

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 43rd year | No. 14167 | Thursday | February 24, 2022 | Esfand 5, 1400 | Rajab 22, 1443

Western Political Decision Appears Vital for Success of Vienna Talks



► Page 3

Report

Israeli regime kills another Palestinian child

Israeli regime troops have shot dead yet another Palestinian boy in the occupied territories. The victim has been identified as Mohammed Shehade, 14 years old.

A statement by the Palestinian Health Ministry said "Shehade, 14, was killed by Israeli forces' gunfire in the [occupied town of] al-Khader near the southern occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem.

The Israeli regime confirmed its forces have killed a Palestinian.

Local eyewitnesses told Palestinian media the boy was shot when Israeli troops attacked Palestinian protesters, after the regime raided the occupied Palestinian town of al-Khader.

Reports suggest Shehade was dragged a few hundred meters by his friends as Israeli troops chased them until they left his body.

Ahmad Salah, an activist, says that Israeli regime forces opened live fire at the Palestinians, leaving Shehade in a critical condition and the troops prevented Palestinian ambulances from reaching him.

The latest killing has sparked reactions from Palestinian resistance groups.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement has stressed that it "strongly condemns the heinous crime committed by the Zionist enemy forces against the 14-year-old son of Mohammad Razaq Shehade in the town of al-Khader, south of Bethlehem, and his cold-blooded execution. This crime is a clear embodiment of terrorism and aggression against our defenseless people". ► Page 5

FM: We won't cross our red lines in Vienna

TEHRAN — During a joint press conference with the Foreign Minister of Oman on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that Iran "will not cross its red lines" under no circumstances.

Regarding the recent developments in the Vienna talks, Iran's top diplomat said that the negotiations have reached a critical stage.

Few but very important issues remain in Vienna, he added.

Amir Abdollahian said, "I in Munich and my colleague Mr. Bagheri in Vienna, in our meetings with the West(ern officials), explicitly emphasized that we will not cross our red lines in the Vienna talks."

He stressed that under no circumstances will the negotiators cross the Iran's red lines.

The Foreign Minister stated, "At the same time, we consider the necessity of any negotiation to be useful and that there should be conceivable benefits for the great nation of Iran in the negotiations."

"We still have direct talks between the top Iranian negotiator and the P4+1 representatives in Vienna, and exchanges between the U.S. representative and the Iranian delegation is done through Enrique Mora, the European Union coordinator," the top diplomat noted.

He added that Iran has received a lot of messages from the U.S. officials about the need for direct negotiations.

"What matters to us is what will be the benefit of this direct talks and whether the future is different from what has happened in the current negotiations and whether there is any achievement beyond what is agreed in Vienna or not," Amir Abdollahian noted. ► Page 2



Canada tramples on human rights by choking nationwide protests

TEHRAN- Avalanches of protests and strike actions set off in several Canadian cities against the mandatory jabs of Covid-19

Canada has been a scene of protests as truck drivers opposed to the mandatory vaccinations. During an operation, the police

forces launched raids to disperse crowds as using pepper spray and stun grenades. They also resorted to violence to seize protesters to put an end to weeks-long Freedom Convoy protests in Ottawa and other major cities.

On January 29, thousands of Canadian truck-

ers and their supporters staged a rally outside the Parliament Hill in downtown Ottawa to demand the vaccine mandate to be rescinded.

Viral footage and photos show that mounted officers forming a line on horseback tried to clear the crowd. ► Page 5

Iran's exports to Russia rise 60%

TEHRAN- Iran's exports to Russia have increased 60 percent since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021) so far, the chairman of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce announced.

Hadi Tizhoosh Taban made the remarks in an Iran-Russia trade conference held at Teh-

ran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Tuesday.

Organized by the International Institute of Iran Industries Research (MPSIran), the event was attended by senior officials from both sides including Tizhoosh Taban and the MP-SIran Managing Director Sina Sanjari.

Speaking in the meeting, Tizhoosh Taban underlined the significance of holding mutual business conferences between the two countries, saying: "Holding such conferences will result in the discussion of various aspects of trade in other countries, especially in Russia, from different angles." ► Page 4



Top Iranian publishers honored at Printing Industry Festival

A publisher (R) receives an award from Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili during the closing ceremony of the 21st Printing Industry Festival in Tehran on February 22, 2022.

Tehran Publishers Union director Ahmad Abolhassani asked Esmaeili to allocate a building for a printing museum.

\$7.7m allocated to unfinished tourism projects in northwest Iran

TEHRAN -Some two trillion rials (\$7.7 million) has been allocated to the semi-finished tourism-related projects in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Projects with at least 40 percent physical progress will receive the budget, CHTN quoted Jalil Jabari as saying on Wednesday.

Upon completion of the projects, which are

being carried out by the private sector, there will be over 100 job opportunities, the official added.

Among the unfinished projects are hotels, hospitals, tourist complexes as well as modern tourist facilities, he noted.

Earlier this month, the official announced that a total of 19 tourism-related projects were inaugurated across the province in cel-

ebration of the 43rd anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which is known as Ten-Day Fajr celebrations (this year from February 1 to 11).

Eco-lodge units, travel agencies, hotels, apartment hotels, tourism complexes, and traditional restaurants were among the projects, which created over 150 job opportunities, he added. ► Page 6

From Inside

- Raisi calls Oman's attention to regional issues significant **P2**
- Amir Abdollahian says agreement in Vienna "never been closer" **P2**
- Ayatollah Raisi meets presidents of Algeria, Mozambique **P3**
- Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan stress expansion of energy ties **P4**
- Finland eyeing Iran's Chabahar Port for trade with East Asia **P4**
- Cambodia seeking Iran's experience in oil, gas exploration **P4**
- Permanent handicrafts market to open near UNESCO-designated Pasargadae **P6**
- Hafshejan projected to be named national city of stone carving **P6**
- Historical sites in Hormozgan unaffected by quake **P6**
- 100 foreign investors attend Tehran's TIM 2022 **P7**
- Khajeh Nasir al-Din Toosi, the most eminent engineer of his time **P7**
- Nezami must be depicted with his original Iranian identity: official **P8**
- Shepherd life under spotlight at Qom photo exhibition **P8**

Interview

Republicans have largely become a party of extremists: scholar

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – An American academic says that the Republican Party under Donald Trump has lately become a party of extremists.

"The Republicans have largely become a party of extremists lately--and this is dangerous," Michael Aaron Rockland tells the Tehran Times.

"I see the greatest danger facing the United States as internal not external. Why? Because Republicans, especially under Trump, have become a party of extremists," Aaron notes.

While many political commentators are of the opinion that foreign policy failures have undermined the reputation of Washington, others see the greatest danger facing the United States is internal, not external.

Politicizing every simple issue, showing partisan bias in decision making and division among the people and politicians can push the country towards an abyss, analysts warn.

"George Washington was opposed to the notion of political parties, felt that exact member of Congress and all those who vote should follow their consciences, not their party line," Rockland notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

There is an argument about ruling system in the United States. Republicans claim that the country is a republic while Democrats say it should be a leading democracy in the world. What is your take?

Technically, the U.S. is a Republic as any nation of size must be that is depending on representatives. On the other hand, since everyone is expected to vote, rather than our leaders chosen by a few we are a democracy. We tend to use the word "democracy" more than "republic." ► Page 5

Iran to start 2022 VNL with a match against Russia

TEHRAN – Iran will meet Russia in their opening match of the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League (VNL).

The match has been scheduled for June 7 in Kemerovo, Russia.

The 2022 VNL was originally to be the fourth edition of the competition, an annual men's international volleyball tournament. The preliminary round was scheduled to be held during five weeks between Jun 7 and July 10, 2022.

The final round was scheduled for July 20 and 24.

The 16 teams qualified for the competition. The 12 of them qualified as core teams which could not face relegation. Other four teams were selected as challenger teams which could be relegated from the tournament. ► Page 3

Amir Abdollahian says agreement in Vienna “never been closer”

TEHRAN — In an interview with Euronews published on its website on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that a deal in Vienna that would lift sanction on Iran could be reached in a matter of hours if Western powers seized the opportunity.

Amir Abdollahian added that Tehran has shown flexibility and seriousness in negotiations with the West over its nuclear policy, warning that some red lines have remained unresolved.

The following is the text of the interview:

Minister, can you please tell us clearly and briefly about what you call Iran's “seriousness” in the negotiations. Can the so-called “Iranian initiatives” at the Vienna Talks deliver concrete improvements to the quality of life for Iranians – and how quickly might they see such benefits?

In Dr. Raisi's government, right from the start, our approach over the Vienna talks on lifting sanctions has been to fix this objective:

Either we don't start negotiations at all, or if we do start, we need to make sure there's harmony between how we're negotiating in Vienna and the realistic approach of Dr. Raisi's government.

So, we didn't come to Vienna to have negotiations for negotiation's sake, but to have negotiations that result in a good agreement. I believe, we've never been so close to such a deal.

That's great you're so close to a deal... but let's be clearer answering my question. When ultimately will people see the results of this deal in their everyday lives? We talk too much in politics but there's a belief I think you share: the isolation of Iran creates many winners but one main loser – the ordinary people and working classes of the country.

Now it seems a deal is expected within days or weeks, according to different diplomatic sources. Correct me if you have a more precise timing: we'd be very happy to hear it here.

Firstly, I want to correct your wording. We do not believe that Iran is an isolated country. Unilateral and unlawful U.S. sanctions have led to some problems for us. Inaction since 2015, especially from three European countries, the UK, France and Germany, has caused some problems for Iran. But despite all their efforts, even during the Trump administration and its “maximum pressure” campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the isolation of Iran hasn't happened.

You asked me if there'll be a concrete impact on people's lives and their standards of living. Listen... we're approaching an agreement; there are some remaining issues which are our red lines. So far, we've taken lots of initiatives and shown the required flexibility at the Vienna negotiating table.

If today we're saying we're closer than ever to a deal, it's because we've informed the Americans via intermediaries – and three European countries have been told by my colleagues in Vienna or by myself, through telephone conversations or during meetings with the foreign ministers of these three countries – we're saying very clearly to them that “Now it is your turn”. It is time to see initiatives and flexibility from the Western side.

We believe if the Western side looks at what is going on in Vienna more realistically, in less than a few hours, we can finalize the deal. So, for us, any exact timing for a deal is in the hands of the Western side. It depends on their realism and their initiatives. We will remain at the negotiating table, applying ourselves seriously, despite the fact that on several occasions when there were difficult phases of the negotiations, the Western side raised the possibility of leaving the table.

I had a talk with Josep Borrell during the Munich Security Conference, and I said “My colleagues will stay in Vienna, applying themselves with seriousness and motivation, with the objective of reaching a speedy and good deal.”

However, if the other side doesn't show the required flexibility and creativity, without any doubt, they will be responsible if the negotiation fails.

To avoid what happened with Donald Trump, you've been looking for guarantees and at some point political guarantees, such as political statements. Don't you think if American companies and businesses come to Iran, that'll be a stronger guarantee?

I think one of the problems we've had with the JCPOA has been the role of American companies and also the place the dollar has in the bank circulation system. Even during the Deal in 2015, the Americans imposed some restrictions in this regard. That's why, when we systematically get messages about President Biden's goodwill and we compare them with the behavior of Joe Biden and the American administration, we realize there's a paradox. On the one hand, they send messages of goodwill and on the other hand, at the same time, sometimes even on the same day, they impose new sanctions against some of our individuals and officials.

So what matters to us is the behavior of the Americans. We will judge them on their behavior.

Is having a coherent relationship with the EU, especially in the financial and commercial fields, still a priority for Iranian foreign policy? Or is it not as important as it was in the past?

The foreign policy doctrine of the new Iranian government, which is well known as a popular and evolutionary government, is based on a doctrine of a balanced foreign policy, dynamic diplomacy and smart cooperation and interaction. In this doctrine, we keep an eye on all the regions of the world, including the European continent. We are interested in developing our relationship with all European countries. But we said clearly to our French, British and German counterparts that despite the importance of our ties with them, we are not going to reduce Europe to just these three countries. So we have an independent plan to develop and improve our relations with each individual European country, and we continue to take this seriously in the new government.

Are you against the idea of the opening of an EU Office in Tehran? Have you talked ever about it with Mr. Borrell?

This subject has been raised several times. Recently even the Finnish Foreign Minister asked me about it during his visit to Iran. When I look at the past record and background, I realize that every time we got close to opening an EU office in Iran, a negative, artificial crisis against the Islamic Republic of Iran emerged within Europe. So, we understood that despite the goodwill we have towards opening an EU office, we were facing an artificial crisis within Europe, even before the office opened. So, that doesn't improve the situation. I think the idea is still on the table and needs to be followed.

In your talks in Munich, you mentioned again the possibility of exchanging prisoners. I would like to know if an agreement is achieved, will it be just for American prisoners or will it include the Europeans, especially dual nationals, who are in jail right now in Iran?

Well, there are a very limited number of dual-national Iranians who unfortunately took part in spying. They admitted it, and their spying has led to big disasters. For example, one of these Iranians with double nationality worked for Mossad, the intelligence service of the Zionist regime, and because of his spying, Iranian scientists were killed. So the judicial system can't simply ignore it and move on. However, last year we reached a deal to exchange a number of prisoners on a package format, including American, British and other nationals. We agreed on the number and date but unfortunately, at the last minute, the Americans suspended the agreement. We've announced that we're ready, either outside the Vienna talks or alongside them, to exchange prisoners when the other side is ready. We consider this to be a 100% humanitarian issue. We don't see any necessity to link this humanitarian dossier to the Vienna Talks.

FM: We won't cross our red lines in Vienna

From page 1 ► According to the foreign minister, Iran has received “mostly positive” messages from the United States, but so far the United States has not taken any practical steps to prove its goodwill.

“We hope that the few sensitive and important issues remaining in the talks will be resolved in the coming days with the realism of the West. Let us believe that the results of the efforts made in the past 9 months be that all parties will adhere to their full obligations under the 2015 nuclear agreement,” he added.

Iran-Oman relations can be at highest level possible

Elsewhere in the presser, the foreign minister noted that in his talks with Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, both sides agreed that the political relations between the two countries be at their highest level.

“Today, we can say that the political relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Oman are privileged, exemplary and strategic among the countries of the Persian Gulf.”

The foreign minister went on to note that both countries have made great strides in economic and trade cooperation in recent months.

“However, given the capacity of the two countries, we will never consider this volume of trade to be sufficient and we agree that more efforts will be made to further develop relations,” he said.

Amir Abdollahian expressed hope that in the not-too-distant future, the Iranian president and the Sultan of Oman would meet.

He announced that the Sultan of Oman has sent an official invitation to the Iranian president to visit his country.

“We hope to have this trip in this important area of our neighborhood as soon as



possible, and of course during this trip, a new turning point for relations can be created between the two countries,” the chief diplomat remarked.

The foreign minister went on to say that in line with the policy of favoring ties with neighbors, President Ebrahim Raisi held very important meetings in Doha, Qatar, on Monday and Tuesday and signed 14 agreements with the Emir of Qatar in various fields.

He added, “We believe that more stability and security can be achieved through comprehensive cooperation.”

We received a message from Saudis in Munich

Later in the press conference, Amir Abdollahian touched on the issue of Tehran-Riyadh negotiations.

“Regarding the relations between Tehran and Riyadh, four rounds of talks have been held so far with the help and assistance of the relevant officials of the Republic of Iraq,” he said, adding that Iran has received a message from the Saudis through the Iraqi foreign minister in Munich.

“We received a message stating that the Saudi side is ready to continue these talks. In response, we spoke of our readiness to talk and achieve forward-looking results in relations between the two countries,” the senior diplomat remarked.

Stating that Iran is ready to continue the policy of consultations and joint talks with all parties on regional issues, Amir Abdollahian

clarified that Iran believes that resolving various crises in the region is only through dialogue and consultation, as well as cooperation.

He added, “Competitions based on distrust will only result in the destruction of the region and the disappearance of the great wealth of the region.”

Expressing hope that all parties understand that they cannot gain their security at the cost of the insecurity of others in the region, Amir Abdollahian said, “On this basis, we reaffirm our readiness for any regional initiative that will contribute to the development of sustainable security and the economic and humanitarian growth of the region.”

Yemen situation has turned into humanitarian catastrophe

The foreign minister also touched on the tragic events happening in Yemen, saying the situation in the country has become “a great humanitarian catastrophe.”

He added, “The fact that the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, martyr (Hassan) Irloo, could not benefit the least medical facilities due to the harsh conditions of the siege on Yemen. He was martyred because of the coronavirus and lack of medical facilities in this country. This shows the height of humanitarian disaster in Yemen.”

He added that even high-ranking officials and

diplomats, along with the Yemeni people, are suffering from this humanitarian catastrophe.

“We hope that all parties will return to a political solution as soon as possible,” he said.

Amir Abdollahian said Iran is actively using its capacities to achieve peace and security in the region, adding Iran will make optimal use of its capacity and relations with all parties in the region to help end the war in Yemen and start Yemeni-Yemeni talks.

We are in contact with all Afghan parties

Regarding Afghanistan, Amir Abdollahian said, “We hope to follow the efforts that the Islamic Republic of Iran started months ago as soon as possible. While we are in constant contact with all Afghan parties, leaders and ethnic groups, we hope that an inclusive government will be formed as soon as possible with the participation of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan.”

Iran hosted a conference of the foreign ministers of countries neighboring Afghanistan in October 2021.

We are unhappy with the Ukraine crisis

He then touched on the Ukraine-Russia conflict, saying that Iran is “not happy with what happened in Ukraine.”

“Unfortunately, the provocative behavior of NATO and the United States has made the situation in this northern region and around Iran worrying,” he added.

Amir Abdollahian urged all parties to end this crisis “peacefully.”

He added, “Last week, in a telephone conversation with the foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine, I stated the transparent position of the Islamic Republic of Iran. NATO and U.S. intervention would not help this issue, as it was a provocative action. The solution to this problem is not war, but dialogue and adoption of peaceful solutions.”

Raisi calls Oman's attention to regional issues significant

TEHRAN — In a meeting with Oman's Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi on Wednesday, President Ebrahim Raisi thanked the Sultan of Oman for inviting him to make an official visit to the country.

“Without a doubt, these interactions can strengthen relations between the two countries and be effective in resolving regional and international issues,” Raisi said.

The president noted that the positions of the Omani government have been good and firm and are significantly different from the behavior of some countries in the region, adding that Oman's attention to Palestine and Yemen and other regional issues is significant.

Emphasizing that the Omani government pays attention to the security of the region and the larger Islamic world, Raisi said,



TEHRAN — President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Qatar has created a wonderful opportunity to strengthen ties with Persian Gulf countries, Iran's assistant

foreign minister says.

Abdollah Sohrabi told IRNA on Tuesday that Raisi's election and his views about surrounding countries represent a golden chance for the region, and this has already begun to yield results only after six months.

Cultural and social proximity between Iran and Persian Gulf Arab states coupled with long-term ties have always been an opportunity to cement ties, remarked Sohrabi, the former Iranian ambassador to Doha.

Calling Qatar a country gifted



“Our relations with Oman are good, but in the field of economic and trade issues there is room for further development and there are significant potentials in both countries that can be used to develop economic and trade relations.”

Ayatollah Raisi also invited the Sultan of Oman to visit Tehran, emphasizing

that Iran's will and policy is to develop cooperation with friendly countries, especially Oman.

For his part, the Omani foreign minister appreciated the support of Iran for its neighbors and said, “There are excellent relations between Iran and Oman, which have historically been based on mutual trust, respect and cooperation and positive cooperation for the benefit of regional and global security.”

The top Omani diplomat stated that certainly Raisi's visit to Muscat will be a historic one which will meet the goals of both nations.

“We will always support your pragmatic spirit in everything you do, and we will certainly strive to operationalize your approach to expanding relations,” he added.

with “great political intelligence”, the assistant foreign minister said that this country has carved out a landscape for itself in terms of political viewpoint and economic activity, particularly in the recent two decades.

Qataris are well-informed about Iran's capabilities, potentials as well as geopolitical and socioeconomic position, he said, adding Qatar was the second country to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran following the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The official also cited

the variety of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between Iran and Qatar that have not yet been implemented owing to various hurdles, saying that the president's visit is a good time to operationalize those agreements.

According to the assistant foreign minister, Iranian and Qatari officials have been working through negotiations to make the trip fruitful in line with the interest of regional peace and security.

Ayatollah Raisi meets presidents of Algeria, Mozambique

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi met on Tuesday with the presidents of Algeria and Mozambique on the sidelines of the 6th Summit of Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

The meeting took place in Qatar's capital Doha, where the gas summit was held.

In his meeting with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Ayatollah Raisi praised the Algerian people for their revolutionary spirit and resilience in the face of colonialism.

"History proves that the resistance of the nations against the hegemony has been fruitful," the president said.

He added, "Iran and Algeria have good cooperation with each other, but this level of interaction is not enough, and according to the determination of the leaders of the two countries, Tehran-Algiers relations can be expanded in bilateral, regional and international fields."

Raisi stated, "Wherever we see insecurity in the region, we can see the traces and effects of the presence and intervention of outsiders, especially Americans. Therefore, the main solution to the problems and insecurities in the region is to cut off the hand of the United States and outsiders from the region."

The president also praised Algeria's rightful stance against the Zionist regime and other issues, saying, "Your country's opposition to the Zionist regime's continued membership as an observer member of the African Union is a valuable step in supporting the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people and the cause of liberating Quds."



President Ebrahim Raisi talking to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune (R)

In the meeting, the Algerian president also expressed his desire to expand his country's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields.

Tebboune said, "By taking advantage of the existing will of the two countries' leaders, we need to develop relations to all executive levels so that the existing groundwork for more cooperation can be operational and realized as soon as possible."

Referring to his country's rightful and supportive stance in defending the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people, Tebboune said Algeria's opposition to the continued membership of Israel as an observer member of the African Union led to the suspension of this regime.

"Algeria will continue on this path, despite the exorbitant costs it has incurred in seeking justice," he added.

Raisi castigates Western greed in Africa

The Iranian president also met with the President of Mozambique Filipe Nyusi. In the meeting, Ayatollah Raisi expressed his satisfaction with Nyusi's

remarks on the successful results of his country's development program, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

President Raisi said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always had good relations with African countries and today, based on this constructive view of Iran to Africa, we are ready to expand cooperation with the continent"

He said, "In the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, African countries are lands full of talents and rich resources, which have unfortunately been plundered by Western countries for the past few centuries."

Pointing out that the Islamic Republic has always believed that African countries have hard-working people and significant reserves and talents for growth and development, Raisi said his administration is ready to "expand trade and economic cooperation with African countries, especially Mozambique, and the transfer of experience and technical knowledge to these countries."

After the victory of the Islamic

Revolution, Iran has always had good relations with African countries, he said, adding, "I urge the Minister of Foreign Affairs to prepare the ground for holding the joint economic cooperation commission as soon as possible so that the process of the development of interaction between the two countries can be accelerated."

"Western countries want Africa for themselves, but we want you for yourself," he said, adding, "Western countries and world's hegemonic powers are only seeking to misuse the resources of African countries. If this is not the case, what other meaning and reason could the Zionist regime's attempt to join the African Union have?"

Stating that Westerners and Americans pursued only their own interests and did not take steps to develop those countries wherever they went, he said, "The rise of insecurity and the activities of terrorist groups in recent years in some African countries is also rooted in Western and American interference. The confession of former U.S. officials to the formation of Daesh (ISIL) by this country is proof of this claim."

At the meeting, the President of Mozambique also expressed his country's interest in deepening relations with Iran. "We have a lot of natural resources that we can use for the benefit of the Mozambican people and for development with the help of the technical capabilities of Iranian experts," said the Mozambican president.

Filipe Nyusi stated that one of the serious problems in the development of his country is the spread of insecurity and terrorism, which is mainly directed and controlled from outside the borders of the country.

IRAN IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran to start 2022 VNL with a match against Russia

From Page 1 ► The 16 teams compete in a two groups each week, the eight teams per group. The new format allows teams to have a one-week gap between events. The total number of matches in the pool phase will be 96.

The top eight teams after the preliminary round compete in the final round.

The eight qualified teams play knock-out round. The VNL Finals will see the eight strongest teams moving directly to the knockout phase which will consist of eight matches in total: four quarterfinals, two semi-finals and the bronze and gold medal matches.

Preliminary Round – Men: June 7 – July 10

Week 1 from June 7 to 12: Brasilia, Brazil & Ottawa, Canada

Week 2 from June 21 to 26: Quezon City, Philippines & Sofia, Bulgaria

Week 3 from July 5 to 10: Osaka, Japan & Kemerovo, Russia

Finals – Women: July 13-17: Host city to be announced

Finals – Men: July 20-24: Host city to be announced

Esteghlal defeat Fajr Sepasi, Persepolis held: IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team defeated Fajr Sepasi 1-0 on Matchday 19 of the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Wednesday.

Jafar Salmani scored the winner in the 54th minute.

Persepolis were held to a 1-1 against Gol Gohar in Sirjan. Persepolis striker Hamed Pakdel found the back of the net in the 13th minute and Brazilian forward Kiros Stanley equalized the match with a header in the 33rd minute.

In Isfahan, Sepahan and Zob Ahan played out a goalless draw. In Tabriz, Tractor and Paykan shared the spoils in a 0-0 draw. Struggling Padideh suffered a 1-0 loss against Havadar in Mashhad. Sanat Naft drew 1-1 with Nassaji in Abadan. Aluminum suffered a 1-0 home loss against Mes Rafsanjan in Arak. Foolad defeated Naft Masjed Soleyman 2-0 in Ahvaz.

Esteghlal lead the table with 47 points, followed by Persepolis with 42 points.

Iran's women's futsal team fall short against Russia

TEHRAN – Iran's women's futsal team lost to Russia 1-0 in a friendly match in Tehran on Wednesday.

The Persians had lost to the Russian team 5-1 in their first friendly on Monday.

Forouzan Soleymani's team prepare for the 2022 AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup which will be held in September.

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

The Team have recently won the title in the 2022 CAFA Women's Championship.

Hamid Estili appointed Iran football team director

TEHRAN – Hamid Estili was appointed as new director of Iran national football team on Wednesday.

Estili, former Iran midfielder, replaced Mojtaba Khorshidi who parted ways with the federation yesterday.

Estili has already worked as head coach of Iran U23 football team.

He has also coached Iranian clubs Persepolis, Rah Ahan and Shahin Bushehr.

Estili is mostly remembered for his memorable goal and goal celebration against the U.S. at the 1998 FIFA World Cup.

He announced his retirement from national duty against Korea Republic in 2000 and will start his work as the team's director in the match against Korea Republic in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier on March 24.

John Lammers named Iran U23 coach

TEHRAN – Johannes Gerardus Adrianus "John" Lammers has been named as coach of Iran U23 football team.

The Dutch will assist Mehdi Mahdavia in the 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup.

Iran have been drawn in Group A of the competition along with hosts Uzbekistan, Qatar and Turkmenistan.

The AFC U23 Asian Cup will be held in Uzbekistan from June 1 to 19.

Lammers was most recently coach of Danish Superliga club Esbjerg fB. The 58-year-old coach started his professional career in the 1982-83 season. He played for Willem II Tilburg, RKC Waalwijk, VVV-Venlo, Toulon, NAC Breda, RBC Roosendaal and New Zealand club Auckland Kingz.

AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Qualifiers to be held on Thursday

The draw for the final round of the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Qualifiers will be held on Thursday.

The draw kicks off at 15:00 (UTC+8) today in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

24 teams will be competing in the Final Round of the Qualifiers. Kuwait, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were runners-up in their respective second round groups while Bahrain, India, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Palestine, Philippines and Turkmenistan finished third in their respective groups. Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand were fourth place finishers, with Cambodia and Indonesia squeezing into the mix after winning the playoffs. 11 places up for grabs. The six group winners and five best second-placed teams in the Final Round of the Qualifiers will advance to China 2023.

3 Matchdays to decide the 11 qualifiers. Matches will be played on June 8, 11 and 14.

13 teams have already qualified for the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals. Besides hosts China PR, Australia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Korea Republic, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and United Arab Emirates qualified as the second round group winners, with Iraq, Lebanon, Oman and Vietnam securing their China 2023 spots as the best four runners-up.

10 teams who competed in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup are vying for back-to-back qualification. Bahrain, India, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Palestine, Philippines, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yemen were part of the 24 teams in UAE 2019.

7 previous winners have confirmed their place in the 2023 Finals – Australia, Iraq, IR Iran, Japan, Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Kuwait, the 1980 winners, will be hoping to join them in China 2023.

6 teams – Tajikistan, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Sri Lanka – will be aiming to make their AFC Asian Cup debut in China 2023. 6 nations will host the Qualifiers across all five AFC Zones – India, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia and Uzbekistan.

White smoke emission from Vienna chimney hinges on Western flexibility

TEHRAN – With the talks in Vienna at a critical juncture after months of painstaking negotiations, the West seems to be in need of making political decisions to ensure the success of the talks.

The lead negotiators in Vienna have said in unison that the talks have reached a critical point. For instance, Enrique Mora, deputy head of the EU foreign apparatus who coordinates the Vienna talks, has said that the talks are nearing their end but key issues remain unresolved.

"#JCPOA #ViennaTalks are at a crucial moment. We are nearing the end after ten months of negotiations. The result is still uncertain. Key issues need to be fixed. But all delegations are fully engaged. Intense work in Coburg," Mora said on Twitter.

It's not clear which issues have not been hammered out yet. But press reports suggest that there are currently disagreements over a number of issues that need political decisions from the West, particularly the United States.

The Qatari newspaper Al-Arabi Al-Jadeed reported on Tuesday that the most important remaining issues mostly center around the scope of sanctions relief and the way to lift the sanctions in addition to other issues pertaining to disagreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Citing sources familiar with the talks, the newspaper said the U.S. is still insisting on some sensitive sanctions that, if not lifted, would lessen Iran's benefits from any deal.

The sanctions in question need political decisions by the Biden administration.

The U.S. is yet to make such decisions and therefore a deal remains unlikely in the foreseeable future. This comes at a time when heads of delegations are preparing for a break for

consequential consultations in capitals. Before the current round of talks, Iran had made all the necessary political decisions to move ahead with the talks. Therefore, it's unlikely that the upcoming break would result in a change in Iran's decisions.

Nour News, a news website close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, has confirmed this amid reports that Iran's chief negotiator, is returning to Tehran.

The news website said on Twitter, "The continuation of the presence of Iran's chief negotiator in Vienna or his return to Tehran won't bring about change in Iran's principled positions which have been made available to the negotiating team through an accurate and comprehensive instruction. Unlike the Western side, the Iranian delegation is powerful, authorized, and determined."

Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Hossein Amir Abdollahian also hinted that Iran has done its part in terms of making decisions and that the remaining issues are not subject to negotiation.

"We are now close to a deal. [But] there are some issues that are our red lines," the Iranian foreign minister said in an interview with Euronews.

The foreign minister said Iran has shown flexibility in the talks and now it's the West's turn to show flexibility.

"Now is the time for initiative and flexibility on the part of the West. We think that if the Western side wants to be realistic about what is going on at the negotiating table in Vienna today, we can reach a final agreement in less than a few hours," he said.

He added, "Therefore, in our opinion, the timing is in the hands of the Western side and depends on the realism and initiative of the Western side."

Nour News said there is a long way to reaching

in this field," Gharibabadi said.

Russian Ambassador Levon Dzhagaryan welcomed the proposal, stressing the continued opposition to human rights resolutions issued against Iran for certain political purposes and the hostile measures against Tehran in this regard, according to the Al Alam news website.

Officials of the three countries announced that Iran, Russia and China, oppose the use of human rights as a tool against states, and affirmed the continuation and expansion of joint consultations at bilateral level and within the framework of international organizations in the field of human rights.

Chinese Ambassador Chang Hua also said political and international development will never have any effect on Beijing's will to develop ties with Iran.

Chang also said, "Beijing condemns the interference of Western countries in the internal affairs of Iran under the pretext of violation of human rights."

Earlier in January, Gharibabadi, who is an assistant to the chief of Iran's Judiciary for international affairs, said that the United States commits massacres against peoples under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

"The U.S. policy of combating terrorism has only resulted in

massacres against civilians and the destruction of homes," Gharibabadi said on Twitter.

He added, "And under the pretext of fighting terrorism during the past two decades, America launched at least 14,000 drone attacks in 7 countries. What was the result? 48,000 civilians killed and tens of thousands of homes destroyed."

He noted, "It should be clarified that 50 representatives of the U.S. Congress indicated in a letter to their country's president during the past few days the losses their country's anti-terror policy has inflicted on civilians, and called for a change in this policy."

SIPIEM, BSI ink MOU to support oil industry equipment manufacturers

TEHRAN - Iranian Petroleum Industries Equipment Manufacturers Association (known as SIPIEM) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Bank Saderat Iran (BSI) to provide 50 trillion rials (over \$193 million) of facilities to domestic manufacturers of oil industry equipment.

As reported by Shana, the mentioned MOU was signed by SIPIEM Head Ehsan Saghafi and BSI Managing Director Hojjatollah Seyedi on the sidelines of the 3rd Specialized Exhibition and Conference on Supporting Domestic Manufacturing in the Petrochemical Industry which was held in southern Kish Island during February 21-23.

The mentioned exhibition is organized by Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC), in collaboration with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology, and the SIPIEM.

According to Saghafi, BSI and SIPIEM had also signed another MOU during the first edition of this exhibition for providing facilities to domestic manufacturers of oil industry equipment.

He stated that so far up to 65 percent of the necessary resources for the allocation of the mentioned facilities have been supplied by signing such memorandums which aim to promote the domestic production of goods, equipment, and consumable parts needed by the oil industry.

"With the signing of the new memorandum, the ceiling for providing facilities has been increased by 2.5 times from 20 trillion rials (about \$77 million) to 50 trillion rials (over \$193 million)," he said.



SIPIEM Head Ehsan Saghafi (L) and BSI Managing Director Hojjatollah Seyedi exchanging signed MOU documents

The SIPIEM head mentioned the support of the banking system, especially BSI, for the reopening of rial-based letter of credit (LC) as one of the necessities for the development of domestic manufacturing of goods and equipment in oil, gas, refining, and petrochemical industries and added: "The bank has supported the reopening of rial-based LC with the aim of accelerating and facilitating the domestic production of goods in the oil industry."

Also, on the sidelines of the signing of this memorandum, Seyedi referred to the astonishing progress of knowledge-based companies and manufacturers of oil industry equipment, saying that the Bank Saderat Iran cooperation with Iranian manufacturers of oil industry equipment has increased over the past three years.

"With the increase in the ceiling for providing facilities to Iranian manufacturers, it is predicted that the path for domestic production of the oil industry equipment will be paved and this sector will progress at a faster pace," Seyedi said.

IGEDC determined to complete gas supply projects in Sistan-Baluchestan



TEHRAN- Iran Gas Engineering and Development Company (IGEDC) is determined to complete the projects for supplying gas to different parts of Sistan-Baluchestan province in the southeast of the country, the managing director of the company announced.

Reza Noshadi said besides the current gas-supply projects in the province, 666

kilometers of pipelines is planned to be laid in Sistan-Baluchestan so that all cities of the province will enjoy natural gas.

As announced by the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s managing director, all of the country's rural and urban population will have access to natural gas through the national gas network within the next two years.

Majid Chegeni said currently over 98 percent of the urban population, as well as 90 percent of the country's rural population, have access to natural gas through the national network.

According to the official, currently, only a few cities and about 7,000 villages across the country have not been supplied with gas through the pipeline network.

"Currently, 1,260 cities and more than 35,000 villages in the country enjoy natural gas through the national network," Chegeni said.

Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan stress expansion of energy ties

TEHRAN - The energy ministers of Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan, as the region's most powerful countries in electricity industry, stressed the need to develop regional cooperation in the energy sector.

In a historic meeting on the sidelines of the sixth Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Summit in Qatar on Tuesday, Ali-Akbar Mehrabian, Nikolay Shulginov, and Parviz Shahbazov, the energy ministers of Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan, respectively exchanged views on developing regional cooperation in the field of electricity.

They emphasized the significant impact of energy security and the energy economy on the development of the region.

Synchronization of the electricity networks of the three countries was among the issues discussed in this meeting, regarding which the officials stressed the need to accelerate the completion and implementation of the study phases of the project and subsequently make it operational.

During this gathering, Mehrabian announced his ministry's readiness to support and implement the mentioned project.

He stressed that Iran considers this project



Ali Akbar Mehrabian (C), Nikolai Shulginov (L) and Parviz Shahbazov, the energy ministers of Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan respectively

important for the expansion of electricity exchanges not only with neighboring countries but also with countries in the region, especially Russia.

Shulginov for his part stressed the urgency of the completion of this project so that the three countries' power grids can be connected.

While emphasizing full support for the project, Parviz also announced Azerbaijan's readiness to invest in the related facilities for the optimal implementation of the project.

Finland eyeing Iran's Chabahar Port for trade with East Asia

TEHRAN - Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Tehran Kari Kahiluoto has visited Iran's Chabahar port in Southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province to explore avenues of mutual cooperation in the future.

As reported by the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), during this visit Kahiluoto has expressed his country's willingness for providing technical assistance to this port and using the port's capacities for connecting to East Asian countries.

"Chabahar port is seeking superior technology, and Finland, as a provider of such technology, welcomes the provision of services to the port of Chabahar," the ambassador said.

"The port of Chabahar is important for Finland in terms of providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and relations with Asian countries," Kahiluoto added.

The official noted that during his visit to the port, he has collected a good body of knowledge about the port's capacities and potentials and will inform Finnish companies about the opportunities in the Iranian oceanic port.



Finnish Ambassador to Tehran Kari Kahiluoto (2nd L) and Director-General of Ports and Maritime Department of Sistan-Baluchestan Province Behrouz Aghaei (1st R)

During this visit, Behrouz Aghaei, the director-general of the Ports and Maritime Department of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, who also accompanied the Finnish ambassador, noted that Chabahar port has made good progress in the past few years in terms of construction and infrastructure, and this port has no restrictions on providing services, and any country that is interested in investing in Chabahar port will be welcomed.

He said that this year, most of the ships carrying basic goods to the port of Shahid Beheshti in Chabahar have been large-scale vessels with over 70,000 tons of capacity.

As reported, Finland is interested in using Chabahar port as part of a corridor for transiting goods to East Asia.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar port holds great significance for the country

both politically and economically. The country has taken serious measures for developing this port in order to improve the country's maritime trade.

In this regard, the Islamic Republic has been welcoming investors from all over the world to take part in the development of this port and benefit from its distinguished position as a trade hub in the region.

Chabahar port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

In May 2016, India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement for the strategically-located Chabahar to give New Delhi access to Kabul and Central Asia.

Based on an agreement with Iran, India is currently installing and operating modern loading and unloading equipment including mobile harbor cranes in Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

Iran's exports to Russia rise 60%

From page 1 ► He added that in order to develop foreign trade, a roadmap should be drawn, saying: "To develop exports, infrastructure such as logistics should be provided, this capacity exists on the border of Astrakhan with Iran, so since [the Iranian calendar year] 1396 (ended in March 2018), an Iranian trade center was founded in the city of Astrakhan."

This center can provide the necessary ground for expanding economic relations between the two countries and strengthen the presence of Iranian exporters in Russia, Tizhoosh Taban said.

Further in the event, Sanjari, as the secretary of the conference, spoke about logistical, industrial, and political advantages of the two countries

which have resulted in the growth of economic relations and the upward trend of mutual trade.

Elsewhere in the conference, Ahmad Asl Rokanabadi, an advisor to the Iranian Parliament, also announced the establishment of foreign trade centers in other countries and said that the parliament and the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) have discussed and finalized the plan for establishing 195 trade centers in destination markets.

Referring to the development of petrochemical exports, Roknabadi said: "According to available statistics, Russia has raw materials for the production of petrochemical products, but its demand is always higher than production.

Cambodia seeking Iran's experience in oil, gas exploration

TEHRAN - Cambodia has asked Iran to implement oil and gas exploration projects in the country, hoping to resume the country's ambition to produce oil, the country's New Straits Times reported citing Phnom Penh Post.

As reported, Cambodia has asked Iran to study the country's existing oil blocks and also to conduct exploration operations in new areas that had the potential to produce oil and gas.

The negotiations in this regard were made during a meeting between Cambodian Minister of Mines and Energy Suy Sem and Iranian ambassador to Vietnam and Cambodia Ali Akbar Nazari on Monday.

According to the director-general of the mentioned ministry's petroleum department Cheap Sour, Iran has significant experience as an oil and gas producer and the meeting has provided new horizons for further economic cooperation between the two countries.

The official told Phnom Penh Post that the ministry has called on investors from Iran to study the feasibility of investing in Cambodia's existing oil blocks and explore new ones, but that the talks were at a very early stage.

"This is a start, but it is not yet clear which investors from Iranian companies will be able to invest; it is

just a diplomatic [discussion]. Now we are waiting to see," he said.

There are also plans to study the feasibility of setting up a refinery in Cambodia, and developing technical assistance and human resource training in the petroleum sector and energy trade cooperation, investment, and the development of electricity infrastructure.

Cambodia had been hoping to become an oil-producing country but oil exploration at its Apsara offshore oilfield was suspended when Singapore-listed investment company KrisEnergy, which had been conducting pumping operations there, went bankrupt.

Since then, Cambodia has been trying to get other investors as well as research teams to the area and get its oil-producing ambition back on track.

Royal Academy of Cambodia's (RAC) International Economics director Hong Vanak said if Iran agreed to invest in and develop the country's oil blocks, the local oil sector would benefit from it and it could also mean a resumption of pumping operations that were suspended due to the bankruptcy of KrisEnergy.

He said Iran's good qualifications and experience in oil and gas are something Cambodia's own industry can benefit greatly from.



MPSIran Head Sina Sanjar (1st L) and chairman of Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce Hadi Tizhoosh Taban (2nd R)

Therefore, the country imports \$30 billion worth of petrochemical products annually, and to make the most of this opportunity incentives should be provided for investors in this field."

TEDPIX rises 3,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 3,461 points to 1.288 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 5.247 billion securities worth 35.096 trillion rials (about \$134.98 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 2,658 points and the second market's index gained 6,590 points.

TEDPIX dropped 2,000 points (less than one percent) to 1.282 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Mobarakeh Steel Company, Tehran Oil Refining Company, 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.

Lack of sufficient training for shareholders, facilitating the entry of new companies into the stock market, offering bonds by the capital market instead of banks to provide fixed and working capital for production units, accelerating the formation of credit rating companies in the stock market, and tax exemption for undistributed dividends of companies, as well as pricing problems, were some of the most important issues pointed out by the businessmen and officials attending the mentioned meeting.

Government Economic Coordination Headquarters in its meeting in the last week of January approved five new resolutions for supporting the country's stock market, and the directives in this regard were sent to relative ministries, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber announced at the time.

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

According to Mokhber, the decisions made in the meeting of the Government Economic Coordination

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

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

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

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

Canada tramples on human rights by choking nationwide protests

From page 1 ► The raid of police has left several injured. As a result, Ontario's police watchdog launched a probe into the several incidents involving police during the operation to clear out the Freedom Convoy protest.

Many believe that such protests grabbed the limelight on the media outlets to distract attention of major issues that still exist in the trucking industry, such as unpaid wages and exploitation of foreign workers.

According to the Canadian Trucking Alliance, around 90% of Canadian truckers have already been vaccinated whereas a minority of them has a diametrically opposed position.

New requirements for drivers hauling goods between Canada and the U.S. can be considered the main reason of their objection spreading an atmosphere of instability across the country.

The Freedom Convoy gained momentum as the news rolled out to drum up support from outside the trucking industry who were fed up with the Covid-

era restrictions. Donations from all over the world have poured into the country to show solidarity with truck drivers.

Canadian officials have always claimed that they invariably protect human rights all over the world. In other words, they think they are the flagbearer of human rights both at home and abroad.

Such a claim reminds us that the flag of defending human rights is being carried by those who are the greatest enemies of human rights including the U.S.

As a constitutional monarchy with a federal parliamentary government, Canada has a penchant to surreptitiously strangle humanity and to suppress the truth.

Although the Canadian government formulated mechanisms to identify, investigate, prosecute, and punish officials who may commit human rights abuses, they constituted a systemic use of violence against the protesters.

The rationale behind the formation of national, provincial, and municipal police forces in Canada is to maintain internal



security. In cases, the armed forces, who are responsible for external security only, are deployed to exercise some domestic security responsibility at the formal request of civilian provincial authorities.

It is worth saying that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police report to the Department of Public Safety, and the armed forces report to the Department of National Defense. Provincial and municipal police report to their respective provincial authorities.

All such forces are formed to repel the peril of lack of control in the country regardless of any heed to the protection of human rights.

Given the Ukrainian International Airlines Flight 752 which was mistakenly downed, the Canadian government has begun to take unilateral actions in order to "politicize" the plane crash incident under the pretext of defending human rights.

Diplomatic tensions between Iran and Canada run high with the investigative Canadian report on a 2020 Ukrainian plane crash on the outskirts of

the Iranian capital.

In an interview with Tehran Times, Mohsen Baharvand, Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, stressed that Canada's unilateral steps and statements against Iran on the Ukrainian plane crash is hampering Tehran's efforts to clarify the truth.

"Strangely, the Canadian government has begun to take unilateral actions, and we see no good reason for that except that Canada intends to politicize the issue," the deputy foreign minister for legal affairs lamented.

A report on the Canadian human rights in 2020 meticulously shows that they suffered more than any other country from violations of human rights.

Reports of the use of unlawful deadly force by police, police use of undue or excessive force and harassment against indigenous persons, and official discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls are among cases that should be taken into consideration.

Republicans have largely become a party of extremists: scholar

'Trump is a moron and has done great damage to America'

From page 1 ► On the other hand, some Republicans to this day fight for the Republic idea not because they believe strongly in it but because they are trying to limit the voting, knowing that they are in the minority.

They also prefer the electoral system, which put Trump and the younger Bush into the White House, both not getting the popular vote.

U.S. foreign policy has not been stable for decades. Please explain?

I agree that our foreign policy has been unstable. Indeed, I see the greatest danger facing the United States as internal not external. Why? Because Republicans, especially under Trump, have become a party of extremists. For most of my life, there was little difference between the two parties and they worked together and compromised.

The Republicans have largely become a party of extremists lately--and this is dangerous. George Washington was opposed to the notion of political parties, felt that exact member of Congress and all those who vote should follow their consciences, not their party line.

Given Trump's big social base, how do you see the future of U.S. democracy? Do you expect the division to get deeper?

If the division becomes even deeper, the United States will be in real trouble. Not to mention my personal view that Trump is a moron and has done great damage to this country, it is essential that he not be reelected in 2024.

Is there a balance between ideology, interests and values in U.S. policy-making?

I'm not sure how to respond to this question. An irony is that evangelical Christians are passionate supporters of Israel-but for religious reasons not political so I don't see where ideology in the political sense fits in here.



What are the implications of electing (or re-electing) characters like Trump, especially at a time that America is suffering from problems like racism and extreme neoliberal policies?

If Trump is reelected it will be a disaster for the United States. Everything Biden is doing to return the United States to world leadership (so undermined by Trump from 2016-2020) will be lost.

As for racism, yes it exists but it is so much weaker than it once was. More and more Black men and women are assuming high office. Our Vice President is a person "of color." So is the newly elected Mayor of New York. So I am very hopeful in this area. What Trump did was bring out the worse of America. But it was there, it didn't increase. What is increasing is respect for Blacks, Latinos, and Asians. Sure, we have problems but, in general, we are and will continue to move forward in this area. We have a good ways to go but I am confident we will get there. This is the American dream, and for most Americans, this dream is still very much alive and growing.

Most intelligent people consider Trump the worst president in American history. And we must remember that he did not win the popular vote in 2016 but became president through the electoral system which I, and many others, wish to reform.

Trust in U.S. ends in total fiasco

TEHRAN- Myanmar has been stuck in the gnarls of an autocratic race as the aftermath of the military coup on February 01, 2021.

The armed forces have apparently grabbed the lead in Southeast Asia's authoritarian race to the bottom.

The military's inability to win voters' hearts and minds was a primary motivator for the coup.

Autocrats everywhere will be empowered, while democratic leaders will be disheartened.

Many Myanmar citizens have compared the security forces' ruthless crackdown, beatings, and cruel treatment to terrorism.

The Myanmar military launched a systematic perpetration of violence and repression against its own people backed by Aung San Suu Kyi against the armed forces' Union Solidary for Development Party.

Since the military coup on February 1, demonstrators have been calling for the restoration of a civilian government and the release of their leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and her colleagues, who have been detained since then.

The widespread revolt has been met with a harsh military response that has resulted in the deaths of over 860 individuals.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres earlier stressed said "we cannot live in a world where military coups become a norm. It is totally unacceptable."

In 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi led her National League for Democracy (NLD) to victory in Myanmar's first openly contested election in 25 years.

However, she was toppled in a coup in 2021, when the military took control and jailed her as well as the political leadership surrounding her.

That was her prize who laid trust in the U.S.-backed generals involved in the genocide against Rohingya people.

She was all ears when coming to the obedience to the American orders. Eventually, she lost everything including her fame and honor. In American eyes, every puppet or despot that they install has an expiry date. When finished, they are finished too.

A brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar's army in August 2017 drove hundreds of thousands to escape over the border into Bangladesh.

They jeopardized everything to flee by water or foot from a military offensive termed

afterwards by the UN as a "classic example of ethnic cleansing."

The UN's highest court ordered the Buddhist-majority country to take steps to protect members of the Rohingya group from genocide in January 2020.

However, Myanmar's army has stated that it struggled Rohingya people and denied any slaughter of civilians. Aung San Suu Kyi has frequently disputed charges of genocide.

In an August 2018 report, UN investigators accused Myanmar's military of carrying out mass executions and rapes with "genocidal intent."

When Aung San Suu Kyi appeared in court in December 2019, she denied claims of genocide.

However, the court's initial judgment in January 2020 required Myanmar to adopt emergency measures to safeguard the Rohingya from persecution and killing.

With over 500,000 Rohingya still estimated to be living in Myanmar's northern Rakhine region, UN investigators have warned that there is a "serious risk that genocidal crimes may occur or reoccur."

On February 22, the United Nations called on countries providing the junta with fighter jets that are still used against civilians to halt the flow of weapons enabling atrocities.

Myanmar has been in chaos since a coup ended a decade of fragile democracy, sparking protests that forces crushed with fatal force.

According to the United Nations, at least 1,500 civilians have been killed, and more than 300,000 people have been displaced as a result of rural fighting between the military and armed opponents. The junta claims to be combating "terrorists" and opposes U.N. intervention.

Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews maintained in a report to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva that these weapons had been used on people.

"It should be incontrovertible that weapons used to kill civilians should no longer be transferred to Myanmar. These transfers truly shock the conscience," Andrews said in a statement.

"Stopping the junta's atrocity crimes begins with blocking their access to weapons. The more the world delays, the more innocent people, including children, will die in Myanmar."

Israeli regime kills another Palestinian child

From page 1 ► In a statement, the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said "the cold-blooded murder of Mohammad Shehade by a war bullet and the obstruction of an ambulance from reaching him and then his abduction, once again confirms the brutality and terrorist acts of the Zionist regime against the children and defenseless and innocent people of our nation".

The statement added "the blood of the martyr will remain the curse pursued by the occupying regime and its criminal leaders, and it is a flame that will be kindled in the form of revolution and uprising against the enemy".

Rights groups have regularly condemned the Israeli regime forces for showing "appalling disregard for human life" by using "reckless and unlawful lethal force" against Palestinian protesters.

Amnesty International has repeatedly urged an end to the "worrying rise in unlawful killings by Israeli forces, fostered by a culture of impunity".

The latest murder comes one week after Israeli snipers killed another Palestinian teenager in the occupied Palestinian territories. Residents in the community of Nabi Saleh, northwest of occupied Ramallah, identified the victim as Nehad Bargouthi.

The latest killings come as an NGO shed more light on the Israeli regime's practice of withholding the bodies of Palestinian children it kills.

According to Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCIP) "Withholding bodies is a violation of both international law and human rights laws, which includes an absolute prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and stipulates that parties to armed conflict must bury the dead in an honorable manner".

DCIP has documented the cases of at least nine Palestinian children where the occupying regime has held on to the bodies of children instead of handing them over to their parents for burial.

The group highlights the emotional harm this policy inflicts on the families of the children noting "It falls under the policy of collective punishment practised by the [Israeli] occupation against the Palestinian people, and the harm caused to the families of the martyrs as a result amounts to collective punishment that violates international humanitarian law".

In December, DCIP said that 2021 was the deadliest year for Palestinian children since 2014, as Israeli regime forces killed 76 Palestinians under 18, 15 of them in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem (al-Quds) and 61 in the besieged Gaza Strip.



According to Addameer (an NGO that advocates for Palestinian detainees) in Israeli jails, there are currently 180 Palestinian children imprisoned.

Rights groups say the only place in the world where children are automatically prosecuted in military courts that lack fundamental fair rights and guarantees is by the Israeli regime in the occupied Palestinian Territories.

Over the years, the systematic ill treatment and torture of Palestinian children has been widely documented; with Amnesty International finding that Israeli forces had "tortured and otherwise ill-treated Palestinian detainees, including children, particularly during arrest and interrogation", with methods including "beating with batons, slapping, throttling, prolonged shackling, stress positions, sleep deprivation and threats."

In another blatant violation of international law, the Israeli regime has renewed the administrative detention of a Palestinian teenager for an additional four-month period adding to more than 300 days of imprisonment without charge or trial.

DCIP says an Israeli military court approved a four-month administrative detention order against Mohammad Mansour. This latest order is set to expire on June 6, 2022, and is the third consecutive administrative detention order issued by the regime against Mansour.

He is currently detained in Israel's Megiddo prison located in the northern occupied Palestinian Territories.

Ayed Abu Eqtaiash, accountability program director at DCIP says "Israeli authorities must file charges against Palestinian children or release them"

Abu Eqtaiash noted that "administrative detention must never be used to detain children and amounts to a clear violation of fundamental due process rights. Israeli authorities must immediately end the arbitrary detention of Palestinian administrative detainees."

Israeli forces detained Mansour, then 17, during a night raid on his home in Jenin in the

northern occupied West Bank in April, 2021.

He was detained for 15 days at Israel's Huwara prison center in the northern occupied West Bank in conditions that Mansour and other children have described as inhumane, based on documentation collected by DCIP.

Israel's Ofer military court approved a six-month administrative detention order against Mansour in April 2021. A second administrative detention order was approved in October 2021, for an additional four-month period. That second order expired on February 7, 2022, according to DCIP.

Administrative detention is a form of imprisonment without charge or trial regularly used by Israeli authorities to jail Palestinians, including children.

The Palestinian children that are held under administrative detention orders are not presented with charges, and their detention is based on secret (alleged) evidence that is not disclosed to the children or their family.

This prevents the children from any form of preparation of a legal challenge to their imprisonment and its alleged basis.

DCIP has also documented the cases of other Palestinian children the regime is currently holding pursuant to administrative detention orders, which amounts to arbitrary detention.

At least one of the children under consecutive Israeli administrative detention orders, Amal Nakhleh, suffers from myasthenia gravis, a rare chronic autoimmune, neuromuscular disease.

On January 25, 2022, Nakhleh tested positive for COVID-19.

In November 2021, the Palestinian Prisoners Society said since the beginning of the year 2021, Israeli regime forces had detained some 1,150 Palestinian children.

At least two-thirds of the arrested children have suffered from physical torture by Israeli forces, while all of the children have suffered from psychological torture during their time in Israeli detention.

According to the Palestinian Prisoners Society, since 2000 the Israeli regime has arrested at least 19,000 Palestinian minors aged between 10 to 18 years old.

The majority of these arrests occur when Israeli troops attack Palestinian protesters or during nighttime or early morning raids on family homes by heavily armed Israeli troops.

Despite the statements of condemnation against Israeli crimes, the regime enjoys the support of the United States and Britain among others, in particular at the UN Security Council, which emboldens Israeli forces to increase their violations of Palestinian rights.



Hafshejan projected to be named national city of stone carving

\$7.7m allocated to unfinished tourism projects in northwest Iran



From page 1 ► Among the most significant projects were enhancing the tourism infrastructures at the Monastery of Saint Thaddeus and UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleyman ("Solomon's Throne"), he explained.

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

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

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian

(Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

According to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in September 2020, over 2,400 tourism-related projects were underway across the country with a total estimated cost of 1,370 trillion rials (around \$5.2 billion).

The tourism industry of the country was growing and progressing well but unfortunately, it has faced the coronavirus outbreak, which brought the industry to a standstill.

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

Iranian police seize ancient relics from smuggler

TEHRAN –A total of seven historical objects have recently been confiscated from a smuggler in Andika, southwestern Khuzestan province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage has said.

Recovered from the house of the smuggler, the objects date back to the pre-Islamic era, Ramin Maknavi announced, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Some bronze dish and a metal sword were among the discovered object, the official added.

The accused was traced and lastly arrested after the police received reports from cultural heritage aficionados about the illegal possession of the relics, he noted.

The police detained and surrendered the culprit to the judicial system for further investigation, he explained.

Khuzestan is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System yet it is a region of raw beauty where its visitors could spend weeks exploring. The province is also a cradle for handicrafts and arts whose crafters inherited from their preceding generations.

Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

TEHRAN –Hafshejan, a small city in Shahr-e Kord county, southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, is planned to be named as the national city of stone carving, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Stone carvings from Hafshejan have almost 800 years of history, and the products are not only provincial and nationally famous, but they are also internationally renowned, Alireza Jilan announced on Wednesday.

Currently 65 artisans are practicing this field in 20 workshops across the city, the official added.

Handmade items in this region are made by extracting stone from the nearby mountains, transporting it to the workshop, cutting it, and then carving the stone by a master craftsman, he explained.

Stone lions, which were placed on top of the tombstones of brave and courageous people of Bakhtiari tribe in the past, are among the most popular stone carving products in the lesser-known province.

Bakhtiari nomads regard such stone statues, locally called 'Bard Shirs' as a symbol of bravery, valor, and characteristics like adroitness at hunting and shooting in war as well as horseback riding on top of the gravestone of that group of people.



Scattered across certain graveyards in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, southwest Iran, these statues remind men who enriched the history of their tribes in a mythical form by their names and departed this life.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari has various unique traditions and rituals relative to the 'tribal' lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape. The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majorly of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.

Currently, about 40 tons of felt are yearly being made in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari through

traditional and modern manners, which could be increased to 50 tons, according to official data. Experts believe that Shahr-e Kord has the potential to be a world city for felt products.

Wide-ranging handicrafts

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.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts". Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood

furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a "world city of filigree". And Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

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.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Permanent handicrafts market to open near UNESCO-designated Pasargadae

TEHRAN –A permanent market for handicrafts is planned to be established near the UNESCO-designated Pasargadae, southern Fars province.

The launch of the market is meant to empower the nearby villagers through the creation of a marketplace for their handmade products, a local tourism official has said.

In addition to generating jobs, it will also boost the economy and income of the region, Majid Salimi announced on Wednesday, CHTN reported.

Situated about 50 km north of Persepolis, Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Cyrus II the Great, in Pars, the homeland of the Persians, in the 6th century BC.

Its palaces, gardens, and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization.

The UNESCO World Heritage site is also home to a complex water supply system for the time that comprises cisterns, tunnels, underground canals, and ducts, which are



locally known as qanats.

It is believed that the development of qanats began about 2,500 or 3,000 years ago in Persia (Iran), and the technology spread eastward to Afghanistan and westward to Egypt. Although new qanats are seldom built today, many old qanats are still used in Iran and Afghanistan, chiefly for irrigation.

The 160-ha archaeological site of Pasargadae presents some of the earliest manifestations of Persian art and architecture. It includes, among other monuments, the compact limestone tomb on the Morgab plain that once held Cyrus the Great's gilded sarcophagus; Tall-e Takht

("Solomon's Throne"), a great fortified platform built on a hill and later incorporated into a sprawling citadel with substantial mud-brick defenses; and the royal ensemble, which consists of several palaces originally located within a garden layout (the so-called "Four Gardens"). Pasargadae became a prototype for the Persian Garden concept of four quadrants formally divided by waterways or pathways, its architecture characterized by refined details and slender verticality.

Pasargadae stands as an exceptional witness to the Achaemenid civilization. The vast Achaemenid Empire, which extended from the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindus River in India, is considered the first empire to be characterized by a respect for the cultural diversity of its peoples. This respect was reflected in the royal Achaemenid architecture, which became a synthesized representation of the empire's different cultures. Pasargadae represents the first phase of this development into a specifically Persian architecture which later found its full expression in the city of Persepolis.

Historical sites in Hormozgan unaffected by quake



TEHRAN – A medium-sized 4.4 magnitude earthquake that struck Hormozgan on Tuesday caused no damage to historical structures and sites across the southern Iranian province.

Based on field visits by

experts of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, no damage to historical relics and monuments has been reported so far, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Cultural heritage experts are continuously monitoring the historical sites and will be notified if any damage to monuments is reported, CHTN quoted Sohrab Banavand as saying on Wednesday.

Known as the province of islands, Hormozgan province is located on the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. It embraces scenic islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most beautiful ones and top tourist destinations in southern Iran.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is situated some eight kilometers off the coast on the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts many tourists by its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and great local people.

Hengam Island has scenery rocky shores, serene sunset, and kind natives, which can attract travelers who enjoy a relaxing trip by spending time on this tranquil island.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature-lovers.

Restoration projects begin on Semnan mansions

TEHRAN – Restoration projects have commenced on 18 aging mansions in the historic texture of the north-central city of Semnan, a local tourism official has said.

A lack of funding slowed the progress of these projects in the current Iranian year (started March 21, 2021), Saeid Parsa announced on Wednesday.

Most of the restoration projects, however, are expected to be completed by the midpoint of the next Iranian calendar year 1401 (starts on March 21), the official added.

Earlier this month, the head of the Fund for Development of Handicrafts and Handmade Carpet and Revitalization and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Places Hadi Mirzai said that the private sector will be collaborating with the city of Semnan to revive its historic texture in the near future.

Cheshmeh-Ali, a popular tourist destination in the province is also scheduled to be restored and revived by the investment of the private sector, he noted.

So far, some of the historical monuments and aging structures across the province have briefly been ceded to the private sector to receive better maintenance and



preservation, the official added.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

A decade of growth in research and science production

From page 1 ► Therefore, research made by Iranians conducted in 2020 has become more qualitative. Also, research activities resulting from Iran's international participation in science production were about 27.4 percent in 2019, which has increased to 30.7 percent in 2020.

The share of Iranian articles in the top 1 percent of the world highly cited was 1.2 percent in 2019, which has reached 1.3 percent in 2020. This group of articles has the highest number of citations in the world of science.

Quantity growth

The results of the studies show that the total scientific documents of Iran indexed in the Scopus citation database during the history (1818-2020, approximately 202 years) was equal to 663,077 cases, of which about 440,934 cases, equaling 66 percent, has been in the most difficult conditions of U.S. sanctions in the country in recent years (2013-2020).

Among the top 20 countries in the world, Turkey is in the first place in terms of the growth of the number of documents in Scopus. Italy, China, Spain, and Brazil are following Turkey in terms of the highest growth of the quantity of science production in 2020.

Quality growth

In the normalized citation average index, which is introduced in Scopus as Field weighted citation impact, the number of citations is normalized according to the field and year of publication of the article.

The article published in 2019 is compared with the articles of 2019 and the article published in 2020 with the articles of 2020. In other words, an article published in 2019 had more opportunities to be cited than an article published in 2020.

In terms of the normalized citation index, over the past 10 years, Iran was ranked 22nd in 2011, which has gradually improved to rank 17th in 2018 and 2019 and finally 16th in 2020.



Therefore, Iran has improved its research quality by 6 steps during the last 10 years.

Iran is growing rapidly, but in any case, the country needs to strengthen itself in the field of scientific citation.

Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy, Austria, Canada, the United States, Germany, France, Spain, and Taiwan receive far more citations than Iran.

Development of science diplomacy

One of the indicators of the growth science diplomacy is conducting joint research between two or more countries, Iran has written more than a third of its articles in Scopus in 2020 with international participation, which is about 30.7 percent.

In 2019, the articles with international participation reached 27.4 percent, so compared to 2019, Iranian researchers increased their international scientific contributions by 3.3 percent. It should be noted that in 2020 more articles were published internationally by Iranian researchers, but nevertheless, the amount of international participation has increased.

Iran's share in world's top 1% highly cited articles

The share of Iranian articles in the top 1 percent of most cited articles

in Scopus has reached 1.3 percent in 2020, up from 1.2 percent in 2019, showing a 0.1 percent increase.

To select the top 1 percent of highly cited articles, Scopus first segregates articles by the subject area each year. The reason for this is the difference in the number of citations received in different fields.

Iranian articles increase in Q1 publications in 2020

In 2020, about 42 percent of Iran's articles were published in Q1 Scopus. The share of Iranian articles in Q1 magazines in 2019 was about 39 percent. Therefore, in 2020, Iranian researchers published about three percent more articles in Q1 than in 2019.

Iran's scientific growth seen to continue in 2022

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

In reviewing scientific products, various indicators such as publication of articles in prestigious international journals, citations, validity of journals, the level of productivity, and scientific impact of scientists are considered quantitatively and qualitatively.

According to the latest information on science production, Iran is ranked 15th in the world in the international system of Web of Science in 2021, with an h-index of 383, which indicates the quality of Iranian articles registered.

Iran's scientific position in the Web of Science over the last 5 years shows that the production of conference papers has been on a downward trend during 2020 and 2021 due to the outbreak.

The share of Iranian science production from conference papers has dropped from 7.38 percent in 2017 to 1.26 percent in 2021.

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

Iran's scientific partner countries were the United States, China, and Canada in 2021, the United States, Canada, and China in 2020, and the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Web of Science shows that the coronavirus pandemic has negatively affected the percentage of conference papers. The share of Iranian science production from conference papers in the Scopus database in 2021 was estimated at 1.80 percent, which was 6.50 percent in 2017 and 5.85 percent in 2018.

Moreover, the SCImago ranking system deals separately with the ranking of countries in science production, ranking Iran as 40th in 2021 in terms of h-index. Also, in terms of the number of articles, Iran's index is 376.

NATURE INDEX also shows that in 2021, considering that the latest update of this international system for science production reports has not been completed yet, Iran's overall ranking is 35th, which was 33 in 2020.

Khajeh Nasir al-Din Toosi, the most eminent engineer of his time

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN – The National Engineering Day is observed in Iran on February 24, honoring engineers for their efforts and achievements to change the world for the better.

It marks and commemorates the birthday of Khajeh Nasir al-Din Toosi (1201–1274), a Persian polymath and prolific writer, who is considered to be one of the greatest Persian scholars. He is also known as a philosopher, mathematician, astronomer, theologian, physician, and prolific writer.

Toosi was born in Toos, northeastern Khorasan region, in the year 1201 and began his studies at an early age. He studied Arabic, the Qur'an, Hadith, Shi'a Jurisprudence, logic, philosophy, mathematics, medicine, and astronomy.

At a young age, he moved to Nishapur to study philosophy under Farid al-Din Damad and mathematics under Muhammad Hasib.

As the armies of Genghis Khan swept his homeland, he fled to join the Ismailis and made his most important contributions in science during this time, while he was moving from one stronghold to another. He finally joined Hulagu's (Genghis Khan's son) ranks, after the invasion of the Alamut castle of the Hashshashin (Assassins) by Mongol forces, according to the portal of Khajeh Nasir ad-Din Toosi University.

The Mongol ruler, Hulagu Khan, built an observatory in Maragheh for Toosi. Toosi is considered the first of the Maragheh School of astronomers, who made significant contributions to the development of astronomy. Notable members of that school were Mu'ayyad al-Din al-Urdi and Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi.

Toosi made very accurate tables of planetary movements as depicted in his book Zij-i ilkhani (the Ilkhanic Tables). This book contains astronomical tables for calculating the positions of the planets and the names of the stars. His planetary system was the most advanced of his period and was used extensively until the development of the heliocentric model in the time of Copernicus. Between Ptolemy and Copernicus, he is considered the most eminent astronomer of his time.

He was perhaps the first to treat trigonometry as a separate mathematical discipline and in his Treatise, on the Quadrilateral, he was the first to list the six distinct cases of a right-angled triangle in spherical trigonometry.

He invented the geometrical technique called a Toosi-couple for his planetary models, which generates linear motion from the sum of two circular motions. He also calculated the value of 51" for the annual precession of the equinoxes and contributed to the construction and usage of some astronomical instruments including astrolabe. He gave the first extant exposition of the whole system of a plane and spherical trigonometry.



A 60-km diameter lunar crater located on the southern hemisphere of the moon is named after him as "Nasireddin". He also wrote extensively on biology and is one of the early pioneers of a kind of evolutionism in scientific thought.

Engineering share of economy

Over the past few years and especially since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions on the Iranian economy, the country has been taking serious steps to boost its non-oil exports and cut dependence on oil.

In this regard, the Islamic Republic's policy has not been limited to increasing the exports of non-oil products, as the country is also determined to expand the export of technical and engineering services.

Based on the data provided by the Association of Iranian Exporters of Technical and Engineering Services, the value of the Iranian exports of technical and engineering services in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021) stood at only \$500 million despite the great capacities in this area. The country has the potential and capability to export technical and engineering services worth \$25 billion in a year.

Considering the country's huge potential in this field, boosting such exports would be an advantage for expanding the country's foreign trade.

According to the former head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum, TPO has been focusing on improving the exports of engineering and In January 2021, Sourena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology, said the country was planning to boost 'technology diplomacy' through expanding innovation and technology centers in export target countries.

Knowledge-based companies are seriously collaborating with the ministry of foreign affairs to expand target markets, IRNA quoted Sattari as saying.

Currently, some 6,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, as well as developing African countries are the main target markets for the export of technical and engineering services.

100 foreign investors attend Tehran's TIM 2022

TEHRAN – Some 100 investors from 13 countries participated in the 4th Technology Investment Meeting (TIM 2022) of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation held February 21-22 in Tehran.

D-8 includes major Muslim developing countries namely, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Creating the capacity to use the pristine markets of the D8 countries for domestic investors is an important goal of this event.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund and Pardis Technology Park hosted the event, aiming to address the investment potentials in Islamic developing countries in order to open up an opportunity for foreign and domestic investors.

The investors are negotiating with Iranian knowledge-based companies in an exhibition held in Tehran on Wednesday, which will help the internationalization and development of exports and foreign markets, Siavash Malekifar, deputy head of Innovation and Prosperity Fund said.

The exhibition displays the achievements of 32 international knowledge-based firms that have entered the export market, operating in different

fields of information technology, software, hardware, electronics and telecommunications, machinery and health, advanced materials, and chemical technologies, he explained.

Milad Sadrkhanlou, the secretary of TIM, announced that 11 technology investment contracts and agreements worth \$10.6 million were signed during the event. The three areas of fintech, health, and information technology were the subject of most agreements and contracts.

One of the main aspects of international investment is the creation of financial and technical infrastructure for knowledge and technology companies, he added.

Good opportunities, such as abundant manpower alongside cheap knowledge-based and technological products, have attracted foreign investors, despite unilateral sanctions, to consider the Iranian knowledge-based ecosystem.

Technology advancement

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share

in GDP, Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

The knowledge-based ecosystem is a newly-emerged ecosystem but has so far been able to solve many of the country's problems.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund affiliated with the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology has earmarked a sum of 170 trillion rials (nearly \$650 million) to support knowledge-based companies over the past 4 years.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund, stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Philanthropists support 28,000 orphans, deprived children

Iranian benefactors have made cash and kind contributions from the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (starting on May 6) to help 28,000 children who are either orphaned or whose parents are financially struggling, deputy director of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has announced.

There are currently 600,000 philanthropists who support orphaned children as well as children living in families in financial distress, IRNA quoted Alireza Asgarian as saying on Wednesday.

The foundation also intends to build housing units for families who cannot afford to rent houses, he added.

مردم ۲۸ هزار کودک بی سرپرست را تحت حمایت قرار دادند

معاون توسعه مشارکت‌های مردمی کمیته امداد امام خمینی (ره) گفت: خیرین و نیکوکاران کشور از ابتدای ماه مبارک رمضان تاکنون ۲۸ هزار کودک بی‌سرپرست را تحت حمایت های مالی و غیرمالی خود قرار دادند. علیرضا عسگریان روز چهارشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار اجتماعی ایرنا افزود: ۶۰۰ هزار حامی در سطح کشور در یاری رسانی به ایتم و فرزندان محسنین با کمیته امداد همکاری دارند. عسگریان اظهار داشت: ساخت مسکن برای خانواده های تحت پوشش کمیته امداد از دیگر برنامه‌های اجرایی و دارای اولویت کاری این نهاد در سال جاری است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 23

New cases	15,340
New deaths	227
Total cases	6,998,975
Total deaths	135,726
New hospitalized patients	2,333
Patients in critical condition	3,984
Total recovered patients	6,561,376
Diagnostic tests conducted	46,862,129
Doses of vaccine injected	140,520,797

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who says unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target of their scandal.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18 Evening: 18:13 Dawn: 5:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:40 (tomorrow)

Sadi: works and life

Part 8

Following this, Georgius Gentius produced a Latin version accompanied by the Persian text (1651). Adam Olearius, who had learned Persian in Persia with the help of a Persian convert to Christianity, Hakwirdi (Haqqverdi), made it the first direct German translation from a Persian work; upon this J. V. Duisberg based a Dutch version (1654).

These and other translations of the Golestan (and, to a lesser extent, of the Bustan) established Sadi's reputation among Enlightenment thinkers as a didactic but entertaining poet of manners and morals; the 18th century vogue for the "Oriental tale" in Europe only reinforced the popularity of Sadi's stories, leading many western writers to champion or exploit them, including Denis Diderot, Voltaire, and Ernest Renan, who considered Sadi to share in French sensibility, as well as Johann Gottfried Herder and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

The English translation history begins with Stephen Sullivan's selections (1774), followed by Francis Gladwin (1806, based on his own rather inflated edition of the text) and James Ross (1823, based on the Gentius edition), both in prose.

Prose and verse translations were offered by Edward Eastwick (1852) and Edwin Arnold (1899). Emerson read the Golestan in translation in 1843; he penned a preface for the American edition of Gladwin's translation (Boston, 1865) in which he introduces the work as one of the world's sacred books.

Henry David Thoreau knew it by 1847, quoting from it twice in Concord River and in his closing remarks on philanthropy in Walden. The world-wide success of the Golestan can be measured by its continued translation into Urdu (Mir Shirali Afsus, 1802, followed by many others), Russian (Alieva, 1957), Italian (De Vincentiis, 1873), Polish (Biberstein-Kazimirski, 1876), Provençal (Piat, 1888), Hindi (Mihir Cand Das, 1889), Romanian (Ciocanel, 1905), Czech (J. Entlicher, 1906; Kubickova), and Arabic (Forati, 1961, in prose and verse).

The Golestan also lent its name to an opera by Nicolas Dalayrac (1805, which however has precious little to do with Sadi), and a nocturne for piano by Kaikhosro Sohrabji.

Sadi realized that stories with frank sexual content might offend some sensibilities, yet feared critics would think him incapable of expression if he avoided the subject.

Many Western translators found tales with homosexual or pederastic themes especially inappropriate to the objectives of the work, and therefore rendered them into Latin or changed the gender roles.

Edward Eastwick excised them altogether, for which he was charged with bowdlerizing the work. Relatively accurate and complete versions of the work became available in the mid-19th century through the efforts of Karl Heinrich Graf (1846; revised by Bellman, 1982) and Nesslermann (1864) for German, Semelet and Defremery (1858) for French, and Rehatesek for English (1888 with the imprimatur of Richard Burton's Kama Shashtra Society).

More modern versions of select chapters or stories of the Golestan have since been offered in these languages (Gelpke, Arberry). An excellent summary of the text is given in

(Source: *Encyclopedia Iranica*)
(To be continued)

TEHRAN – Iranian culture minister aide Mahmud Shalui said on Tuesday that Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi must be portrayed to the world with his original Iranian identity.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has made claims on Nezami, the greatest romantic epic poet in Persian literature, who lived during the 12th and early 13th centuries. He brought a colloquial and realistic style to the Persian epic.

In addition, the State Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow organized an exhibition in 2021, showcasing artworks inspired by Nezami Ganjavi. The museum erroneously called Nezami an Azerbaijani poet. However, his masterpieces have been composed entirely in Persian, without even a single verse in the Azerbaijani language.

Shalui, who is also the director of a commemoration program for Nezami scheduled to be held in March, said, "Some countries have organized meetings to commemorate the great poet and we praise such movements, but he must be introduced with his original Iranian identity."

Speaking in a press conference, he said, "Nezami is an important figure in the culture of Iran and the world, and he has had an influence on numerous cultural, literary and artistic works."

He noted that little has been known about Nezami and added,

Shepherd life under spotlight at Qom photo exhibition

A photo by Turkish photographer Faruk Akbas.

TEHRAN – Sheep farmer life is under the spotlight in a photo exhibition underway at Farhang Gallery in Qom.

Photos by 28 Iranian and Turkish photographers have been selected for

Nezami must be depicted with his original Iranian identity: official

Culture minister aide Mahmud Shalui attends a press conference at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on February 22, 2022, to brief the media about a weeklong program for the commemoration of Nezami Ganjavi. (Honaronline/ Gata Ziatabari)

"However, there are few people in Iran who have not heard of his poems; most Iranians have heard about his Leili and Majnun, Shirin and Farhad or a single verse from his poems."

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance plans to commemorate Nezami in a weeklong program beginning on Esfand 21 in the Iranian

calendar year (March 12), which is celebrated by Iran as Nezami Day every year.

"A day is not sufficient to commemorate Nezami, therefore, we have allocated a week to honoring the great Iranian poet and its supplements will even continue until late April," Shalui said.

The Iranian National

seven Turkish photographers, including Faruk Akbas, a world-renowned travel and documentary photographer, who has worked on numerous photography projects across the world for 35 years.

He mainly uses the human element in the environment and space in his photographs. Musa Talasli is another Turkish photographer participating in this exhibition. He has won awards at several photograph contests on farming and agriculture.

A photo by Orhan Tanhan, a Turkish school teacher who started photography as a hobby in 2010, is also on view at the exhibition. Among the Iranian photographers are Hassan Ghaffari, Amin Rahmani, Khashayar Javanmardi, Reza Golchin, Javid Khedmati, Shahab Golchin and Majid Hojjati.

the exhibition, which will be running until February 25.

"Nature represents the power of the Creator," the director of the gallery, Hojjatollah Atai, said during the opening ceremony of the exhibition last Monday and added, "With its unique beauty and diverse natural forms, rural landscapes drive us toward the true form of life."

"This exhibition provides a deep insight into the environment around us, and is the outcome of the effort the photographers have made in the intact and transformed nature to find the unique and fascinating views," he stated.

"With their sharp views, the photographers record the unique images of the universe to share them with us and help improve our visual knowledge," he noted.

The exhibition is showcasing works by

"Clay Coins"

Most of the books that are about holy characters are full of stereotypes and slogans,

Commission for UNESCO has also launched an international prize to celebrate studies from across the world on the Persian poet Nemazi Ganjavi.

The first edition of the prize will be presented on Nezami Day.

In line with the program, Iran's cultural centers across the world will also be playing host to several meetings and celebrations.

Nezami Ganjavi (c. 1141-1209 CE) is mostly known for "Khamseh", two copies of which are preserved in Iran were inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register list in 2011.

"Khamseh" is a pentalogy of poems written in Masnavi verse form (rhymed couplets) with a total of 30,000 couplets.

These five poems include the didactic work Makhzan ol-Asrar (The Treasury of Mysteries); the three traditional love stories of Khosrow and Shirin, Leili and Majnun, and Haft Paykar; and the Eskandar-nameh, which records the adventures of Alexander the Great.

As part of the program, a rare copy of Nezami's "Khamseh", which is preserved at the library of the Shahid Moteahhari School and Mosque in Tehran, will be showcased in an exhibition.

The copy and another edition, which is kept at the Central Library of the University of Tehran, are the ones that were registered by UNESCO.

Lee Child's "Make Me" published in Persian

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of "Make Me" by the British author of thriller novels Lee Child has been published by Ketabsara-ye Tandis in Tehran.

Mohammad Abbasabadi is the translator of the book first published in 2015, which is a novel from Child's Jack Reacher series.

"Why is this town called Mother's Rest?" That's all Reacher wants to know. But no one will tell him. It's a tiny place hidden in a thousand square miles of wheat fields, with a railroad station, and sullen and watchful people, and a worried woman named Michelle Chang, who mistakes him for someone else: her missing partner in a private investigation she thinks must have started small and then turned lethal.

Reacher has no particular place to go, and all the time in the world to get there, and there's something about Chang... so he teams up with her and starts to ask around. He thinks: How bad can this thing be?

But before long he's plunged into a desperate race through LA, Chicago, Phoenix and San Francisco, and through the hidden parts of the internet, up against thugs and assassins every step of the way—right back to where he started, in Mother's Rest, where he must confront the worst nightmare he could imagine.

Walking away would have been easier. But as always, Reacher's rule is: If you want me to stop, you're going to have to make me.

Child was born in 1954 in Coventry, England, but spent his formative years in the nearby city of Birmingham. By coincidence, he won a scholarship to the same high school that JRR Tolkien had attended. He went to law school in Sheffield, England, and after part-time work in the theater he joined Granada Television in Manchester for what turned out to be an eighteen-year career as a presentation director during British TV's "golden age".

During his tenure, his company made Brideshead Revisited, The Jewel in the Crown, Prime

Suspect, and Cracker. But he was let go in 1995 at the age of 40 as a result of corporate restructuring.

Always a voracious reader, he decided to see an opportunity where others might have seen a crisis and bought six dollars' worth of paper and pencils and sat down to write a book, "Killing Floor", the first in the Jack Reacher series.

"Killing Floor" was an immediate success and launched the series, which has grown in sales and impact with every new installment. The first Jack Reacher movie, based on the novel "One Shot" and starring Tom Cruise and Rosamund Pike, was released in December 2012.

In some parts, the book is very similar to the Mokhtarnameh series, like the dialogues, characters, and how Hurmala got arrested, but the similarity was not intentional or that the writer wanted to, it's just the amazing impact of this series on our subconscious as an audience.

Overall, "Clay Coins" is a great, simple, and acceptable book of Ashura literature that you can give a young person or teenager as a gift.