to themselves.

To be honest, Iranian land is mostly mountainous so cyclists should be well prepared to be riding up and down hills

most of the time! However, the good news is almost all roads across the country are sealed with asphalt with rideable shoulders on the bigger routes. Moreover, there is a comprehensive network of secondary paved roads that offer you alternatives to the main highways if you wish to escape the traffic and noise.

What to wear on a bike ride in the Islamic Republic? Well, even if the temperatures are soaring, you need to be a lot more covered up than you are used to at home, both to show respect to locals and to ensure that you win respect in return. Women, in particular, should wear comfortable loose-fitting clothing which means a headscarf, ankle-length pants, and a loose shirt to the elbow. Under Islamic rule, all women, foreigners and Iranians alike, are required to wear Islamic hijab in public.

What makes Iran a unique place to go cycling is not the ornate historical monuments, jagged mountains, dense forests, sea coasts, lush plains, or empty deserts. It is a captivating culture and people who you would meet and talk to as you gently pedal through dusty villages and hectic places. The Persian culture of hospitality roots in an old belief that “guest is God's friend”.

Veteran cultural heritage experts invited to record their anecdotes



TEHRAN – Some 50 prominent Iranian cultural heritage experts have been invited to record their anecdotes of the oral history of the country for later generations.

Initiated by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the project is aimed to mark the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which is known as the Ten-Day Fajr celebrations (this year from February 1 to 11).

Mehdi Hojjat, who holds a Ph.D. in Conservation of Cultural Heritage from the University of York, was the first expert whose narratives were recorded in a session held at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex on Saturday.

The heart of the mighty Persian empire of antiquity, Iran has long played a significant role in the region as an imperial power and later—because of its strategic position and abundant natural resources, especially petroleum—as a factor in colonial and superpower rivalries. The country's roots as a distinctive culture and society date

to the Achaemenian period, which began in 550 BC. From that time the region that is now Iran—traditionally known as Persia—has been influenced by waves of indigenous and foreign conquerors and immigrants, including the Hellenistic Seleucids and native Parthians and Sasanids. Persia's conquest by the Muslim Arabs in the 7th century CE was to leave the most lasting influence, however, as Iranian culture was all but completely subsumed under that of its conquerors.

Furthermore, a national webinar has invited linguistics, historians, anthropologists, and experts of other disciplines to discuss characteristics and changes of texts and the oral heritage of the country from prehistorical times to the present. Dialectology, which is the study of dialect variation that commonly occurs as a result of relative geographic or social isolation and may affect vocabulary, grammar, or pronunciation, is one of the topics of the virtual webinar to be held on February 21.

Moreover, the experts will debate linguistic features of inscriptions from various epochs of Medes, Achaemenids, Sassanids, Elamites, Islamic era, to name a few. The history of coins and coinage, linguistic features of historical documents, manuscripts, and oral heritage of the nation are amongst other issues to be discussed by the experts.

Experts say Iranian languages have been written

in many different scripts during their rich yet stormy history of the nation. Old Persian was written with a cuneiform syllabary, the origin of which is still hotly disputed. Middle Persian, Parthian, Sogdian, and Old Khwarezmian were recorded in various forms of Aramaic script.

Additionally, it benefited from the Pahlavi language, which is currently an extinct member of the Iranian language group, a subdivision of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European language family. Pahlavi is a Middle Persian (sometimes called Middle Iranian) language, meaning that it was primarily used from the end of the Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC) to the advent of Islam in the 7th century CE. Modern Persian is written in Arabic script, which is of Aramaic origin.

In terms of coins and coinage, the Sasanian dynasty of Iran introduced the concept of thin flan coins in about 220 CE. The conquering Muslims at first mimicked the coinage of their predecessors. In the western provinces, they issued gold and copper pieces imitated from contemporary Byzantine coins, modifying the cross on the reverse of the latter somewhat to suit Muslim sensibilities. In the eastern provinces, the Arab governors issued silver dirhams that were copies of late Sasanian coins (mostly of those of Khosrow II; with the addition of short Arabic inscriptions on the margin and often the name of the Arab governor in Pahlavi; even the crude representation of the fire altar was retained.

12th-century structure in Hamedan being restored to former glory



TEHRAN—A restoration project has recently been commenced on the 12th-century Gonbad-e Alavian (“Alavian Dome”) in the west-central Hamedan province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

A budget of 400 million rials (\$1,500) has been allocated to the project, IRIB quoted Maryam Mokhtar-Mousavi as saying on Wednesday.

The monument, which is a prime example of Persian-Islamic architecture of the time, was inscribed on the national heritage list in 1931.

Its brick tower remains famous for the whirling floral stucco added in the Ilkhanid Mongol era; this ornamentation is described by British travel writer Robert Byron in his travelogue “The Road to Oxiana”.

In its small cellar, there are tombs of two elders of the Alavian family. The interior area is formed of six rooms with arches. Cube-shaved graves covered with turquoise bricks are in the center.

A rectangular plaque with stucco honeycomb patterns and flower motifs is hung above the

entrance of the structure. The outer frame of this plaque bears stucco reliefs of Quranic inscriptions in the Kufic calligraphy hand.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamadan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.

About 1220, Hamedan was captured by the sweeping army of Mongol invaders. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants were massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy. Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

Children, youth from across the globe to share vision on tourism

TEHRAN – Tens of children and youth from across the globe will discuss views and hopes on tourism during the first Global Youth Tourism Summit, scheduled to take place in Sorrento, Italy from June 27 to July 3.

The event may provide a significant opportunity for the fastest emerging tourism destinations such as Iran to brainstorm novel ideas and promote national tourism which international attendees.

Organizers say the summit embraces arrays of webinars in which participants are expected to extend their knowledge of tourism and sustainability, culture and gastronomy, innovation and climate action, and other relevant topics.

Furthermore, participants will explore different aspects of responsible and sustainable tourism through workshops,

roundtables, masterclasses, plenary sessions, cultural and sports activities.

In a ceremony marking the launch of the summit on Friday, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Zurab Pololikashvili, said that tourism has proven to be an important source of opportunity for young people in cities and rural communities, from every educational background and in every region of the world.

Keeping with UNWTO's commitment to empowering young people, the initiative will allow participants to network with the world's leaders in politics and business, so that they can be a part of the decision-making process while tourism fulfills its potential as a key contributor to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

According to available data, the

number of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 is 11 billion; youth constitute 18 percent of the global population. Youth and children together, including all those aged 24 years and younger, account for nearly 40 percent of the world's population.

Iran's population consists of about one-quarter of children under 14 and nearly half of those less than 40 years old, which makes tourism an appealing prospect for their future, both in terms of development and economic prosperity.

Last year the tourism ministry announced that the tourism of the country was growing before the corona outbreak, its revenues reached \$117 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent.

northern Iranian city, IRNA reported.

Based on an initiative pursued by the tourism department of Gilan, such museums are set up in historical structures to safeguard indigenous crafts and traditions passed down from generation to generation.

From 2003 onwards, ten historical places have been (restored and) repurposed into museums to showcase the cultural heritage, handicrafts, and souvenirs of Gilan to travelers. In addition, four other museums will soon be inaugurated in Rasht, Fouman, and Talesh to mark the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which is known as the Ten-Day Fajr celebrations (this

year from February 1 to 11).

The lush green province is known for its tourist attractions and warm-hearted and hospitable people. The people of Gilan from different ethnic groups, including Gilak, Talesh, and Tat, have come together and formed a very rich and diverse culture and customs. Gilan was within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Museum dedicated to Rashti-duzi inaugurated in Rasht

TEHRAN – On Tuesday, a special museum dedicated to Rashti-duzi was officially inaugurated in Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, where the traditional crochet and sewing work of art is named after.

A host of craftspeople, artisans, local officials, and people from all walks of life attended the opening ceremony of the museum at Mohtasham garden in the

Intl. bodies cooperating with Iran to deal with SDS

TEHRAN – A regional action plan has been prepared on fighting sand and dust storms (SDS) in eight external sources, and is planned to be shared with international organizations, Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for SDSs mitigation, has stated.

Tahmasebi went on to say that internal dust sources estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generate an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, of which 122.7 kilograms is raised per hectare annually.

Of this area, about 1.4 million hectares are from arid wetlands and about 2.5 to 3 million hectares are in habitats managed by the Department of Environment. Other areas are in agricultural lands, rangelands, and deserts, which is managed by the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization, he explained.

A 10-year national plan has also been drawn up to deal with internal SDS hotspots, in which the task of all related bodies is specified, he stated, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

“Moreover, a study has been conducted for the SDSs rising from neighboring countries, in which more than 20 countries have been studied. According to this study, a total area of 270 mil-



lion hectares of areas has been identified that transport dust into Iran.

The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons and 540 kg of specific dust per hectare, which is about 3 times more than the dust generated in the country.

Based on this, two sub-programs have been composed, one for West Asia and the other for a part of Central Asia. The West Asia sub-program mainly covers the countries bordering the Persian Gulf. And the Central Asia sub-program also includes the countries in the north and east of our country, he also said.

It has been decided to follow the eastern and northeastern parts with ESCAP, which has its office in Tehran, and to follow the

West Asian action plan with UNDP, he further highlighted.

So far, no joint action has been taken with international organizations because this environmental issue is not a priority for the neighboring countries, but we have decided to start with sub-regional action plans to be piloted in Iraq, he noted.

€2.1 billion damage to 6 provinces

“We conducted a study for 6 provinces of Khuzestan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Hormozgan. Based on which, this phenomenon incurred a loss of about 590 trillion rials (nearly \$2.1 billion) in a 3-year period,” he stated.

The destruction has occurred in different sectors of agriculture, household, industry,

health, etc. Studies show that about 54 percent of the total damage was related to various agricultural sub-sectors alone, he lamented, emphasizing, a proper plan can prevent such considerable harm.

€370 million to combat SDSs

In the last four years, about €370 million has been spent from the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve, he added.

Last [Iranian calendar] year (March 2019-March 2020), €100 million was earmarked in this regard, but the next year’s budget bill has proposed €20 million for SDS mitigation, which experts believe will even destroy those measures, he explained.

“However, various measures have been taken to fight the phenomenon, including, planting seedlings on about 26,000 hectares of dust centers in the past three years, as well as managing grazing in 2 million hectares of the protected areas and natural resources.”

Conservation agriculture (sustainable agriculture) was conducted on 160,000 hectares of farming lands, in addition to 100,000 hectares of dredging, he concluded.

IRGC’s “Noora” vaccine awaiting emergency use license

From page 1 ► Amani went on to say that Noora is a recombinant protein vaccine, and initial studies show that this vaccine can provide high immunity to the omicron strain, but it will take longer to determine its exact effects on the new strain.

The current monthly production capacity of the vaccine is about three million doses, which can be increased according to the needs of the country, he concluded.

Domestically-made vaccines

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said five coronavirus vaccines have been so far produced domestically.

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN BARKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public



use on June 14.

It proved effective against Indian strain, according to Hojjat Niki-Maleki, head of the information center of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, Razi Cov Pars is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the

clinical trial on February 27.

Moreover, the Iranian-Australian Spikogen vaccine and Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba’s Finlay Vaccine Institute, are other vaccines, which have received the emergency use license.

Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said in June 2021.

Meanwhile, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain said in September 2021 that the Organization was collecting the necessary information for the registration and certification of Iranian-made coronavirus vaccines.

EU provides €100,000 to support flood victims in Iran

TEHRAN – In response to the widespread floods that ravaged most parts of Iran last month, the European Union (EU) is providing €100,000 in humanitarian funding to assist the most affected communities.

The aid will benefit over 22,000 people in some of the hardest-hit areas in the provinces of Hormozgan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Fars.

EU funding supports the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in providing the most vulnerable communities with food packages and essential household items.

The funding is part of the EU’s

overall contribution to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

More than 80,000 people in 20 provinces have been affected by the floods, triggered by days of heavy rainfall that started on January 1st. The floods have killed 10 people, and damaged homes and agricultural lands—the main livelihood for many.

The floods, which also caused widespread destruction of the drinking supply system, vital facilities, and other infrastructure, have brought transportation to a halt. They have forced relief teams to bring critical supplies to flood-ravaged communi-

ties by air.

Affected people have been evacuated to safe areas and medical care has been provided to those injured.

The European Union together with its Member States is the world’s leading donor of humanitarian aid. Relief assistance is an expression of European solidarity towards people in need around the world.

It aims to save lives, prevent, and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard the integrity and human dignity of populations affected by natural hazards and human-induced disasters.

The European Commission has

signed a €3 million humanitarian contribution agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Funds from the DREF are mainly allocated to “small-scale” disasters – those that do not give rise to a formal international appeal.

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund was established in 1985 and is supported by contributions from donors. Each time a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society needs immediate financial support to respond to a disaster, it can request funds from the DREF.

Iran scores “very low” at Climate Change Performance Index

TEHRAN – Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), which evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 60 countries and the European Union (EU), has placed Iran in the “very low” category, 62nd among 64 countries in its 2022 ranking.

Slightly declining from last year’s CCPI (59th among 61 countries), the Islamic Republic of Iran is now ranked 62nd and, thus, in the CCPI 2022 bottom four in the group of countries that collectively account for more than 92% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

A look into what comprises the overall very low

The countries with high rankings also have no reason to ease up. Even greater efforts and actions by governments are needed to set the world on track to keep global warming well below a 2°C increase. Even better, 1.5°C

The CCPI aims to deliver a comprehensive and balanced evaluation of the diverse countries evaluated. It uses 14 indicators (outer circle) and the following four categories: GHG Emissions (40% of overall score), Renewable Energy (20% of overall score), Energy Use (20% of overall score), and Climate Policy (20% of overall score).



performance finds a similar picture to last year, in very low performance in the GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, and Energy Use categories. Iran performs very low in almost all indicators of these three categories, indicating both very poor current levels and no signs of improvement in the near future.

In national climate policy, Iran receives a medium rating. Regarding renewable energy, the country does have measures to strengthen technologies, including feed-in tariffs and financial support for the private sector.

In the framework of the Development Plan, Iran also plans to increase the share of renewables to 5% of the country’s capacity (in 2019, 0.7% of the total primary energy supply was generated from renewable sources) and reduce gas flaring by 90% by the end of 2021.

In this regard, however, only slow progress in renewable energy expansion can be observed. Moreover, the country had plans to cut energy consumption in the building sector by 5% in 2021.

The CCPI experts criticize these mitigation measures as too unambitious and short-term-oriented. Furthermore, not even the mentioned goals are expected to be achieved, because of weak implementation.

Methodology

Rankings are based on each country’s overall score. This is calculated from the individual scores in four categories, consisting of 14 indicators.

No country performs well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating. The first three overall positions, therefore, remain empty. So, the top countries, namely Denmark, Sweden, and Norway rank 4th to 6th in the table.

The results show that, even if all countries were as committed as the current frontrunners, efforts would still be insufficient to prevent hazardous climate change.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 9

New cases	39,085
New deaths	116
Total cases	6,696,927
Total deaths	133,164
New hospitalized patients	2,902
Patients in critical condition	2,853
Total recovered patients	6,215,909
Diagnostic tests conducted	45,707,518
Doses of vaccine injected	136,475,508

ENGLISH IN USE

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‘Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average’

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, secretary of environmental policy at the center for strategic studies affiliated to the presidential office has said.

“The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in northeast of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C,” ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province’s condition has raised concern, he said, adding, the industries operating in the province must reduce their dependency on water, otherwise water scarcity might worsen in the region.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

محمد درویش، دبیر سیاست محیط زیست مرکز بررسی های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روبرو شده است.

محمد درویش، در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به گزارش های منتشر شده توسط سازمان هواشناسی، وزارت نیرو و سازمان آب، اظهار کرد: ایستگاه هومند آبسرد در دامنه های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲٫۷ درجه سلیسیوس را نشان می دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰٫۷۶ درجه سلیسیوس افزایش دما داشته ایم.

وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی تر کشورمان نزدیک می شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می شود به طوری که از این میان یزد وضعیت نگران کننده ای دارد. باید میزان وابستگی صنایع در یزد نسبت به آب کاهشی پیدا کند چرا که در غیر این صورت می تواند شتاب خشک سالی ها را افزایش دهد.

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FEBRUARY 10, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who imagines himself to be all-knowing will surely suffer on account of his ignorance.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:19 Evening: 18:00 Dawn: 5:31 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:56 (tomorrow)

Hafez and “rendi”

Part 8

The qalandar is an asocial figure, a wandering dervish with shaven head, who does not buy into the values of the establishment. Even so, not all who wear the guise of the qalandar are genuine: “Not every shaved head knows how to be a qalandar”.

The true qalandar blasphemes by mixing the prayer symbols of Muslims and Zoroastrians, and stands in hierarchical opposition to the Sultan, as suggested by the paradoxical pairing of king and qalandar.

The word qalandar is twice used as an adjective describing the rendan, to whom are brought the tattered cloak of the visionary mystic Bayazid Bestami, and who bestow the royal reign at the tavern door.

The rendan and rendi

“Rend”, variously translated in English as “rake, ruffian, pious rogue, brigand, libertine, lout, debauchee,” etc., is the very antithesis of establishment propriety.

The word originally signified something like a thug or mercenary gangster (e.g., Tarikh-e Bayhaqi), and during the era of Hafez neighborhood warlords (kolu, pahlavan) in Shiraz, commanding local urban militias of ronud (pl. of “rend”), played an influential role in stabilizing or destabilizing the ruler.

This “rend” of the market-place – and Hafez does use the phrase rend-e bazari (followed a mafioso code and tended to ignore many of the rules of the sharia, such as the prohibition on drinking.

In Konya as well, the word “rend” (pl. ronud) continued to hold this meaning of hoodlum, even among the mystically-oriented Mevlevis, as late as Hafez’s own century.

In the post-Mongol period, the influence of folk literature and popular entertainments, such as the shadow plays of the magic lantern (fanus-e khayal) may have given further impetus to the “rend” character.

As observed in the 19th century, the hero of these shadow plays was typically Pahlavan Kachal, a character described by Aleksander Borejko Chodzko as a well-educated and literate “hypocrite,” who may even be a poet. The folk theater tradition included a kind of commedia dell’arte, or “buffoon show” (maskhara) at annual festivals, in which jesters (maskhara-baz) perform acrobatics, dance, music, and satiric skits, often including couplets or songs portraying the stock character of a luti uncowed by authority figures.

Whether or not these indeed represent a continuous tradition stretching back to the Hellenistic mime, as Cejpek speculates, such farces often depict an incorrigible and rakish fondness for wine (an important aspect of the “rend” character in Hafez) and may indicate the great extent to which this type permeates not only Persian literature but also the Iranian folk cultures.

In written literature, however, several character types perhaps lent elements of their personality to the figure of the “rend”. These would include, to

“2888” premieres at Fajr with salute by crew to Air Force heroes

TEHRAN – The crew of “2888” paid tribute to the fighter pilots of the Air Force of the Iranian Army for the valor they showed during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war at the premiere of the war drama at the Fajr Film Festival on Tuesday.

The film is about Operation Baghdad, which was carried out over the Iraqi capital by pilots Abbas Doran and Mahmud Eskandari on July 21, 1982. The operation conducted with two McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II fighter jets was intended to challenge the security of Baghdad, which was scheduled to host a summit conference of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The fighter-bombers were hit after they locked on to their targets during the operation. Doran crashed into an area near the Al-Rasheed Hotel, while Eskandari managed to land his plane in Iran.

A group of retired pilots of Iran’s Air Force also attended the

Crew members applaud Iranian war veterans in a press conference after the premiere of the war drama “2888” at Tehran’s Milad Tower on February 8, 2022. (Honaronline/Raha Ahmadi)

premiere of the film, which was followed by a press conference at the Milad Tower.

During a press conference, producer Ali Owji asked journalists and the audience to give 30-second standing applause to the veterans.

“We should never forget that we owe them a lot for the peace we

live in,” he said and hoped that the film has depicted their valor well.

“During the war, 265 pilots were martyred, 184 are missing in action, and 57 were held captive for years in Iraq. And now, we have the honor of having some of the veterans here,” he added.

Addressing the audience,

Overseas musicians to perform at Fajr Music Festival

From Page 1 ► Abozekry is the leader of Mohamed Abozekry & Heejaz, a Franco-Egyptian quartet of instrumental music formed in 2010.

On the same day, the Niavaran center will host Nicolas van Poucke, a promising Dutch pianist who is the winner of the first prizes and audience awards on both the Steinway Int. Piano Competition 2006 and the Princess Christina Competition 2006. He also won a prize for the best interpretation of a work by J.S. Bach at the European Union Piano Competition 2009.

Italian jazz pianist Giovanni Guidi will perform at Vahdat Hall on February 14.

He is a well-known musician on the European scene as a bandleader and a frequent sideman for Italian trumpeter Enrico Rava.

“Today Giovanni Guidi, despite being still

very young, is certainly one of the most interesting and original Italian pianists,” Rava has previously said.

“I, who know him well and have the pleasure of frequently playing with him, can say with absolute certainty that this is only the beginning of a story that I foresee being extraordinary,” he added.

Among his credits are the albums “Ojos De Gato”, “Avec Le Temps”, “Ida Lupino”, “This Is the Day”, “We Don’t Live Here Anymore”, “The Unknown Rebel Band”, “Indian Summer” and “Tomorrow Never Knows”.

The 37th Fajr Music Festival will be held totally in person amid the spread of the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus in the country.

“After a two-year hiatus, I would like the festival to provide an excuse for the musicians to dust off their instruments,” the secretary of

A file photo shows Nicolas van Poucke, a Dutch pianist, who is scheduled to perform during the 37th Fajr Music Festival in Tehran.

the festival, Hassan Riahi, said last week.

According to the organizers, representatives of several foreign news agencies from Italy, Germany, Japan, Azerbaijan, Russia, China, Iraq and Lebanon will cover the festival.

“Once Upon a Time in America” at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – Australian film critic Adrian Martin’s book “Once Upon a Time in America” has been published in Persian.

Translated by Zaniar Ebrahimi, the book has been released by the Elmi Farhangi Publishing Company.

Sergio Leone, a maestro of the spaghetti Western, spent sixteen years developing what was to be his final work, the gangster epic “Once Upon a Time in America” (1983).

This “testament film” has a special place in Leone’s oeuvre because it marries the director’s typically flamboyant, expressionistic style to a story

Front cover of the Persian translation of Adrian Martin’s book “Once Upon a Time in America”.

full of profound melancholy and regret.

Tracing the lives of a gang of Jewish hoods from their childhood in the New York streets of the 1920s, through Prohibition and union racketeering, to the 1960s, “Once Upon a Time in America” centers on the relationship between Noodles (Robert De Niro) and Max (James Woods, an intense friendship destroyed by time, the shifting tides of political history, and mutual betrayal.

As well as detailing the film’s genesis, its production history, and its different versions, this study considers “Once Upon a Time in America” in the context

of Leone’s evolution as a grand cinema stylist.

It illuminates his themes, his method, and his aesthetic, and judges his enormous impact upon subsequent generations of filmmakers the world over.

Adrian Martin now lives in Malgrat de Mar in Spain. He is an adjunct associate professor in film culture and theory at Monash University.

His work has appeared in many magazines, journals and newspapers around the world, and has been translated into over twenty languages. He has regular columns in the Dutch De Filmkrant and in Caiman: Cuadernos de Cine.

“Hadigheh Heydari” and the story of the battle with the Ba’athist regime in Iraq

An interview with Muhammad Ali Ghasemi

The book “Hadigheh Heydari” by Muhammad Ali Ghasemi, is the Ayatollah Sheikh Abdul Rahman Heydari’s memories that has been by Soore Mehr publication this year.

This book is a narration of a Mujahid mystic who had an effective presence in both the Islamic Revolution and the holy defense. According to the author, the life of Ayatollah Sheikh Abdul Rahman is vital for the history of our country in terms of politics, culture, and society, and in this book, all of these aspects are covered in a way which doesn’t bore the reader.

*Tell us more about Ayatollah Sheikh Abdul Rahman and his activities?

He was one of the prominent seminary students of Ilam province and before the revolution, he studied in the seminaries of Najaf, Ashraf, Samarra, and Karbala in the presence of the great masters of that time. In 1974, he started his political activities and got commissioned by Ayatollah Hakim to carry out cultural activities in the Baghdad region and became the Imam of Friday prayer of the Kurds of that region but after a while, the Iraqi security service arrests him and expels him from Iraq. So, he came back

of the political and revolutionary movements, and in 1978, he declared the Islamic Republic in Ilam province.

*What did he do after the victory of the Islamic Revolution?

He had an important role in forming the Basij force in Ilam and the safety of this city. He also did a lot of influential work during the war.

*Why do you think this book is important for today’s audience?

There are effective and instructive points for today’s generation in this book. I refer to only a brief memory of the time when many families were expelled from Iraq and came to Iran. At that moment, a little Arab girl named Ameneh asked him for help and said that she was a stranger there and she wasn’t feeling comfortable. She asked Ayatollah Heydari for harboring. So, he took her to his own home and told his family that this girl was also his daughter. She lived in Ayatollah Heydari’s house for a while until they figured out that Ameneh’s uncle lives in Khorramabad, so he came to take Ameneh. A few years later, when Ameneh had grown up and started her own life, he came back to visits Ayatollah Heidari and told him that she owed him the family she now has.

(Source: Encyclopedia Iranica)

(To be continued)