

Report

The U.S. abandons yet another ally

It was the former United States Secretary of State and National Security Advisor under the presidential administrations of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, Henry Kissinger, who declared “It may be dangerous to be America’s enemy, but to be America’s friend is fatal.” Those words echo the reality of America’s foreign policy towards its alleged allies, not just over the past decades, but until today.

Many countries in the world look to the U.S. for their security needs, mainly because America has the biggest military budget in the international community and with that money, it creates advanced and dangerous arms which it sells to wealthy and not-so-wealthy nations.

Of course, this money is very much needed on domestic services to help the ever-increasing poverty, inflation unemployment, and other problems so in essence the U.S. has first and foremost abandoned the American people. And if you don’t care about your own people, will you really care about others? ► Page 5

Report

Iran standing firm on logical red lines

TEHRAN — As the talks were resumed on Monday, reports from Vienna indicate that the United States and the European troika (France, Britain, and Germany) are not willing to show real flexibility.

In 2015, Iran, the U.S., the European troika, Russia, and China signed an agreement that promised a great sanction relief for the Islamic Republic. Nevertheless, with the U.S. and the three European countries throwing stone in Iran’s way, the agreement, endorsed by the UN Security Council, failed to benefit Iran economically.

With the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the agreement in May 2018, Iran practically lost the minimum economic privileges it already had. The EU’s inaction added fuel to the fire. It cooperated by bowing to Donald Trump’s “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.

Since the beginning of the seventh round of the negotiations in Vienna on November 29, the Western media tried to portray Iran as the party that is reluctant to revive the 2015 nuclear deal. When the Iranian negotiating team presented practical initiatives, the Wall Street Journal and Reuters used every measure to say that Iran’s demands are maximalist, but they failed to provide evidence to their claims.

The Vienna talks have now reached a critical stage. Reports from Vienna indicate that the talks are at a “make or break” point. On November 29, Iran’s top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani said, “Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.” The phrase indicated that Iran is seriously pursuing to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) while seriously upholding the rights of the Iranian people. ► Page 2

Persepolis complete signing of Uzbekistan forward Temirov

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club completed signing of Uzbekistan forward Sherzod Temirov on Monday.

The 23-year-old player has penned an 18-month contract with the Iranian giants.

Temirov has joined Persepolis from Uzbekistan’s Pakhtakor.

Persepolis look forward to win Iran’s league for the sixth time in a row.

Temirov can also play in left winger.

Temirov’s compatriot Azizbek Amonov joined Persepolis’ archrival Esteghlal from Lokomotiv Tashkent in early February.

Persepolis sit second in Iran Professional League (IPL) table, three points behind Esteghlal.

U.S. Support for Governments Merely an Illusion



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Production by major automakers up 7% in 11 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 828,698 vehicles during the first 11 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-February 19, 2022), up 7.3 percent compared to the figure for the previous year’s same period.

According to the Codal website, during the said 11 months, IKCO manufactured 429,823 vehicles, which was 0.5 percent less than the

output in the same period of the previous year.

During this period, this industrial group was able to produce 288,842 vehicles in the Peugeot group, 46,527 vehicles in the Samand group, 46,399 Dena vehicles, 33,287 Rana vehicles, and 7,951 Tara vehicles.

SAIPA manufactured 293,462 vehicles in the mentioned period. Production by this automaker rose 0.7 percent in comparison to the previous year’s same time span.

Pars Khodro also manufactured 105,413 vehicles in the period under review, 12.7 percent more than the output in the first 11 months of the past year.

Back in January, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin announced the implementation of a two-year plan for the auto industry based on which this industry will undergo serious changes and improve significantly. ► Page 4

“Noora” vaccine receives emergency use license

TEHRAN – Noora coronavirus vaccine, developed and produced by Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, affiliated with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), has received an emergency use license.

Noora is the sixth Iranian-made vaccine against coronavirus to receive emergency use permits from the Ministry of Health, after COVIRAN, Pastu Covac, Razi Cov Pars, Spikogen, and Fakhra, to be included in the country’s vaccination process.

The third phase of the human trial has been completed being administrated to 10,000 volunteers, Hassan Abolqasemi, chancellor of Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, said.

The results of the first and second stages of the clinical trial showed that Noora is completely safe and effective and people can get it as a booster dose, he further noted.

So far, five million doses of the vaccine have been produced and are ready to be provided to the Ministry of Health. ► Page 7



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38th edition of Iran’s Intl. Quran Competition opens

A reciter performs during the opening ceremony of the 38th edition of Iran’s International Quran Competition at Tehran’s Andisheh Hall on February 28, 2022.

Over 60 reciters and memorizers from 29 countries are competing in the event, which will run until March 5.

Hidden secrets of Achaemenid dam engineering revealed

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have discovered treasured data on dam construction engineering and water resources management during the Achaemenid period (c. 550 – 330 BC).

“Seasons of archaeological excavations on Didegan dam uncovered valuable secrets and information concerning dam engineering and water control management which were practiced in Iran during Achaemenid era,” Iranian

archaeologist Hamidreza Karami said on Sunday.

“Although much of this appreciated structure has been destroyed by floods and human plunder, we have been able to increase our knowledge of know-how and technology adopted to build dams related architectural structures in that period,” the archaeologist explained.

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Interview

The West is aware of military balance, academic says of failure to militarily join Ukraine

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A professor at the Lebanese International University says Western capitals are reluctant to respond militarily to the Ukraine crisis as they know well the rules of military balance.

“Washington and London did not react militarily, because they know well the rules of a military balance,” Tariq Aboud tells the Tehran Times.

“In all the wars that Washington has been engaged in the past decades, from Vietnam and Cambodia through Yugoslavia and Afghanistan to Iraq and Libya, America has encountered nothing but collapsed foes, hollow and weak states and armies.”

Aboud is of the opinion that the case is completely different when it comes to Russia; “so we have only heard statements, strong condemnations and loud political rhetoric, as well as economic sanctions that may not work to change the balance of power on the ground.”

Russia has launched an all-out military operation in Ukraine by land, air and sea, the biggest attack in Europe since World War II.

The attacks began on February 24 after Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address that he had approved a “special military operation.” The move came after Moscow earlier recognized rebel-held territories in Luhansk and Donetsk and said they had asked for its help. ► Page 5

Book published on actor Jamshid Mashayekhi reviewing history of Iranian theater, cinema

TEHRAN – A book on actor Jamshid Mashayekhi scrutinizing the history of Iranian theater and cinema has been published.

The book “Jamshid Mashayekhi” published by Morghabi is the outcome of an 8-hour interview conducted by Vida Mashayekhi, his sister, and critic Zaven Ghukasian with the actor a few years before his death in April 2019.

The book was unveiled in a special ceremony held on Sunday at the Film Museum of Iran, where a large quantity of his memorabilia that the family donated to the museum following his death is showcased.

Vida, his son Nader and a number of his friends and colleagues attended the ceremony. ► Page 8

Iran standing firm on logical red lines



From page 1 ▶ Iranian officials have repeatedly stated that the negotiating team clearly considers Tehran's red lines. As negotiation is principally based on a "give and take", Iran has shown the necessary flexibility needed to revive the internationally agreed deal, but the Western sides are not showing the necessary flexibility.

When it comes to action, the European troika, also called E3, are not even willing to back down from their meager demands. However, they expect Iran to back down from its critical red lines. One thing is now certain.

Even in case the talks fail, Tehran will not back down from its logical red lines.

Iranian negotiators believe that to finish the job, there are certain decisions that the

Western parties need to take first.

The positions of the Iranian negotiating team have been based on clear principles from the beginning, and taking breaks will not change these positions.

The West needs to make drastic political decisions that will definitively shape the future of U.S. involvement in the plan.

Ali Bagheri Kani left Tehran for Vienna on Sunday night.

Before his departure to Vienna on Sunday night, Bagheri Kani participated in a key meeting of Iran's Supreme National Security Council arranged to take stock of the state of the talks. The council underlined the need to meet Iran's legal and logical demands which are part of the country's red lines, according to Nour News, a website close to the Council.

During the meeting, it was underlined that the remaining issues, which have put the negotiations on the verge of "agreement or deadlock," should be swiftly settled. Accepting any agreement by Iran depends on the settlement of these issues, Nour News reported.

Agreement in Vienna can be reached, if and only if the Westerners are willing to demonstrate "true" flexibility.

Diplomat urges global action against use of ICT for criminal purposes

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to the UN has stressed the need to adopt a convention that promotes international cooperation against crimes committed through use of information and communications technology (ICT).

Majid Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks in a statement to the Ad Hoc Committee for Elaboration of the Convention on Countering the Use of ICT for Criminal Purposes.

Takht-Ravanchi said that criminals are exponentially misusing ICT to carry out their illicit activities which often transcend geographical boundaries.

"As such, a strengthened collective response at the international level within a sound international legal framework, one which promotes harmonized and context-specific regulations and sets standardized operating procedures for expedited international cooperation, is more than necessary," Press TV quoted Takht-Ravanchi as saying.

The Iranian envoy also stressed that the Islamic Republic has long been among the strongest advocates for an international cybercrime convention, and thus co-sponsored resolution 74/247, pursuant to which the Ad Hoc Committee was established.

He further commended the invaluable efforts of Russia and China in proposing a draft convention that deserves to be considered as a basis for discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee.

"With the support of all Member States, we have now before us a singular opportunity to elaborate on an international convention under the aegis of the United Nations. We need to revisit the raison d'être of such process in the first place, by way of which, we concur that the convention should, amongst others, aim to effectively promote, facilitate, support and expedite



international cooperation and assist States Parties in the fight against such crimes," Takht-Ravanchi said.

"Our collective response to the use of ICT for criminal purposes could be well-realized through a vision that cherishes a shared future in cyberspace for all, with equal opportunities and without discrimination."

Meanwhile, he emphasized that a cybercrime convention should endeavor to ensure that its signatories uphold the fundamental principles of international law, in particular, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and non-intervention in domestic affairs of other states.

"In this context and taking into account that promoting international cooperation among states is expected to constitute as the purpose of the convention, no state shall hinder cooperation among other states in countering such offenses, particularly, by adopting unilateral measures to the detriment of any state party," the ambassador noted.

"Therefore, member states should desist and refrain from promulgating and applying Unilateral Coercive Measure which, in violation of the fundamental principles of international law, stymie effective cooperation among member states and undermine the ability of states to fight the ever-evolving crimes perpetrated by the use of ICT."

Sanctions should be seen as aggression, rights chief says

Gharibabadi says U.S. be condemned for violating every norm of international law

TEHRAN - The U.S. is practically violating all norms of international law and its practices must be condemned by the entire international community, Iran's top human rights chief says, suggesting that the world must condemn the U.S. for violating every norm of international law.

Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights and the Judiciary chief's deputy for international affairs, made the remarks while addressing the 49th regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday.

He said sanctions against Iran have prevented the country's access to essential medicines and medical supplies and blocked the transfer of humanitarian aid to Tehran in times of natural disasters and the coronavirus pandemic.

"The United States, which acts as a global self-appointed police force, is violating all international rights and norms," he added, Press TV reported.

He emphasized that the international community should not accept such an illegal, unlawful and illegitimate approach.

"Given the predictable and costly consequences of sanctions, they should be viewed as a weapon and a means of aggression. Unilateral economic and commercial coercive measures are contrary to the aims and objectives of human rights and are in fact the collective punishment of ordinary people and should be considered a crime against humanity," Gharibabadi



emphasized.

The U.S. unilaterally left the 2015 agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018 and re-stored the sanctions that had been lifted under the accord. Washington's European allies in the deal—France, Germany, and the United Kingdom—have been toeing the sanctions line closely by ending their trade activities with Iran.

The Vienna talks began last April between Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA on the assumption that the U.S., under the Joe Biden administration, is willing to repeal the so-called "maximum pressure" policy introduced by former president Donald Trump against Tehran.

Iran has repeatedly denounced the sanctions as an act of "economic war," "economic terrorism," and "medical terrorism,"

'Iran one of the biggest victims of terrorism'

The Iranian human rights official said the Islamic Republic is one of the biggest victims of terrorism and thousands of innocent Iranian people have been killed or wounded by terrorist groups over the past 43 years.

"Collective punishment of ordinary people and should be considered a crime against humanity."

He added that the anti-Iran Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MKO) terrorist group has carried out the most acts of terror against the Iranian people which amount to crimes against humanity.

Out of the 17,000-plus people who have lost their lives in terror attacks, 12,000 of them were killed at the hands of the MKO terrorist group, the human rights chief lamented.

Gharibabadi said that this terrorist group, with its dark history, has had administrative organizations in some European

countries from the very beginning and their agents have traveled freely across European countries and the U.S. without any restrictions or legal prosecution while some of these countries have become a safe haven for the terrorists.

He asked, "How can some countries that claim to advocate human rights and fight terrorism, call a group that has on its hand the blood of thousands of innocent women and children in Iran, Syria and Iraq ... as defenders of human rights?! How can this contradiction be justified?!"

The human rights official called on the officials of European countries, the European Union, the United Nations and the Human Rights Council to address widespread crimes committed by the MKO and take serious action to prevent the terrorist group from operating freely in Europe and bring its criminal perpetrators and ringleaders to justice.

The anti-Iran cult was on the U.S. government's list of terrorist organizations until 2012. Major European countries, including France, have also removed it from their blacklists.

A few years ago, the MKO elements were relocated from their Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala Province to Camp Hurriyet (Camp Liberty), a former U.S. military base in Baghdad, and later sent to Albania.

The MKO terrorists enjoy freedom of activity in the U.S. and Europe and even hold regular meetings in which European and American officials make speeches.

U.S. support for governments merely an illusion

TEHRAN — In an enlightening speech on the day of Mab'ath, the day Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was officially chosen by God to spread the religion of Islam, Leader of the Islamic Revolution shed light on the outcomes of blindly trusting the United States.

In his televised speech, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei noted that those who trusted the United States to back them are now suffering from the U.S. backstabbing.

Noting the experience of Afghanistan and Ukraine, the Leader outlined that the rulers of "dependent countries" who rely on the West, and United States in particular, are now left alone and helpless.

Elaborating on Iran's position on the Russia-Ukraine war, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Iran supports ending the war in Ukraine. We want the war to be ended there, but the solution to any crisis is only possible if the root cause is identified. The root of the crisis in Ukraine is the U.S. policies that create crises, and Ukraine is a victim of these policies."

He added that the United States dragged Ukraine to where it is now.

"By interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs, creating color revolutions and toppling one government and putting another in power, the U.S. dragged Ukraine into this situation," he asserted.

He then went on to address the lessons one can learn from the Ukraine crisis, saying, "Ukraine's situation has two important lessons. Governments that rely on the U.S. and Europe should know that their support is a mirage

and not real. Today's Ukraine is yesterday's Afghanistan. Both countries' presidents said they relied on U.S. and Western governments but were left alone."

The Leader was referring to former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to note that the support of the people is the backbone of the administrations. "The people are the governments' most important support. This is the second lesson from Ukraine's situation. If the people of Ukraine had been involved, the Ukrainian government wouldn't be in this situation. The people didn't get involved because they didn't approve of the government"

According to the Leader, the U.S. is a "manifestation of modern ignorance, discrimination, oppression and creating crises in the world today."

Highlighting that the U.S. regime creates crises, lives off of crises and feeds on various crises in the world, he said, "Ukraine is another victim of this policy."

"The U.S. regime is a mafia regime. Political, economic, and all sorts of mafias control their country and bring presidents into power. They create crises in the world to maximize their profits," he added, pointing to the rise in U.S. weapons sale every time there is a war around the world. This mafia regime is seeking to create crises globally and the "West Asia in particular," the Leader remarked.

"These mafias, which even control the election and removal of American presidents,

need to create crises and establish crisis centers in different parts of the world in order to survive," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

The Leader cited crises in recent years, such as the creation of Daesh created by the U.S. mafia regime. "Their trained dog, Daesh, which they themselves confessed to creating it, publicly beheaded and burned innocent people alive or drowned them so that U.S. arms factories could make the most of these crises."

He then added that the Western society uses science and knowledge to "slaughter people and plunder the other nations."

The Leader also said although the Islamic system is still far from its great goals, it is an attractive model for Muslims and the people of the world.

The West, particularly the U.S., are now infamous in backstabbing their so-called allies. Case in point is the Afghanistan crisis in August 2021, in which the Taliban took over Kabul in a day without facing resistance from the Afghan army.

Later, Ghani confessed that the Americans had promised to back him up against the Taliban, but did not do so.

Another example is the Ukraine war, during which the Ukrainian President Zelensky told the 27 European leaders that Kyiv is standing on its own feet and will resist alone.

In his illuminating speech, the Leader sent a message to the rulers of the Arab world to not blindly trust the Westerners because they will eventually be left alone.

Politicization of Chemical Weapons Convention will undermine its credibility, diplomat warns

TEHRAN - Iran's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations said on Monday that the Islamic Republic, as the main victim of chemical weapons, strongly opposes the use of such lethal weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances, Press TV reported.

Zahra Ershadi made the remarks in an address to a UN Security Council session on the situation in Syria, during which she strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons across the world.

Expressing concern over the

serious effects of politicizing the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on its credibility, Ershadi said the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) should not be exploited for political purposes to help certain countries achieve their goals and that Syria has over the last few years experienced such efforts by some member states.

Ershadi hailed Syria's continuing cooperation with the OPCW and said the Security Council meetings on Syria's chemical case should

not be committed to discussing baseless allegations since the government in Damascus has made significant progress in fulfilling its obligations under the CWC.

"Only by completely destroying the entire chemical weapons across the globe and by taking all necessary measures to ensure that such weapons are not created can we be sure that chemical weapons will no longer be used," Ershadi stressed.

The envoy said the goal has yet to be achieved since the United



States, as the only member state in possession of such weapons, is not honoring its obligations regarding the extended deadline for the destruction of chemical

weapons.

Ershadi said the other obstacle to the achievement of such a goal is the non-universality of the CWC, adding that the Israeli regime must join the convention immediately and without any conditions in order for the goal to be achieved.

Israel is believed to be the only possessor of nuclear bombs in the West Asia, storing between 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal.

The Israeli regime has refused

to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities or sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It pursues a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its secretive nuclear arsenal.

The Western media and governments have repeatedly accused the Syrian government of using chemical weapons.

Syria, however, surrendered its stockpile of chemical weapons in 2014 to a joint mission led by the United States and the OPCW, which oversaw the destruction of the weaponry.

Iran sends plane to Poland to pick up students stranded in Ukraine

TEHRAN- Iran has sent an airplane to Poland to bring back its citizens, mostly students, who have traveled from Ukraine whose airspace has been closed to civilian flights amid a raging conflict with Russia.

“The first special flight to transfer compatriots from Poland to our country will take off a few hours later. So far, 300 students have been settled in Warsaw alone,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a tweet early Tuesday.

“Extensive efforts are being made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and our embassies in Ukraine and neighboring countries will bring our nationals back to the country with the least difficulty,” he added.

Earlier, Iran Air announced an Airbus A330 had departed Tehran for Warsaw to bring back Iranians, largely students, who had become stranded in Ukraine following the outbreak of war on Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry said on Monday that Tehran’s embassy in Kyiv remained operational, expressing sorrow for “some hype on social networks.”

Iran’s Ambassador to Ukraine, Manouchehr Moradi, paid a visit to Iranian students holed up at a shelter in Kyiv on Friday, after a video of them went viral.



The ambassador told them that the government will do everything possible to return them.

“The most important current mission of Iran’s Foreign Ministry is to fully and urgently address the situation of Iranians living in Ukraine, which is underway according to predictions made using all capacities,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

According to figures from Ukraine’s Ministry of Education and Science, around 80,000 international students study in the country. India has the most, followed by Morocco, Azerbaijan,

Turkmenistan, and Nigeria.

On social media, students and their supporters have asked their home governments to charter planes out of the country, sharing locations where students were stranded, and offering advice about where to find shelter. Users have also circulated emergency contact numbers for stranded students from various countries, Press TV reported.

The Nigerian government began the evacuation of its nationals from Ukraine as the tension between Russian and Ukrainian forces erupts. A total of 256 Nigerian citizens were evacuated from Ukraine and

received in Romania, Hungary, and Poland. This is out of a total number of around 5600 Nigerians, the vast majority of whom are students.

On Monday, China evacuated its first group of people from Ukraine, comprising approximately 400 Chinese students from Odessa and 200 from Kyiv. According to the Chinese Embassy in Kyiv, roughly 1,000 additional Chinese residents would be evacuated from Ukraine on Tuesday to neighboring countries such as Poland and Slovakia.

Turkey has begun evacuating its residents from Ukraine in the midst of Russia’s attack on the country, and its citizens shared the joy of arriving home safely.

As part of the Turkish Foreign Ministry’s evacuation plan, 220 Turkish nationals entered Turkey in five buses through the Kapikule Border Gate at the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

India has also stepped up its efforts to rescue its citizens who are trapped in towns and border crossings in Ukraine. At least three rescue aircraft are scheduled to bring back the stranded Indians this afternoon. This comprises two flights from Bucharest, Romania’s capital city, and one from Budapest, Hungary’s capital. The planes were to touch down in Mumbai and Delhi.

SPORTS

Ex-Iran coach Nazemoshahria shortlisted for Iraq coach

TEHRAN – Mohammad Nazemoshahria has been shortlisted to take charge of Iraq national futsal team.

He traveled to Iraq to hold a meeting with the country’s sports minister.

Nazemoshahria was replaced by Vahid Shamsaei in Iran national futsal team in January.

Under leadership of Nazemosharia, Iran won their first-ever medal in a Futsal World Cup. The Persians claimed a bronze medal in the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016.

Davari elected head of Iran basketball federation

TEHRAN – Javad Davari was elected as president of Iran basketball federation on Monday for a four-year term till 2026.

In the elections held at the Iran’s Academy Olympic in Tehran, Davari secured 38 of 65 votes cast.

Shapoor Yavari earned 21 votes and Karam Ahmadian came third with six votes.

Davari replaced Ramin Tabatabaei in the position.

Davari,38, was point guard of Iran basketball team in the 2008 Olympic Games.

Iran U23 football team to play a friendly in Norouz

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team will play a friendly match in Persian New Year Norouz.

Mohammad Mohammadi, director of Iran’s U-23 football team, said Iran coach Mehdi Mahdavia will travel to Tehran on March 17.

“Our priority is to play Iraq in Tehran, Kish Island or Dubai. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are other candidates for the friendly match,” Mohammadi said.

The friendly will be held as part of preparation for the 2022 AFC U-23 Asian Cup.

The Iranian team has been drawn in Group A along with host Uzbekistan, Qatar and Turkmenistan.

Paykan club chosen to host Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Paykan volleyball club have been chosen as hosts of the 22nd edition of the Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship.

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

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

Foolad Sirjan and Paykan will represent Iran in the competition..

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

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

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

Iranian freestylers win three golds at Yasar Dogu tournament

TEHRAN – Amirmohammad Yazdani and Ahmad Bazri claimed two gold medals at the Yasar Dogu Ranking Series event.

Yazdani defeated American wrestler James Green 10-2 in the final match of 70kg.

The gold ended a long drought for Yazdani, who had won four silver medals at different international tournaments in seven years.

“This is the first gold medal for me at any international tournament, and I cannot tell you how happy I am,” Yazdani said. “I hope I made the Iranian fans happy.”

Bazri also defeated Erhan Yaylaci from Turkey 4-1 in the final weight of 92kg.

97kg wrestler Mohammad Hossein Mohammadian had previously won a gold medal in the tournament.

IPL: Esteghlal held by Nassaji, Persepolis beat Mes

TEHRAN – Esteghlal and Nassaji football teams played out a goalless draw on Matchday 20 of Iran Professional League (IPL) in Mashhad on Monday, while Persepolis defeated Mes Rafsanjan 3-1 in Tehran.

Esteghlal, IPL leaders, remain top of the table, three points above Persepolis.

In Tehran, Persepolis defeated Mes thanks to a brace from Mehdi Abdi and a goal by Kamal Kamyabinia. Majid Aliari scored the visiting team’s only goal.

Furthermore, Sepahan drew 2-2 with Tractor, Naft Masjed Soleyman were held to a goalless draw by Aluminum, Gol Gohar defeated Sanat Naft 2-1, Fajr Sepasi and Paykan shred the spoils in a 1-1 draw, Zob Ahan defeated struggling Padideh 2-1 and Havadar and Foolad played out a goalless draw.

FIVB strips Russia of World Championship

TEHRAN – The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) has stripped Russia of this year’s Volleyball Men’s World Championship following the invasion of Ukraine.

Russia was due to host the World Championship across 10 cities between August 26 and September 11.

Volleyball Nations League (VNL) games had already been moved from Russia in response to the invasion, but the FIVB was slower to act when it came to the World Championship.

“Following Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine, the FIVB remains gravely concerned by the escalating situation and for the safety of the people of Ukraine,” a statement read.

“The FIVB Board of Administration has come to the conclusion that it would be impossible to prepare and stage the World Championships in Russia due to the war in Ukraine.

“It has accordingly decided to remove from Russia the organization of the FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship scheduled to be held in August and September 2022.”

The FIVB is now seeking an alternative host or hosts, confirming that the Russian Volleyball Federation had been informed of the removal.

This was as part of sanctions imposed against the Russian Anti-doping Agency for manipulation of data from the Moscow Laboratory.

Russia could only host major events, such as the World Championship, “unless it is legally or practically impossible” to move them.

The FIVB said WADA acknowledged the tournament came under this exemption.

Tehran willing to strike agreement, but won’t wait forever, Foreign Ministry says

TEHRAN- Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson has reacted to United States’ officials “bluffs and blusters” in regard to the Vienna talks intended to restore the 2015 deal, saying Tehran is eager to reach an accord through dialogue but “will not wait forever”.

Saeed Khatibzadeh made the remark in a tweet early Tuesday after U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price indicated Washington was prepared to pull out of the Vienna negotiations if Iran demonstrated “intransigence to making progress.”

The United States is not a participant to the Vienna talks since it is no longer a signatory to the 2015 deal, but it has sent a delegation to the Austrian capital to monitor the proceedings.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman underscored that because the U.S. was the party that withdrew from the historic accord, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Tehran needed to make sure that the U.S. would not renege on its commitments again if the deal is revived.

“U.S. has already ‘walked away’ from JCPOA. We must make sure it won’t happen again. Everyone has its own plan B, though US’ has proven hollow. Blusters & bluffs have/will not work. Decisions

do,” Khatibzadeh remarked.

He added, “A deal is at hand, if White House makes its mind. Iran is willing, but will not wait forever,” he noted.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein AmirAbdollahian on Monday stated that the Vienna talks intended to lift anti-Iran sanctions have not yet concluded, suggesting it is now up to the U.S. to make the tough decision.

Iran’s top diplomat also said that the current attempts which have been made by the new administration and the negotiating team will continue to reach an agreement through the ongoing talks in Vienna.

Mikhail Ulyanov, the Russian ambassador to the international organizations in Vienna and Moscow’s negotiator at the Vienna talks, tweeted on Monday night indicating considerable progress in the negotiations. He also noted that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.”

“JCPOA participants met this evening in Palais Coburg in Vienna. Tremendous progress has been made since April 2021, when the talks started. But there is a rule: nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. The last effort is necessary to conclude Vienna talks successfully,” Ulyanov stressed.

★ End of the Investigation for WMD ★

★ ★

In 2002, the White House informed Congress that the U.S. is prepared to use force against any country.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Months later, for disarming Iraq of any weapons of mass destruction, the U.S. invaded the country.

★ ★

★

It led to near half of a million dead, more than 2\$ trillion in expense, and many other short and long-term consequences.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★

After almost three years, without any findings, the White House announced the end of the search for the WMD in Iraq.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Production by major automakers up 7% in 11 months yr/yr



From page 1 ► Stating that nine transformation projects have been prepared for the automobile industry, Fatemi-Amin said: "The general plan is that in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (begins on March 21) the structure of the automobile industry and the relations between parts manufacturers and automakers will be reformed and the overall promised production target will be achieved in [the Iranian calendar year] 1404 (begins in March 2025)."

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

According to Codal data, during the past year, IKCO manufactured 480,338 vehicles, which was 21.9 percent more than the output in its preceding year, which was 393,812 vehicles.

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

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's programs for the current Iranian calendar year show that the manufacturing of 1.2 million cars has been put on the agenda.

'Comprehensive plan underway to prevent power outages in summer'

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC) Mostafa Rajabi-Mashhadi has said Energy Ministry is implementing a comprehensive program for ensuring sustained electricity supply during the summer season's pick consumption period, IRNA reported.

Speaking to the national TV on Monday, Rajabi-Mashhadi said: "According to the forecasts, there is a possibility of early temperature rise as of Ordibehesht (the second Iranian calendar month which begins on April 21), which means a longer peak consumption period and indicates that the electricity industry should be ready to manage this period."

Regarding the state of the country's water reserves, the official said: "Currently, about 50 percent of the capacity of the country's dam reservoirs are full, but we cannot say for sure that the situation is better than last year."

He also mentioned the annual overhaul program of the power plants across Iran, saying: "Currently, 60 percent of the power plants' annual overhaul program has been completed."

In the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has previously announced that the company was implementing over 40 different programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

Back in October 2021, the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Energy Ministry for constructing 10,000 megawatts (MW) capacity of power plants across the country.

The MOU was signed by Industry Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mehrabian



noted that these power plants will be built to meet the needs of industrial sectors and according to the signed MOU, industries will meet their electricity needs through them and the surplus power will be injected into the national grid.

The minister stated that the country is currently facing 14,000 MW of electricity shortage, adding: "This figure equals 22 percent of the country's total electricity demand, which we cannot provide in various sectors including domestic, industrial, administration, and agricultural areas."

Pointing out that the construction of these power plants will be operational in the near future, Mehrabian said: "Our industries haven't been able to fully implement their development plans due to lack of electricity. We hope to see good cooperation between the two ministries and thus create prosperity in near future."

He said that one of the plans of the Energy Ministry is to increase the capacity of the country's power plants in proportion to the demand.

"We plan to construct 35,000 MW of power plants in various fields, of which 15,000 MW will be combined cycle and steam power plants established by the Energy Ministry and the private sector, while the other 10,000 MW will be renewable power plants," the official added.

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The latest report released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) indicates that the average housing price rose 0.4 percent in the capital Tehran during the eleventh Iranian calendar month Bahman (ended on February 19), compared to its previous month.

It was in fact a slight increase when compared to the growth in the previous months.

The average housing price in the said month increased 16.4 percent in comparison to the same month in the previous fiscal year.

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 330.6 million rials (about \$1,271) during the mentioned month.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past year due to various internal and external factors.

And, for the upcoming months, a number of factors are mentioned to affect the housing market in Iran.

One factor is the possibility of reviving a 2015 nuclear deal signed between Iran and world powers.

Some experts believe that if the mentioned deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is revived, housing price will experience its biggest historical drop.

As Mostafa Gholi Khosravi, the head of Iran's Property Advisers Union, has recently stated, "The housing market is waiting for the results of the [JCPOA] negotiations, and

Factors expected to affect housing market in coming months



with the positive shock that the agreements bring to the market, sales will increase in the coming months."

He believes that the market will stabilize towards the buyer and the price will decrease.

Mohammad Sadeq Al-Hosseini, an economist, predicting the housing market, said: "If the JCPOA is revived, the models predict that housing will have its biggest historical price decline; so that we will experience a 20 to 30 percent reduction in housing prices in large cities and a smaller reduction in prices in small cities."

Mehdi Soltan-Mohammadi, a housing market expert, is of the opinion that in the long run, it is not possible to make

an accurate forecast, but in the short run, housing prices will be lower than inflation.

He said, "The amount of price increase depends a lot on inflation, and if agreements are made in terms of the JCPOA, and the government has more access to foreign currency and oil revenues, we will see lower forex rates and a noticeable reduction in inflation. But if these things do not happen and the agreement is not reached and the pressures continue and the government policies are not anti-inflation and we see significant inflation as in previous years, housing prices will also be affected and will rise."

In terms of if the National Housing Movement can affect

prices in the housing market, the expert said, "This plan is still very vague and it is not a short-term plan, and it will take a long time until these houses are built and enter the housing market; and these houses will not be built where we are witnessing a sharp rise in prices; like Tehran, but will be built in the suburbs or in small cities; because in big cities, the government does not have enough facilities to supply land, even if it has, it is in poor areas of the city, and as a result, an important part of the housing market, which is expensive areas of Tehran, will not be affected by this plan."

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

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

Regardless of all the factors which may affect the housing market, necessary actions should be also taken to control this market.

As the head of Iran's Property Advisers Union has said that housing prices in the country should decrease at least 25 percent in order for people to be able to afford to purchase.

Gholi Khosravi has stressed the need for establishing a market regulation headquarters for the housing sector to monitor the activities of dealers and real estate agencies in order to balance the prices.

TPO head meets top exporters to discuss trade issues

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak held a meeting with the country's top exporters on Monday to discuss trade-related issues and ways for boosting the country's non-oil exports.

As reported by the TPO portal, during this meeting, Peyman-Pak emphasized the government's approach in using the experiences of the country's businessmen who are active in the field of foreign trade for advancing its development goals.

"The government has tried to make exporters and trade organizations the main executors of the country's trade-related policies and the Trade Promotion Organization has made every effort to solve the problems of this sector," the TPO head stressed.

According to the official, teamwork, consultation and constructive collaboration will lead to the expansion of the country's



trade capacities.

"This year we were able to achieve a significant growth in the non-oil exports, which was realized due to the increased cooperation between the private sector and government organizations," Peyman-Pak said.

He pointed out that one of the determining factors in the field of trade in any country is coordination and teamwork among various sectors.

"Collaboration among all entities allows

us to expand the country's business capacity and we will use all the available tools in this regard," he said.

Emphasizing the need for exporters to be present in trade delegations and accompany officials in their visits to other countries, he continued: "The presence of private sector representatives can lead to a better result in the negotiations because exporters and traders have the most knowledge about the domestic and foreign markets and can provide the best advice to government officials."

The Trade Promotion Organization of Iran has recently taken a new approach for interacting with the private sector, and meetings between government officials and private sector representatives are held regularly as think-tanks in which future economic policies and strategies are discussed and solutions are provided for the existing problems in various sectors.

Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting to be held soon

TEHRAN - Iran and Armenia have expressed readiness for holding 17th meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee in the near future, the portal of Iran's Energy Ministry Paven reported.

In a meeting between Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Armenia's

Ambassador to Tehran Arsen Avakian, the two sides discussed various issues among which was the preparations for the holding of the mentioned committee meeting.

The 16th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Tehran during June 30-July 2, 2019.

Iran and Armenia have been taking serious measures to boost their economic ties in line with the two countries' positive political relations.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin is going to visit Armenia on top of a high-ranking delegation on March 3 to follow up on the

implementation of economic agreements previously reached between the two sides.

As reported by the portal of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Fatemi-Amin will be accompanied by TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak and a handful of officials from his ministry during this visit.

Manufacturing of washing machines increases 23%

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of washing machine in Iran has increased 23 percent during the first ten of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the data released by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry indicate.

As reported, 1.18 million washing machines have been manufactured in the ten-month period of this year.

Home appliances manufacturing has increased 78 percent to stand at 15 million sets in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2021).

Rise in home appliances manufacturing and export has been also planned for the current year.

Manufacturing of home appliances

in Iran has risen 9.7 percent during the first half of the present year.

Last year, the industry was able to achieve 78 percent growth despite the restrictions on the manufacturing sector, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has said, adding, "While foreign brands left Iran, manufacturers were able to achieve this leap by relying on domestic capacities."

Back in April 2021, the official had said that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced domestically.

Stating that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry will definitely support domestic manufacturers and national brands, the official added: "Today we have the necessary manpower, knowledge, and infrastructure in the field, so there is no reason to look for foreign sources to meet the country's demands."

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise

in the past two years so that this industry's production capacity increased by 24 percent in the past Iranian year, and by 10 percent in its preceding year.

In early April 2021, the secretary of the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran said, "We expected to produce about 12 million units, including small and large appliances in the previous year, however, the figure increased to about 15 million by the yearend, registering a 24 percent growth compared to the preceding year."

"We also had good growth in after-sales service, product quality improvement, indigenization and exports, so that last year \$345 million worth of home appliance products were exported," Abbas Hashemi

added.

Pointing to the advantages of home appliance industry in Iran, the official said: "Production of home appliances in the country is an advantage considering cheap energy and workforce and the country's geographical situation," he noted.

"This industry should be more supported," he stressed.

Regarding the return of foreign brands to the country, Hashemi said: "we should prevent the imports of foreign finished products into the country in order to support domestic producers."

He further noted that foreign companies can invest in this industry and co-produce their products with local manufacturers.

Naser Bakhtiari appointed as new Raja head

TEHRAN -Naser Bakhtiari was appointed as the new head of the Iranian Raja Railway Transport Company in a ceremony on Sunday, Tasnim news agency reported.

Bakhtiari, who has previously served as the deputy governor-general of Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad Province and has also been a member of the board of some major industrial companies, replaced Mohammad Rajabi.

As the passenger wing of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), Iranian Raja Railway Transport Company, is one of the country's biggest railway companies.

The West is aware of military balance, academic says of failure to militarily join Ukraine

“The world is living in a state of hypocrisy and double standards”

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

How do you read the course of recent developments in Ukraine?

We are still in the early days of a fierce war fought over an area of 600,000 square kilometers. We need to wait for the dust of the first round of war to settle, then we can analyze it vividly.

Today, the world is lying on a hot plate, witnessing a complex mixture of escalating tensions for a number of reasons, the most important of which is the retreat of the United States of America in more than one arena, the last of which is the withdrawal from Afghanistan after two decades of its occupation of this poor country, add to it America's defeat in Iraq, after destroying the country.

Do you think that the Russian military operation in Ukraine indicates the birth of a new world order?

This depends on the results of the war. If Moscow achieves its goals, we will be facing a new reality in the international arena, and we can expect to see the cues of a new world order that will come as result. Here the role of China in the international scene is significant.

What are the main goals that Russia is seeking in Ukraine, and how far will Russia advance?

Russia's goals can be summarized in a number of steps, namely disarming Ukraine, preventing the Ukrainian government from obtaining a nuclear weapon, barring Ukraine from joining NATO, and preventing NATO from in-



stalling missiles and military and security bases under the nose of the Moscow. This is what Russia will never allow.

Why did the Western-American alliance avoid responding militarily to what they describe as the Russian invasion?

Washington and London did not react militarily, because they know well the rules of a military balance.

In all the wars that Washington has been engaged in the past decades, from Vietnam and Cambodia through Yugoslavia and Afghanistan to Iraq and Libya, America has encountered nothing but collapsed foes, hollow and weak states and armies.

But the case is completely different when it comes to Russia,

so we have only heard statements, strong condemnations and loud political rhetoric, as well as economic sanctions that may not work to change the balance of power on the ground.

Why the world is witnessing such a fuss over the war in Ukraine while the Western powers and media turn a blind eye on the war against Yemen and the crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition?

This fuss is made because the world is living in a state of hypocrisy and double standards. When the issue is related to the allies of Washington and London, we witness media hypes, talk about civilians and human rights, and transgression of international law.

All of this is happening because there is a flaw in international balances, and the unipolar dominance of the world depends on power and force rather than reason.

Russia seeks to disarm Ukraine, prevent it from joining NATO, and prevent NATO from installing missiles under the nose of the Moscow.

The U.S. abandons yet another ally

From page 1 ► Nevertheless, the question remains; is Washington a reliable source for meeting any nation's security guarantees? And perhaps the more important question is will those nations relying on Washington for security start to seek a more independent path in this regard.

There is no need to go so far back in history to dig up evidence of how the U.S. actually uses countries around the globe and then completely abandons them when those same countries or people no longer serve the interests of the American deep state and establishment.

The most recent case in point is certainly Ukraine but there are many on the list before Ukraine.

As the U.S.-led NATO alliance egged the Ukrainian government of Volodymyr Zelensky to station weapons on Russian borders dangled the offer of NATO membership in front of Kyiv, but when the real fighting started, who stood behind Kyiv?

Amid Washington and Europe's crocodile eyes, a somber and angry Zelensky was left asking "who is ready to fight with us? I do not see anyone. Who is ready to give Ukraine a guarantee of NATO membership? Everyone is afraid."

The United States has not taken off the table a no-fly zone for Russian aircraft over American airspace. Indeed the European Union have banned Russian aircraft from the skies of the EU, but that's hardly going to help Ukraine.

Following an official request from Zelensky for the U.S. to impose a no-fly for Russian aircraft over Ukraine, Washington refused.

"A no-fly zone would require implementation," White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told reporters, adding it would require "deploying U.S. military to enforce, which would be ... potentially a direct conflict, and potentially a war with Russia, which is something we are not planning to be a part of."

Analysts say the bitter truth is that contrary to what Zelensky may have believed, Washington never actually considered the Ukrainian President as an ally.

The U.S. just needed the proxy to fight the Russians and create tension in an attempt to contain an independent country such as Russia into armed conflict and try to damage it's economy.

Experts say trying to damage Russia's economy will backfire on Europe mostly, something also in Washington's thought process.

Many analysts have pointed to veteran journalist John Laughland's famous quote which he wrote as the early U.S.-backed color revolutions rampaged through the former Soviet Union about 16 years ago.



"It is better to be an enemy of the Americans than their friend. If you are their enemy, they might try to buy you; but if you are their friend they will definitely sell you."

After an unbelievable 20 years of backing Afghanistan's government and armed forces; the U.S. suddenly decided to exclude the Afghan government from direct talks with the Taliban in Doha, Qatar last year.

The same Taliban, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan to topple; but would later go on to regain power, and the U.S.-backed Afghan government and army for two decades were abandoned by Washington because the Pentagon believed the Afghan government and army were of no use to the U.S. any longer.

What was different in this case, is that the U.S. forces left Kabul in a disgraced manner. The self-proclaimed most powerful military in the world backed by trillions of dollars could not win a war that was the longest in U.S. history. America's defeat here was on full public display for the entire world to see. And after 20 years, the U.S. only left behind a humanitarian disaster.

Suddenly, countries, especially in West Asia who rely on American security, began to privately question the American military and what if the Pentagon suddenly abandons them too or does not have the ability to save them in a future conflict.

Saudi Arabia is learning this the hard way after seven years of war in Yemen, the U.S. is slowly withdrawing its support, especially in the field of intelligence.

In 2013, as part of efforts by the administration of then-President Barack Obama to overthrow the Syrian government, the CIA started a clandestine program to train, arm fund, and support the so-called free Syrian army in a third country.

The militant group could not believe their luck despite the Syrian government offering amnesties to any Syrian with no blood on their hands who lay down their weapons and joined the political process instead.

However, the so-called Free Syrian Army was not effective as the Pentagon desired and Syrian government forces were liberating

more land. By the summer of 2017; to the dismay of the militants, the CIA halted the covert program turning their focus instead to backing Daesh terrorists.

The same fate would later await Syrian Kurds who at one point were fighting alongside U.S. forces illegally present in Syria.

When the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein waged an eight-year war on Iran, the U.S. had very warm ties with the former dictator during the war; to the extent that Saddam and high-ranking American officials exchanged letters by signing them on a first-name basis. This was in addition to the weapons America supplied Baghdad.

When the Saddam regime's war on Iran ended, he invaded Kuwait under the belief that America would not interfere.

But since Saddam lost the war he waged on America's enemy Iran and was of no use anymore to Washington, the U.S. military damaged almost all the former regimes military with the exception of the dictator's Republican guard. This was of course planned.

Then President George Bush Senior encouraged Iraq's Shia and the Kurdish population in the country's northern and southern provinces to topple the Iraqi regime promising to support them and impose a no-fly zone. In the words of the then American President, Saddam would fall if the "Iraqi people take matters into their own hands"

In the Islamic month of Sha'aban, the Iraqis launched an uprising, but the Americans knew very well, Saddam had helicopters, which America would not include in the no-fly zone.

Saddam's brutal Republican guards militarily outpowered the locals, they wiped out entire towns and villages, leveling residential neighborhoods to the ground and along with the hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children were buried in the rubble. Nobody was spared.

The massacres took place while the U.S. stood by and watched on.

The resentment of America would never be forgotten and when U.S. forces invaded the country again in 2003, they were met with the strong Iraqi resistance.

But there have been allies as well, too many, in West Asia and beyond that depended on the U.S. but were abandoned.

Former Egyptian ruler President Hosni Mubarak is a prime example. Former long-term Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi warmed up to the West who would then quickly turn on him too. There are many others but the list is long.

Some may think they are safe under U.S. supervision, but they may have to think again.

Palestinian prisoners go on hunger strike against Israel's punitive measures

Thousands of Palestinian prisoners went on mass hunger strike across all Israeli prisons on Tuesday, in protest at what they are calling Israeli policies of "collective punishment" in recent months.

In addition to the prisons-wide strike, Palestinians in cities across the occupied West Bank staged protests in solidarity with the prisoners, calling on the international community to pressure Israel to end its mistreatment of prisoners.

Tuesday's hunger strike was set to last only one day, as the prisoners await the response of the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) to their demands. If their demands are not met, the prisoners say they are ready to launch a mass, open-ended hunger strike, similar to that of 2017.

"The conditions in the Israeli prisons are very bad at the moment, as the occupation forces increase their aggression against Palestinian prisoners," Mohammed Abdullah al-Zaghari, president of the Palestinian Prisoners' Society, told Middle East Eye.

"These punitive aggressions have been ongoing for months," following the escape of six Palestinian prisoners last year from Israel's Gilboa prison, he said.

"The prison administration seeks to infringe upon the rights of detainees, forcing them to resort to escalatory steps to demand these rights."

The strike is the culmination of weeks of protests by the prisoners over the IPS's reduction of yard hours, also known as foras, and a number of other punitive measures in prisons, including arbitrary searches and seizures of personal belongings, increased solitary confinement orders, and preventing prisoners from receiving family visits.

'Collective punishment'

In protest at these policies, prisoners have refused to leave their cells for yard time, have been collectively returning meals, and have boycotted the prison's medical clinics.

At the same time, 500 Palestinian administrative detainees have been boycotting the Israeli military courts, refusing, along with their legal representatives, to attend any court hearings regarding their cases.

Under administrative detention, Israel detains



individuals without trial or charges for renewable periods of up to six months.

The policy imposes no obligation on the Israeli government to present any official suspicions or evidence to justify an arrest or detention - circumstances that critics argue violate international law.

Over the past two weeks, Israeli prison guards have further cracked down on Palestinian prisoners, Zaghari said, adding that IPS forces attacked prisoners, beat them, isolated them, and confiscated all their personal belongings in the Nafha, Ramon, and Megiddo prisons.

"Repressive policies and collective punishment against Palestinian prisoners is not a new tactic for the Israeli occupation," Zaghari said, adding that by engaging in a hunger strike, the prisoners are "using their last weapon to stop the oppressive policies."

"The prisoners are demanding respect for the human rights of prisoners according to international laws and conventions, and the return to life in prisons as it was before these collective punishment policies," he said.

Zaghari said the condition of prisoners is a national issue, and called on Palestinians, as well as the international community, to stand in solidarity with the struggle of the detainees, who currently number 4,500.

"The participation of the Palestinian people and their support for the prisoners will help them achieve their demands," he said.

"The prisoners are the ones who sacrificed their lives to gain freedom for Palestine, and they are in a battle all alone in the face of an oppressive machine."

(Source: middleeasteye.net)

Americans, Canadians answer Ukraine call for foreign fighters

A Texas software developer and a cook in British Columbia are among dozens of Americans and Canadians answering Ukraine's call for foreign volunteers to fight Russia's invasion.

With their governments refusing to send troops to Ukraine out of fear of sparking a world war, Americans and Canadians told Reuters they were inspired by Ukrainians' fierce resistance.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Sunday for the formation of an "international legion." Some young volunteers traveled straight to Ukraine to enlist.

Others were applying at Ukrainian embassies and consulates before quitting jobs or dropping out of university.

The mobilization was taking place as Russian artillery bombarded Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, on Monday, the fifth day of conflict.

"I feel guilty to not go," said Dax, 26, a veteran of the elite U.S. Army 82nd Airborne infantry division, who planned to deploy with other former U.S. military personnel. Like many volunteers, the Alabama native declined to give his full name amid discussion on social media of the need to keep their identities and movements secret for security reasons.

Canadian Bryson Woolsey quit his job as a cook on Sunday after seeing Zelensky's appeal. He has no military training and plans to buy a plane ticket to Poland, cross into Ukraine and volunteer for combat.

Canada's Foreign Minister Melanie Joly on Sunday told reporters it was up to individual Canadians to decide whether they wanted to join Ukraine's international brigade. A U.S. State Department spokesperson, in an email to Reuters, said U.S. citizens are urged not to travel to Ukraine.

Not all volunteers want to fight.

In Quebec, 35-year-old physician Julien Auger was preparing to leave his young family to become a medic with Ukraine's health ministry and provide "neutral" humanitarian aid.

"Global opinion and support is the key right



now to solving the conflict," said Auger, a father of two who provides palliative care at a hospital in Saint-Jérôme.

In online groups, military veterans warned volunteers who lacked combat training they were heading into a conflict where inexperience could be a liability for themselves and others.

That did not stop those like Tai B., 23, who studied journalism in New York.

"I'm not looking to be a hero, or a martyr, I just want to finally do something right," said Tai, who can cook, do basic mechanics and knows how to handle a firearm. He said he has contacted Ukraine's U.S. Embassy staff about enlisting in Zelenskyy's "international legion."

Hyde, a 28-year-old from the U.S. Midwest, said he was already in Kyiv and expected to start military training on Tuesday.

"I cannot bear the thought of Europe once again being plunged into warfare," said Hyde, who described himself as a gun enthusiast and avid survivalist with no combat experience. He expects to be given a helmet, body armor, knee pads and eventually a rifle.

In Austin, Texas, a software developer said he would draw on his experience as a U.S. Army cadet to fight for Ukraine.

"If they're willing to defend democracy then I think those that benefit from a democratic society are duty-bound to support them," said the 25-year-old, who asked that his name not be used. "I'm not telling my parents until I head to the airport."

(Source: Reuters)

Hidden secrets of Achaemenid dam engineering revealed



From page 1 ► “Moreover, we carefully determined the location and specs of our archaeological trenches in order to gain the most information possible.”

Referring to the characteristics and architecture of the dam, he noted “The style of architecture and stone carving reflects the architectural traditions of the early Achaemenid period, especially the period of the Achaemenid King Darius [the Great].”

According to the archaeologist, the embankment dam is still a source of inspiration for modern architects and engineers.

“Achaemenid-era embankment dams were built with such knowledge, extent, and durability that after 25 centuries, [modern] earthen dams are still built per the Achaemenid engineering model.”

Karami has previously described the Bostan Khani Dam in southern Iran, as a “masterpiece” of architecture and water management in Achaemenid-era Iran. “So far [valuable evidence of the] architectural structure has been obtained to recognize and realize the structure of

the dam and its construction method.

The expert considered Bostan Khani Dam as the largest of its kind in the Achaemenid period that has been identified so far, saying it measures a crown height of 21 meters, a length of 170 meters, and a width of 70 meters.

Karami explained that waterways and water transmission networks are another part of their water management engineering, which is designed to bring water to the farthest possible areas of the region.

“Excavations and surveys on Bostan Khani Dam can increase our knowledge and understanding of the methods and techniques of dam construction and architectural structure that is currently being practiced.”

Later in January, a cultural heritage protection team discovered a stone-arched tunnel near an Achaemenid embankment dam in Marvdasht plain of Fars province.

The Achaemenid [Persian] Empire was the largest and most durable empire of its time. The empire stretched from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and to India.

Building activity was extensive during the height of the empire, and of the several Achaemenian capitals, the ruins at Pasargadae and Persepolis are probably the most outstanding. Achaemenian sculptured reliefs and a great number of smaller art objects present a remarkably unified style for the period. Metalwork, especially in gold, was highly developed, and a variety of carefully executed examples survive.

The embankment dam has been registered in the National Heritage list.

Authorities consider launching museum dedicated to Tehran

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts plans to launch a special museum dedicated to Tehran province.

On Monday, the deputy tourism minister Ali Darabi underlined that Tehran needs a special museum to especially depict its rich history and heritage.

Darabi made the remarks during a meeting with Tehran's mayor Alireza Zakani, adding “Helping to promote museums and historical sites is part of a work that the municipality can do to help the Ministry of Heritage, Culture, Tourism, and Handicrafts.”

The majority of native archaeologists were used to associate the earliest settlements in Tehran with the time of Safavids who ruled the country from 1501–1736. In 2015, experts reconstructed the face of the 7,000-year-old remains to reveal Tehran's oldest known resident for



the first time. Researchers scanned specific points on the woman's skull as well as using data from modern faces to generate the likeness, which one expert believes is 95 percent accurate. According to their reconstruction, she had a strong rounded chin, large lips, and black hair.

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

madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

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

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

a single type of business.

While most of its covered structures and marketplaces are associated with the 19th century onwards, the history of trade in the bazaar is rooted much deeper in time.

Some visitors to the bazaar refer to it as “a city within a city” because it also includes several mosques, guesthouses, banks, and once-thriving caravanserais. Most mazes and lanes are particularly allocated to commodities such as carpets, metalwork, spices, toys, clothing, jewelry, woodturning, and kitchen appliances. Bookbinders, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, coppersmiths, tobacconists, tailors, flag sellers, broadcloth sellers, carpenters, shoemakers, and knife-makers, are among other businesses attracting locals and even foreign vacationers to the giant marketplace.

10m travelers, pilgrims estimated to visit Mashhad in Noruz

TEHRAN – Mashhad authorities have estimated up to ten million travelers and pilgrims will be arriving in the holy city, which is home to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), during the two-week Noruz holidays.

“We estimate 8 to 10 million people would visit Mashhad in Noruz... this way, all our strategies are based on having a proper host of pilgrims under health and safety protocols,” ISNA quoted an official in charge of pilgrimage affairs as saying on Monday.

Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, is Iran's holiest and second-largest city which embraces the shrine complex of the eighth



Shia Imam.

Before the coronavirus puts almost everything on lockdown, Mashhad, played host to thousands of travelers and pilgrims who

come from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe to visit the holy shrine.

According to official statistics,

some 37 million Iranian pilgrims and travelers visited the shrine city of Mashhad during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 21, 2019– March 10, 2020). Of whom some eight million came by road, six million by rail, 3.8 million by air, and 18 million by private cars.

During that time most businesses and workplaces are closed, as are schools yet nearly all of its attractions and museums are open to the public.

Millions of Iranians grasp the opportunity to travel mainly to the countryside. Their numbers are sometimes difficult to gauge accurately as many run their own cars to get around.

Tehran exhibit to show handicrafts by ECO member states

TEHRAN- Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex in Tehran is scheduled to host an exhibition featuring the handicrafts of Iran and other member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Entitled “Souvenir House of Eco Member States”, the exhibit will only showcase handmade products by female artisans; CHTN quoted Elham Dorostkar, one of the organizers of the exhibit, as saying on Tuesday.

A variety of high-quality handicraft products will be displayed by Iranian artists, and exhibitions like these can strengthen the cultural ties between Iranian artists and other countries because of the presence of artists from ECO countries, she added.

Organizing such exhibitions will also assist in marketing and exporting products on the global

handicrafts market, she noted.

Organized by Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in collaboration with the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the exhibit will run until April 15.

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

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

coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

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 ornaments with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

The exhibit is scheduled to open its door to visitors on March 11.

Relics donated to Kerman cultural heritage directorate

TEHRAN- A total of 16 historical relics have recently been donated to the cultural heritage department of the southern Kerman province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Tuesday.

These objects, which include


earthenware jars and utensils as well as metal coins, date back to the third millennium BC and the Islamic era, CHTN quoted Hassan Mehri as saying on Tuesday.

Moreover, the authenticity of all donated objects has been verified by local cultural heritage experts, the

official added.

Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

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




INVITATION TO RENEWAL OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Second Announcement

55/00/28634

02/03/2022



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below item of technical, through one step international tender.

ITEM	Name	PACKING	Quantity KG
1	Fipronil Tech 95 pct.	25 kg drum	1050

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Monday dated 28/2/2022** until **Wednesday dated 9/3/2022** (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran). The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of I.Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 358039782263500650000000000006.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday dated 9/4/2022** (during official working hours) to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on **Sunday dated 10/4/2022** at 2:00 PM with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee hall (9th floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi st., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the bid bond amount should be in bank guarantee as follow:

€ 4725 for Fipronil Tech 95 pct. equivalent to Iranian Rials 1292373000

- The bid bond value should be in Euro or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on Telegraphic Transfer rate in Sana rate website, www.sanarate.ir. It should be noted that this site lists the currency transactions, executed in Integrated Currency Transactions System [Nima website] on 13/02/2022.

2 - After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

Environment should not be sacrificed for political gain: DOE chief

TEHRAN – Ali Salajegheh, Department of Environment chief, has said that the environment should not be sacrificed for political gain.

“The present decade is the decade of ecosystem restoration through revision, re-creation and reconstruction, an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals, especially the 11, 13, 14 and 15 goals,” he added.

He made the remarks in the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) held online in Nairobi from February 28 to March 2.

“Certainly, using scientific evidence, nature-based solutions, knowledge of traditional ecology, climate action, the capabilities of youth and women, and the capacity of indigenous communities to rehabilitate ecosystems are essential in this regard.”

Iran, as the source of many valuable genetic resources in the world and the primary and secondary diversity of important plant and animal species with more than 2,200 endemic plant species and unique habitats including Zagros and Hyrcanian forests, has taken several measures to preserve its rich and valuable biodiversity and increase protected areas.



Despite the water and climate tensions that Iran and West Asia are facing, supporting the sustainable livelihoods of wetland communities through modeling measures and the creation of micro funds are among Iran's other efforts to preserve this ecosystem.

Iran, having the largest water border with the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, has tried to add 3,000 hectares to the country's mangrove habitats; develop a plan to monitor, protect and manage Caspian seals, humpback dolphins, and sea turtles; establish forty fixed stations for continuous monitoring of marine ecosystems; protection, conservation and restoration of sensitive coastal habitats; adaptation to the phenomenon of climate change in onshore and

coastal areas and combating plastic and microplastic pollution, improvements in ecosystem status and marine biodiversity and reduce pressure on water resources,” he said.

He mentioned the preparation of a national action plan for the protection of the marine environment in the priority areas of climate change, biodiversity, marine pollution, public participation, capacity building, and increase of coastal and marine protected areas as other actions of the country in this field.

“Escalating climate crises”, “insecurity”, “lack of regional integration to address environmental challenges”, “unilateral politico-economic sanctions” and “illegal harvesting and trafficking of wildlife”, “valuable and en-

dangered species”, “drying wetlands” and “dust storms” pose a serious threat to biodiversity, rich habitats, and ecosystems, he emphasized.

While inviting the international community to work together, cooperate, converge and co-invest in strengthening national, regional, and international efforts to preserve nature, Salajegheh called on the member states not to sacrifice the environment for political gain.

He further announced readiness to welcome any international cooperation and initiative in using sustainable and nature-based solutions to reduce the effects of sand and dust storms in Iran and the region.

The overall theme for UNEA-5 is “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, which highlights the pivotal role nature plays in people's lives and in social, economic, and environmentally sustainable development.

UNEA-5 is an opportunity for the Member States to share best practices for sustainability. It will create momentum for governments to build on and catalyze impact on multilateral environmental efforts to protect and restore the natural world on which economies and societies depend.

Free admission to biodiversity museums on World Wildlife Day

TEHRAN – The museums of the natural history and biodiversity will make admission to their permanent collections free on March 3, which marks World Wildlife Day, IRIB reported.

Visiting the museums of natural history and biodiversity all over the country is free, due to its unique role and importance in introducing and displaying valuable species, in addition to making people aware of the value of biodiversity conservation and ecosystems.

In the museums of natural history and biodiversity, more than 35,000 animal specimens are kept in the scientific reservoirs section. Also, there are about 50,000 plant specimens from 2,500 plant species from all over the country.

In the geology section, 20,000 samples of rocks, minerals, vertebrates, invertebrates, and plant fossils are displayed, and the bio-bank is another part of the museums, where more than 3,000 biological samples are kept.

World Wildlife Day
On December 20, 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed March 3 – the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973 – as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

World Wildlife Day has now become the most important global annual event dedicated to wildlife, which will be celebrated in 2021 under the theme “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”, as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species, and ecosystems services in sustain-

ing the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally, and particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and forest-adjacent areas.

The forests of the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological region include part of the southwest and all southern coasts, covering 2,039,963 hectares. Due to ecological differences, the main vegetation is divided into two territories of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

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

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

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

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

Highlight: In the museums of natural history and biodiversity, more than 35,000 animal specimens are displayed.

The influence of Avicenna on medical studies in the West

Part 2
Starting from Salerno, early scholastic medicine with a scientific approach based on Arabic material had spread into the medical schools and the new universities of France and Italy (Baader, “Reformdenken,” pp. 268f.), preparing the ground for acceptance of the Canon.

This work met the needs of the new scholastic medicine in three respects: (1) with its immense wealth of information, it provided Western physicians with a synopsis of virtually all the knowledge amassed in the preceding 1500 years and stimulated them to work further on their own; (2) with its systematic incorporation of every subject, down to the smallest detail, in a well-ordered theoretical framework, it greatly facilitated the adoption of its contents for teaching and at the same time satisfied the scholastic liking for a logical classification of subject matter; (3) last but not least, Avicenna linked the medicine of Galen to the natural philosophy and theory of science of Aristotle, who from the thirteenth century onward dominated intellectual life in Europe.

Avicenna's Aristotelian views on basic questions of biology (e.g., the central organ of the body, the roles of the sexes in reproduction) provided starting points for discussions, typical of the scholastic medicine of the time, about the discrepancies between philosophers and physicians, i.e., between Aristotle and Galen, and thereby prompted new efforts to solve old problems.

The Canon came into use among medical scholars during the thirteenth century (mainly the second half) and in university courses during the fourteenth century, when commentaries providing the groundwork for interpretation by professors (magistri) first became available.

Key roles in this field appear to have been played by pupils of Taddeo Alderotti (d. 1295) at Bologna, particularly by Dino del Garbo (d. 1327) who for the first time systematically elucidated large parts of the Canon (Siraisi, pp. 96f., 105-09).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

IFRC appreciates initiatives of Iranian Red Crescent Society

TEHRAN – President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Francesco Rocca, has appreciated the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) as one of the strongest communities in the world.

Rocca met Pir-Hossein Kolivand, head of IRCS, on the sidelines of the Conference of Humanitarian Leadership for the MENA Region held on Monday in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, ILNA reported.

He expressed satisfaction with the high number of volunteers of the IRCS worldwide, said that IRCS is one of the strongest communities in the world, which brings hope back to people's lives after every incident.

Stating that IFRC will support the IRCS's programs, he announced readiness to strengthen the Iranian Red Crescent Society relations with other national communities because those communities can use Iran's experience and knowledge to deal with and prevent the incidents.

Kolivand, for his part, said that it is planned to set up an “Education Town” to train all age groups to deal with accidents in a simulated



manner, and to provide this opportunity to the national populations of the region through virtual or in-person meetings, calling on the IFRC to help in this regard.

IRCS services worldwide
The Iranian Red Crescent Society is one of the most effective and credible international relief organizations, having the largest number of young volunteers, providing medical care in several countries, and producing pharmaceutical products, medical and relief equipment.

Established in 1922, IRCS operates as a humanitarian organization in the fields of rescue and relief in disasters, health, treatment, and rehabilitation, educating the public, youth, and volunteers, as well as the production of medi-

cine and medical equipment.

In 2005, the IRCS received the Henry Davison Award for outstanding humanitarian services, and the IRCS initiative of volunteers was selected as the best project (out of 50 projects from 45 national societies), by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

At present, the Iranian Red Crescent Society provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

Currently, some 14 medical facilities are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador.

The IRCS polyclinic center includes various departments such as laboratory, pharmacy, radiology and physiotherapy, and general practitioners along with obstetricians, gynecologists, internal medicine, pediatrics, ophthalmologists, and dentists.

received the emergency use license.

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

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

“Noora” vaccine receives emergency use license

From page 1 ► he stated, IRNA reported on Monday.

He further highlighted that vaccine development under harsh sanctions is not an easy achievement, however, relying on their scientific strength and capacity, our researchers have done this great work.

Noora is a recombinant protein vaccine, and initial studies show that this vaccine can provide high immunity to the omicron strain.

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

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN BARKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

It proved effective against Indian strain, according to Hojjat Ni-

ki-Maleki, head of the information center of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, Razi Cov Pars is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

Moreover, the Iranian-Australian Spikogen vaccine and Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, are other vaccines, which have

بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said.

The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

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MARCH 2, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:17 Evening: 18:17 Dawn: 5:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:35 (tomorrow)

Jalal ad-Din Rumi: philosophy

Part 2
The partial intellect is ignorant of tawhid, so it needs the guidance of prophets and saints, “those who have joined the partial intellect to the Universal Intellect”.

Rumi contrasts the two sorts of knowledge in numerous passages and with various images, such as hearsay and vision, letter-writing and encounter, debt and ready cash, traveling and arrival.

He is especially critical of scholars who study their disciplines simply to gain students, livelihood, and prestige. As for himself, he says, “My knowledge is substance, not accident. . . //I am a mine of candy, a plantation of sugar cane—it grows up within me and I eat of it myself. //Only imitative and instructional knowledge laments at the aversion of the audience”.

The world-view of tawhid

Rumi has more in common with the Muslim philosophers than he likes to admit. Specifically, he shares their overall vision of the universe and their stress on the transformation of the soul in order to achieve real understanding.

If he thinks that Avicenna is “an ass on ice”, this is not because he disagrees with the general picture that Avicenna provides, but because he is convinced that rational understanding cannot take people forward on the path to God without the intervention of love.

Like the philosophers, Rumi frequently discusses God in terms of wujud (and its Persian synonym, hasti), reflecting Avicenna’s distinction between the Necessary Being and contingent things.

Rumi reminds his readers that they often confuse the two. They think that the world exists, when it fact it does not: “We and our beings are nonexistent” and God “is absolute existence, appearing [to the ignorant] as evanescent”.

As Absolute Existence, God has no opposites, given that “nonexistence” does not exist. But, “Things become clarified by their opposites”—a proverbial mesra by the poet Motannabi (d. 955) that Rumi often cites. To know and speak about God one must have recourse to his names and attributes, each of which is distinct from the others, and many of which can be understood as opposites or complements, even though they pertain to the same Being.

Rumi reminds his readers that they often confuse the two. They think that the world exists, when it fact it does not: “We and our beings are nonexistent” and God “is absolute existence, appearing [to the ignorant] as evanescent”.

Especially important for Rumi’s depiction of the human situation are gentleness (lotf) and severity (qahr), or mercy (rahmat) and wrath (ghazab).

God was a Hidden Treasure and he desired to be recognized, as the famous hadith tells us. In Rumi’s terms, God is saying, “I created the whole universe, and the goal of all of it is to make Myself manifest, sometimes through gentleness and sometimes through severity”.

This pair of divine attributes reverberates throughout the universe and the human self, and the resulting homologies provide the key to Rumi’s dialectic.

Gentleness always has the upper hand, because, as the hadith has it, “God’s mercy takes precedence over His wrath.” Nonetheless, light cannot be perceived without darkness and being cannot be grasped without nonbeing, so mercy demands wrath, gentleness uses severity for

its own purposes, and roses surround their beauty with thorns.

The interplay of gentleness and severity appears in the contrasting qualities of light and fire, angels and devils, intellect and ego, Adam and Iblis, saints and unbelievers, nearness and distance, union and separation, joy and heartache, sugar and vinegar, spring and autumn, day and night, faithfulness (wafa) and cruelty (jafa), wine and dregs, intoxication and sobriety. Only love can harmonize all opposites and “make them one” (the literal sense of tawhid).

One of tawhid’s basic implications is that everything comes from the One and returns to the One. The “origin and return” (mabda’ wa ma’ad) is a major theme in both philosophy and Sufism, though many interpreters of Rumi, especially from the Indian subcontinent, seem to have been unaware of its importance.

A number of them have proudly thought that Rumi anticipated Darwinian evolution. In fact, he is explaining the ascent of the individual soul to God, beginning with the inanimate stage of existence, then the vegetal, animal, human, and beyond.

This is a standard discussion in philosophical texts and in contemporary Sufi authors such as Aziz Nasafi, though no one other than Rumi explained it with such captivating language.

The very notion of “return” (ma’ad)—the third principle of Islamic faith after tawhid and prophecy (nubuwa)—demands that nothing can rise up to God without having come down from him in the first place.

He created human beings in his own form (surat), as the hadith tells us, but the divine attributes can only be actualized and realized gradually.

It is because people have descended from God in stages (to which Rumi refers, as in Masnavi) that they are then able to ascend from the mineral and plant stages (in the womb), to the animal stage (in infancy and childhood), to the human level (as adults observing the necessities of human goodness), and then to even higher levels, following Mohammad in his Night Journey, the me’raj.

Boraq, the steed that takes the seeker on the me’raj, is nonexistence, for at each stage, the limitations of the previous stage disappear.

This is not a physical me’raj, like vapor to the sky, but a spiritual climb, like that of an embryo to intelligence. “The Boraq of nonbeing is a fine steed! When you are not, it takes you to Being!”. To put this whole discussion in a nutshell, “Form comes out from Formlessness, then it returns, ‘for unto Him we are returning.

“Form” is one of Rumi’s key notions, and his use of the word can only be understood in terms of its opposite, “meaning” (ma’na). Form designates things as they appear, and meaning designates the invisible, spiritual something that is the source of their appearance.

Meaning is thus the reality (haqiqat), form the metaphor (majaz); meaning the inward or non-manifest (baten), form the outward or manifest (zahir); meaning the spirit (ruh, jan), form the body.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Book published on actor Jamshid Mashayekhi reviewing history of Iranian theater, cinema

From Page 1 ▶ “What an amazing moment this is to be remembering an outstanding name among those people who made great contributions to Iranian theater,” Ali Nasirian, the 87-year-old actor who co-starred with Mashayekhi in numerous movies and plays including “After Thirty Years” and “The Cow”, said in his speech at the ceremony.

“I love his face, whether during his youth or middle age; his face was associated with peace, humanity and friendship,” he added.

Nasirian also talked about Mashayekhi’s love of Hafez’s poetry and said, “Someone who loved Hafez is absolutely an art lover and Mashayekhi was so; I saw his skills in acting in ‘The Cow’. Although he had a cameo role in the drama, he really put on a good performance.”

In his short speech, actor Behzad Farahani praised the decision to publish the book and added, “It is an appropriate move that should have been done much earlier. There is some really fresh material in the book that can be very helpful to those who are interested in theater and cinema.”

Mani Soltani, the managing director of the Morghabi publishing house,

Left to right, Behzad Farahani, Mani Soltani, Ali Nasirian, Nader Mashayekhi and Vida Mashayekhi hold copies of “Jamshid Mashayekhi” during the unveiling ceremony of the book at the Film Museum of Iran on February 27, 2022. (IBNA/Majid Niknafs)

said, “The best part of the book, in my opinion, is the chapter in which Mr. Mashayekhi sheds light on the history and the process of Iranian theater development.”

“A major topic embedded in the interview is Mr. Mashayekhi’s regard to the younger generation of those Iranians who have entered the world of acting; this fact encouraged us to publish the book,” he noted.

Nader Mashayekhi, former conductor of the Tehran Symphony

Orchestra, also expressed his happiness over the publication of the book and said “I recommend reading this book. It has a narrative structure, which starts from the master’s childhood to his entrance into theatrical activities, friendship with the greats such as master Nasirian and his career in cinema.”

He also pointed to his father’s desire to purchase model cars, “In his old age, my father thought about his childhood and began to buy some model cars

he loved in his childhood; perhaps he wanted to rediscover the beauty of childhood and enjoy it.”

A member of the golden generation of actors of pre-revolutionary Iran, Mashayekhi died at the age of 85.

He was called by veteran actor Parviz Parastui one of the top five actors of Iranian cinema along with Mohammad-Ali Keshavarz, Ali Nasirian, Davud Rashidi and Ezzatollah Entezami.

“Concerns of the Hedge” tops at Sarv Theater Awards

TEHRAN – The cast and crew of the play “Concerns of the Hedge” were at their happiest on Monday during the second edition of the Sarv Theater Awards after winning prizes in several categories, including best director and actor.

The Association of Revolution and Sacred Defense Theater and the Revayat Cultural Foundation launched the awards in 2020 to honor theatrical works on revolution and resistance and stage artists working on these subjects.

Mehrdad Rayani-Makhsus was chosen as best director for the teleplay, which tells a story from the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is called “Sacred Defense” in Iran.

After accepting his award at the Mehr Hall of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, Rayani-Makhsus said that he has been under a storm of criticism following his return from England in 2014.

“Over the past eight years, I have staged five plays, four of which have been about the Sacred Defense,” he stated.

Nerges Abyar receives Director Achievement Award at Izmir film festival

TEHRAN – Iranian filmmaker Nerges Abyar received the Director Achievement Award at the 5th International Women Directors Film Festival on Sunday in Izmir, Turkey.

The award was given during the opening ceremony of the festival at the Ahmed Adnan Saygun Cultural Center, the organizers announced.

Abyar is in Izmir to hold several masterclasses during the festival, which is organized by the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality. Her films, including “Track 143”, will also be reviewed at the event.

In addition, Burcu Dabak Ozdemir, a lecturer at Yasar

Director Nerges Abyar in an undated photo.

University, was given the Academy Achievement Award and Melis Behlil, an associate professor and chair of the Radio, Television and Cinema Department at Kadir Has University in Istanbul, received the Sevin Okyay Cinema Writing Achievement Award.

Abyar’s filmmaking has previously been regarded by other international centers.

In 2020, she received the HUM Women Leaders Award at the Governor’s House in the Pakistani city of Karachi.

Mehrdad Rayani-Makhsus accepts the best director prize for “Concerns of the Hedge” during the Sarv Theater Awards at the Mehr Hall of the Art Bureau on February 28, 2022. (Theater.ir)

to Rayani-Makhsus for “Silence” directed by Nima Dehqan.

The jury gave its special award to “What Journeys We’ve Gone on” by Saber Mohammadi.

The jury didn’t choose a winner in the best actress category, while Mohaddeseh Rezai was awarded an honorable mention for her role in “Killing the Nightmares”.

The HUM Women Leaders Award is presented to female achievers from Pakistan and abroad by the HUM Network Limited, a global entertainment and news network and one of the largest broadcasting brands with a strong following among South Asia diaspora around the world.

She also was named an honorary professor at Xi’an Jiaotong University in China. She is collaborating on a joint film project about the Silk Road in China.

Her 2019 movie “When the Moon Was Full” received the audience award at the 23rd Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival in Estonia.

50 Dinars for each ear

An interview with Mohammad Ali Ghasemi

Several significant and distinctive things happened in the Ilam province throughout the eight years of the imposed war. One of these cases was the emergence of a group named “Ear-cutters” who were villains and killers and were supported by “Istekbarat”, the Iraqi Intelligence Service.

Iraqis were given 50,000 Dinars for each ear
Atefeh Jafari, journalist: “Hunter of Era-cutters” is martyr Haj Yadgar Omid’s memories, the commander of the 11th Amir al-Momenin army, written by Mohammad Ali Ghasemi and published by Soore Mehr publication. Ghasemi has written about one the best commanders, and his most important mission. You can read the interview with the author of this book below.

***The title of this book is the first thing that grabs your attention. Why “Hunter of Era-cutters”?**
Because of the arrival of a group known as the

“Ear-cutters,” whose purpose was to penetrate deep into Iran’s military and spread fear and insecurity in places like Mehran and Dehloran, as well as the roads between them. This group created such a fear that commanders and whoever in charge decided to identify and destroy them by creating a special group, and they left this mission to Haj Yadgar Omid, commander of the 11th Amir al-Momenin army.

***What was the Ear-cutters’ job?**
After penetrating deep into the Iranian armies in the Mehran and Dehloran regions, and killing Iranian soldiers, they cut off their ears and give them to the Iraqi Intelligence Service. According to the information I got from the narrators, they were awarded 50,000 Dinars for each ear, which was a significant sum of money at the time, and that’s how they became famous as “Ear-cutters.” Later after this group was identified by Haj Yadgar, it turned out that the real name of their group was “Farsan” which

means agile and fast.

***Tell us about Haj Yadgar Omid and what made you go for his memories?**

Before the revolution, he worked for American and British companies in southern ports and sometimes in the northern with a high salary, but during the revolution, he lost his job because he supported some Ilami forces, and then, he started his revolutionary activities through his friends.

***What did he do after the revolution?**
He was a technical and active force who went to the villages to serve the people there, and when the war began, he voluntarily went to the front and later became one of the commanders. His squad and he had been fighting with this wicked group for years, and in the last operation, he destroyed the structure and core of this group, and he was martyred at the end.