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Report

8 Pages

# Iran halts negotiations with Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - Nour News, a website close to the Supreme National Security Council, reported on Sunday that the Iranian government has temporarily suspended talks with its regional rival Saudi Arabia.

The outlet did not reveal the source of the information or the reason for the sudden suspension the talks.

The move comes three days before the two sides were set to meet in the Iraqi capital Baghdad for a fifth round of negotiations. Talks have been taking place since April 2020 with the aim of ending tensions between Riyadh and Tehran.

The Saudi government has yet to issue a statement on the suspension of negotiations. Baghdad, which was expected to host the talks on Wednesday, March 16, has also not commented on the matter.

Coincidentally, the decision by Iran to suspend the talks comes a day after Saudi Arabia executed 81 men over what it called "allegiance to foreign terrorist organizations and holding deviant beliefs." Some human rights activists have said that about half of the men who were executed were members of the Shia community.

In one of the largest mass executions in Saudi Arabia since 1980, a total of 81 people were killed on charges of alleged terrorism-related activities.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that the executions took place on March 12, and included seven Yemenis and one Syrian.

Forty of those executed are reported to have come from Qatif, a region populated by the kingdom's Shia minority. ► Page 2

### T Report War on Yemen "escalates" with more child casualties

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said that dozens of children have been "killed or maimed" in the war on Yemen just two months since the start of the year as the war "continues to escalate".

In a statement, Philippe Duamelle, UNICEF's Representative in Yemen said that "over the first two months of 2022, 47 children were reportedly killed or maimed in several locations across the country."

"Since the conflict escalated in Yemen

# Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 43rd year | No. 14181 | Monday | **March** 14, 2022 | Esfand 23, 1400 | Sha'aban 11, 1443 **Israeli Center Hit with** Iranian Ballistic Missiles Page 3



# Monthly non-oil trade up 52% yr/yr

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 52 percent in the eleventh month of the current Iranian calendar year (January 21-February 19), from the same month of the past year, the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said that 15.799 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$9.858 billion were traded in the eleventh month of this year, also rising 45 percent in terms of weight as compared to the same month of the previous year.

The official also announced that the nonoil trade in the eleventh month shows 21 percent and 41 percent growth in terms of value and weight, respectively, as compared to the tenth month.

The IRICA spokesman further put the nonoil export at 12.233 million tons worth \$4.754 billion in the eleventh month, with 64 percent and 45 percent rise in terms of value and



China, Turkey, Iraq, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Afghanistan were the major export destinations of Iranian products in the eleventh month, he said.

Latifi then put the non-oil import at 3.566 million tons worth \$5.104 billion in the eleventh month, with 42 percent ► Page 4

# **5th Mustafa Prize** slated for October 2023

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### Interview

# Ukraine war is the 'post-post-Cold War' world: professor

### By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A scholar of international relations and global governance believes that the world has entered the "post-post-Cold War" phase after the Ukraine war.

Pointing to Russia's ambition to restore its great-power status, Thomas G. Weiss tells the Tehran Times that "this is the post-post-Cold War world."

Russia's military operations in Ukraine and the inability of the West to confront it directly have raised questions about the future of the world order.

Some political observers believe that it was a turning point in which Moscow has changed the course of the post-Cold War history. America is no longer the great power that ruled the world without any significant competitor; Russia and China are challenging traditional global hegemony.

However, Western scholars aspire that the Ukraine war awakens Western powers and reunite them against the Eastern threats.

"I am hoping that the sleepy and lazy and un-military Europe joins an awakened West (not just the U.S. but Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan) to recognize that Russia aspires to restore its great-power status," Weiss emphasizes.

Following is the text of the interview:

What are the implications of the Ukraine crisis for the world? The Security Council



nearly seven years ago, the UN has verified that more than 10,200 children have been killed or injured. The actual number is likely much higher"

The Saudi-led American-backed coalition waged war on Yemen in March 2015 and experts say tens of thousands of children have been killed.

Duamelle has called on all parties to take all possible measures to protect civilians, saying that "It is high time that a sustainable political solution is reached for people and their children to finally live in the peace they so well deserve."

He added that "violence, misery, and grief have been commonplace in Yemen with severe consequences for millions of children and families."

The latest remarks come on the backdrop of UNICEF's annual report, which highlights the scale of the humanitarian crisis in the country and the devastating impact this has had on children.

The shocking details published two weeks ago reported "nine attacks on schools and five attacks on hospitals were verified" in 2021, as well as six incidents of military use of education or health facilities. 386 children were killed or maimed "by various parties to the conflict," has raised questions.

As the U.S. and Europe impose one of the harshest sanctions regime on Russia and Russians from all walks of life for Moscow's military operation in Ukraine, there has been a wide debate about the double standards practiced by Washington. ► Page 5

## **Rescue operations drill conducted in Tehran**

On Sunday, an aerial drill was held in Tehran aiming to boost preparedness for rescue and relief operations in time of natural disasters.

Armed and law enforcement forces in cooperation with the Emergency Medical Organization, the Red Crescent Society, The Fire Department, and the Municipality took part in the drill.

TEHRAN - The 5th Mustafa Prize Award Ceremony will be held in October 2023, announcing laureates from the Islamic World.

The Mustafa Prize is awarded in the four categories of Information and Communication Science and Technology, Life and Medical Science and Technology, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, and Basic and Engineering Sciences.

In this edition of the event, a prize is also awarded to scientists residing in the Islamic countries regardless of their religion with the aim of developing science and technology in these countries.

The nominees can only be nominated by renowned scientists and one of the scientific institutions like universities and research centers, Science and technology associations and centers of excellence, academies of sciences, and science and technology parks.

The prize includes the Mustafa Medal, the Prize Certificate, > Page 7

### World Heritage sites getting ready to host new year vacationers

TEHRAN – As the new year is just on the corner, a number of Iranian World Heritage sites are being prepared to welcome visitors during the Noruz holidays.

For instance, cleaning projects have been commenced on Bam citadel in the southern province of Kerman, Takht-e Soleyman in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province, and Persepolis in the southern province of Fars before Iranian new year (starts on March 21), CHTN reported on Sunday.

The cleaning works are being carried out in collaboration with the locals, cultural heritage aficionados, and environmental activists as well as some non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the report added.

#### Bam citadel

The origins of Bam citadel ("Arg-e Bam")

can be traced back to the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC) and even beyond. The heyday of the mudbrick fortress was from the 7th to 11th centuries, being at the crossroads of important trade routes and known for the production of silk and cotton garments.

According to UNESCO, Arg-e Bam is the most representative example of > Page 6

can't issue a resolution and Western powers don't dare to be engaged in a direct conflict with Russia.

I am hoping that the sleepy and lazy and un-military Europe joins an > Page 5

# Interview 🤛 Iran still motivated against S. Korea and Lebanon: Estili

### By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iran national football team director, Hamid Estili, says that the National Team are ready to finish their journey in the 2022 FIFA World Cup gualification in the best possible manner.

Iran football team became the 14th team to book their place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Moreover, the 'Persian Leopards' are the first Asian team to book their place at the yearend tournament in Qatar following a 1-0 victory over Iraq in January.

Dragan Skocic's team, who are assured of a top-two finish in Group A following the triumph, can now look forward to a third consecutive World Cup appearance.

However, Estili says that the national team's early qualification for the World Cup will not affect the motivation of players and team members for the remaining games against the Korea Republic and Lebanon. ► Page 3

# POLITICS

### MARCH 14, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

# Iran: Break in Vienna talks was made at EU request

TEHRAN - On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman touched on some important developments in the field of foreign policy.

Speaking to reporters, Saeed Khatibzadeh said that the Foreign Ministry was not shocked with the sudden break in the ongoing negotiations in Vienna.

"I do not use the word shocked. Negotiations are in their last days and therefore have difficult days. The recent break in the talks was made at the request of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA) Coordinator, Enrique Mora," he said.

"The reason is that some of the points raised in Vienna required consultations in the capitals, especially in European capitals. In addition, although we have summarized the major clauses, there are still two or three main clauses between Iran and the United States that need to be resolved," he noted.

The delegations have returned to review the matter and will return to Vienna in a few days to continue their work, the spokesman told the media.

In response to a question about the duration of the break, the spokesman said that the EU coordinator must announce how long the break time will last, because the pause has been made at his request.

"We hope that with the announcement of the coordinator, the delegations will return to Vienna sooner," he said.

Khatibzadeh said that from the point of view of the coordinator and the Europeans, how much of the agreement has been reached is debatable, but the other issue is that for both Iran and the United States, some small but important issues remain, and the U.S. must make the necessary decision on the remaining issues.

"There is also an issue about the text that has not been finalized. In addition, the issue of Russia's request is a new development in which Moscow has announced new guarantees and a new component has been added to the negotiations and new conditions have been created," he noted.

Referring to EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's tweet about the break in the Vienna talks due to the "external factors," Khatibzadeh said, "Of course, you have to ask Mr. Borrell about the external factors, because Russia, which is a member of the JCPOA, is

an internal factor from this point of view. I said that no external factor will be able to overshadow our collective decision.

Referring to the importance of the issue of verification for Iran during the Vienna talks, the spokesman said, "We are now at a point where our problems in this area have almost been resolved."

He added that the verification is to make sure that the Americans have lifted the sanctions in practice, and it was not only on paper.

"In the same context, representatives of the Oil Ministry, Economy Ministry, and the Central Bank of Iran were also present during the Vienna talks to discuss the process of this issue and that each part of the country's economy should define verification in its field," he said.

He added that conversations and debates on the subject of verification have gone back and forth, and the Americans have accepted one thing, while the Iranian delegation has raised another issue.

"Now we are at a point where our problems in this area are almost resolved," Khatibzadeh said.

The diplomat also emphasized that Iran has been seeking political, legal and economic guarantees during the Vienna talks, saying, "This is the dimension that we are still negotiating about to this day."

Khatibzadeh also said that there had been detailed discussions between the two sides on how to implement the commitments and that they should practice them first, adding, "Another important issue during these talks is the nuclear guarantee and the preservation of nuclear achievements."

The spokesman continued by saying that Iran has said that it has lost a lot with the withdrawal of the United States from the deal

"The Israelis have sabotaged our centrifuges. These are gone, we put IR6 (centrifuges), they said it should be broken, we said we do not do this, we negotiated on these issues," he said.

Khatibzadeh concluded by saying that the details of the agreement have not been agreed yet until the day it is agreed.

"When it is agreed, we will put the text on the site for everyone to see," he noted.

# Iran halts negotiations with Saudi Arabia

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rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly, among other rights."

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran have been frosty for years over a variety of issues, including the war in Yemen, where since March 2015, Riyadh and its allies have been pounding the Ansarallah resistance movement.

The war broke out when the Saudi-led coalition invaded Yemen with the aim of ejecting Ansarallah from the capital city of Sanaa, and restoring the government of Saudi-backed president Abd Mansour Hadi.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have conducted four rounds of talks to resolve the issues between them.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on March 7 that disputes between Iran and Saudi Arabia as an important country in the region and the Muslim world should not prevent Tehran and

Riyadh from having a minimum of meaningful relations. Khatibzadeh made the remarks in response to a question on the

recent remarks by Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in his lengthy interview with The Atlantic in which he spoke favorably of the possibility of patching up relations between Tehran and Riyadh.

Speaking at a weekly press conference, the spokesman refrained from responding in detail to the question and referred to the remarks by his chief Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

"Our foreign minister expressed the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed his views in specific statements," he said.

Khatibzadeh said relations between Saudi Arabia would benefit the people of the region. "The main beneficiaries of these relations are the people of the region and the people of the two countries."

He added, "The talks in Baghdad have continued in a good, respectful and positive atmosphere in the last four rounds. Of course, I would like to emphasize that tangible results have not been achieved from these talks to date, and the results have been limited. In the fifth round, we must try to translate the understandings that we had in some areas into results.

He noted, "The date of the fifth round is not yet final. But it is the will of both parties to hold the next meeting. If Saudi Arabia comes to Baghdad with the firm will to achieve a good result from these talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran is also ready to speed up the establishment of relations between the two countries."

On March 5, Iran's top security official clarified on the goal of Tehran's negotiations with Saudi Arabia, reminding it that Israel is the biggest enemy of the Islamic and Arab worlds.

Ali Shamkhani, who is the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, made the remarks after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman said in an interview that Riyadh does not view Israel as an enemy, but a potential ally.

"Iran's active participation in bilateral talks with Saudi Arabia -hosted by Irag- stems from the Islamic Republic's principled [fostering] strategy for cooperation & amity with neighbors based on securing bilateral and regional interests. We should not forget that the Zionist regime is the biggest enemy of the Islamic and Arab worlds," Shamkhani said on Twitter.

In addition to Persian, Shamkhani posted the tweet in other languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, and English.

# IRGC says it hit Mossad training centers inside Iraqi Kurdistan

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps of Iran issued an official statement on Sunday saying it had fired precision-guided ballistic missiles at Israel's Mossad training centers in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region early Sunday morning.

The IRGC said the operation was a response to the Israeli assassination of two Iranian military advisors on the outskirts of Damascus, Syria, on March 7.

"Following the recent crimes of the fake Zionist regime and the previous announcement that the crimes and evils of this infamous regime will not go unanswered, the strategic center

### "Inherent right to self-defense"

A day after the assassination of the Iranian military advisors in Syria, the IRGC Public Relations Office issued a statement saying, "Undoubtedly, the Zionist regime will pay the price of this atrocity."

The IRGC spokesman also said the Israeli regime will be dealt with decisively for the assassinations. "The Zionist enemy knows that it will not benefit from such crimes and will receive decisive responses," Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif said.

Also, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said for conspiracy and evil of the Zionists the Islamic Republic will not leave the terror machine of Israel's child-killing regime go "Once again unanswered. we warn

"It should be noted that the Iranian advisory forces are present in Syria at the Syrian government's official request and invitation to provide advisory services to assist the Syrian military forces to combat terrorism, specifically the terrorist group ISIS," the ambassador said.

"Iran considers the recent Israeli terrorist attack as a highly provocative and deliberate act intended at increasing tensions to an uncontrolled level and disrupting coordination among those fighting terrorism in the region, particularly ISIS," the ambassador warned.

Raisi urges intelligence apparatus to fight injustice, counter corrupters and profiteers

TEHRAN- President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday asked the Intelligence Ministry to fight injustice and strongly counter "corrupters and profiteers".

Raisi made the suggestion in a meeting with Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib and a number of the ministry's directors and staff.

Emphasizing that Iran is inspired by the "culture of Martyr Qassem Soleimani," Raisi said, "Thinking revolutionary, acting revolutionary, not being influenced by politicians, and pursuing affairs with firmness and completing them are the characteristics of the forces of the Ministry of Intelligence."

Raisi added, "Another component of power is an efficient administrative system. The administrative system of the country can be trustworthy, participatory and satisfactory, but this administrative system may also be damaged, which also causes the components of power to be damaged. Therefore, the administrative complexes of the country must be protected so that corruption and unhealthy relations do not enter it."

Emphasizing that the Intelligence Ministry is a "priceless fruit" of the Islamic Revolution that must be treasured, the president said, "The protection of this complex requires its members to be careful about the enemy's influence and creating deviations."

International NGOs such as Human Rights Watch (HRW) have criticized the Saudi judicial system for its injustice and its lack of due process. "People accused of crimes,

including children, commonly face systematic violations of due process and fair trial rights, including arbitrary arrest," says an HRW report from March 2022.

page **1 >** The

on convicts who held "deviant

beliefs, pledging allegiance to

According to former British

MI6 agent Alastair Crooke,

the leadership of Saudi Arabia

ascribes to and promotes

the ideology of Wahhabism,

considered a distortion of Islam

What makes Wahhabism

dangerous is that anyone who

does not subscribe to it is guilty

of holding deviant beliefs and can

In the view of the Saudi

authorities, the term "deviant

beliefs" constitutes anything that

does not conform to the Wahhabi

The Yemenis who were

executed faced charges of

allegedly supporting the Yemeni

One of the executed, Abdallah

al Zaher, was arrested at the age

resistance group Ansarallah.

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the

From

government

The HRW notes that many of the confessions of alleged "crimes" committed by detainees were obtained through torture, often as the sole basis for conviction.

Despite judicial reforms passed in February 2021, the HRW remains unconvinced about the Saudi judicial system, stating: "Saudi and international human rights groups have raised concerns that many arbitrary charges will simply be codified as wide-ranging, catch-all offenses that criminalize the

On the serious duties and missions of the Intelligence Ministry, the president said, "The most important mission of the Ministry of Intelligence is to preserve and protect the system and assets of the Islamic Revolution."

He added, "Today, all the capitals and capacities of the country in economic, cultural, scientific fields and components of strength and power of the nation, such as the 'faith and trust of the people' are being threatened by the enemies.

Honoring the memory of the martyrs of the Intelligence Ministry, he said, "We must recognize the dimensions of the fight against the enemy and take strong steps in this direction."

"Today, the best people who can evaluate the record of the Ministry of Intelligence are the forces of this ministry, from veterans to youth and the developments of the Islamic Revolution," Raisi continued.

Raisi also said, "Whenever you are satisfied with the current situation, you will face problems in the future, so you need to change things to progress.

The president enumerated three fundamental steps for change, saying, "The first step is a change in approaches. The second step is transformation of processes. The third step is institutional transformation."

He went on to say that "the most important component of power is the involvement of religious people, and these people should increase their trust in the administrative system and its efficiency day by day."

Raisi underscored that the ministry should be at the forefront of pursuing the demands of the people.

"Today, we need to increase public participation of 80 million people because in the 'popular government', the people are trustworthy and guard the country alongside the security apparatus."

The president refers to his administration as "popular government".

Explaining the security responsibilities of organizations and agencies, the president stated, ""The security guards are the eyes of the Ministry of Intelligence and the system and should not allow corruption to bother the people."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi underscored the need that intelligence agencies cooperate with each other.

He also suggested that "the Ministry of Intelligence should be a pioneer in recognizing issues and problems and provide solutions to pursue the result."

"Today, giving ground to the revolutionary forces with Basiji thinking in the Ministry of Intelligence should be more than all other apparatuses," Raisi pointed out.

The president went on to say that in his government "there is no 'we cannot' and 'there is no credit'. Our culture is the culture of Martyr Qassem Soleimani and 'we can."

was targeted by powerful and pinpoint missiles of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps," it said, according to Press TV.

The statement added, "Once again we warn the Zionist regime criminal Zionist regime that repetition of any evil act that repetition will face tough, decisive and destructive responses."

The IRGC also said it "gives assurances to the great Iranian nation that the security and tranquility of the Islamic homeland is the red of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and it won't allow threat or aggression against it by anyone."

Prior to the statement by the IRGC, Iraqi media said scores of ballistic missiles had hit secret bases of the Mossad spy agency in the Kurdistan region.

The Iraqi media also announced fatalities among Mossad officers there.

Citing security sources, Iraq's Sabereen News reported two Mossad training centers were targeted by ballistic missiles in the early hours of Sunday.

Al-Mayadeen reported that Mossad's base, located in the Masif-Saladin in Erbil, was "fully razed to the ground and a number of Israeli mercenaries were killed or injured" in the precision strike.

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht-Ravanchi also said on Thursday that the Islamic Republic "reserves inherent right to self-defense" against the Israeli criminal act in assassinating two Iranian advisors in Syria.

The two advisors were identified as Colonel Ehsan Karbalayi-Poor and Colonel Morteza Saeed-Nezhad.

"The Islamic Republic of responses." Iran reserves its inherent right to self-defense, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, to respond to such criminal act whenever it deems appropriate," Takht-Ravanchi wrote in letters to the UN Security Council president and UN secretarygeneral

> "In the early morning of Monday, March 7, 2022, the Israeli regime in flagrant violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic launched missile attacks against an area north of Damascus, resulting in the martyrdom of two Iranian forces who were advising the Syrian military forces in its counter-terrorism efforts in Syria," Takht-Ravanchi explained.

"This provocative and criminal act is in violation of international law and the United Nations Charter and entails criminal responsibility for the Israeli regime and all who aided, abetted, or otherwise assisted and supported the preparation or execution of this terrorist act in any way, directly or indirectly," Iran's top diplomat to the UN said.

"The international community in general and the Security Council, in particular, must firmly condemn such provocative and criminal acts and hold the Israeli regime accountable for its unlawful actions, which pose a serious threat to international peace and security," Iran's ambassador to UN added.

Iran has long been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and extremism and is determined, in accordance with its rights and obligations under international law, to continue the fight against terrorist organizations in the region "until they are totally eradicated," he pointed out.

"While recognizing that the Israeli regime is fully responsible for all the consequences of these criminal acts, and seriously warning the regime about taking further adventuristic and malevolent measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent right to self-defense, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, to respond to such criminal act whenever it deems appropriate," the ambassador highlighted in the letter.

of any evil act will face tough, decisive and destructive

the criminal

# Israeli center hit with Iranian ballistic missiles

TEHRAN – At least a dozen ballistic missiles landed inside a vast compound that Iran says is used by the Mossad, Israel's external intelligence agency.

The missiles hit the compound early Sunday morning, wrecking damage to a set of buildings under construction and reportedly killing a number of agents.

The Beirut-based news television Al-Mayadeen said some agents were killed and injured in the attack. Citing sources familiar with the matter, the news channel said the attack was carried out with more than 10 precision-guided ballistic missiles that succeeded in targeting an Israeli intelligence and security headquarters in the vicinity of Erbil. The sources confirmed that the attack led to the destruction of the Mossad headquarters on the Masif road on the outskirt of Erbil.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it targeted an Israeli "center of conspiracy" in the Kurdish city. "Following the recent crimes of the fake Zionist regime and the previous announcement that the crimes and evils of this infamous regime will not go unanswered, the strategic center for conspiracy and evil of the Zionists was targeted by powerful and pinpoint missiles of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps," the IRGC said in a statement.



It also warned Israel against further moves against Iran. "Once again, we warn the criminal Zionist regime that the repetition of any evil will face harsh, decisive and destructive responses."

The statement added, "We also assure the great nation of Iran that the security and peace of the Islamic homeland is the red line of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and they will not allow anyone to threaten or attack it."

The IRGC missile operation came after the military organization vowed to give an answer to Israel over the Israeli targeting of two IRGC colonels in Damascus. Last week on Monday, Israel targeted a Damascus suburb. The attack resulted in the assassination of two senior IRGC

officers identified as Colonel Ehsan Kabralaei-Pour and Colonel Morteza

Saeid-Nejad. The Sunday attack, however, does not seem to be a response to this attack. The IRGC statement didn't mention the Damascus attack. And Iranian media said the missile operation was a response to a previously unreported Israeli "mischiefs" conducted from Iraqi soil.

A source familiar with the matter told Tasnim News Agency that Israel has carried out some "evil acts" from Iraqi Kurdistan and that the IRGC decided to give it a response whence it orchestrated its mischief.

"Some of the recent Zionist atrocities against Iran have taken place from Iraqi soil, and for this reason, the IRGC intended to punish the regime on the same soil," the source told Tasnim.

The source also warned that Israel will receive a similar or even more powerful response if it continues its evil acts against Iran.

Recently, the Iranian Intelligence Directorate in Western Azerbaijan Province announced the dismantling of an espionage network working for Israel and recruiting agents to carry out sabotage operations in Iran.

The province shares long, porous borders with Iraqi Kurdistan along which Iranian security forces have long been fighting Kurdish counterrevolutionary groups.

The Directorate said that during the past month, fatal strikes were inflicted on the "largest Israeli spy network in West Azerbaijan."

In May of 2021, Iran announced the dismantling of three "espionage networks" in the same province.

Tasnim's source said the IRGC missiles targeted a meeting of a considerable number of Israelis and that "given that a large number of individuals were present in the base, the likelihood of human casualties of Israel is 'very high."

Al-Mayadeen, citing separate sources, said that "Iran confirmed the killing of 4 Israeli officers, including a female officer, and the injury of 7, including 4 in critical condition."

# - SPORTS

IRAN IN FOCUS

# Iran still motivated against S. Korea and Lebanon: Estili

Frome Page **1** ► "Iran are determined to completer the qualification with the best results. The two remaining matches are so important for us because it will be decisive on the team's spot in the FIFA's ranking, which is effective to determine seeds in the World Cup draw," Estili said in his interview with Tehran Times.

"We have a group of talented and experienced players in Iran national team who are among the best in the Asian football. Getting the best results is a priority for the team, and nothing else could satisfy them," added the former Iran midfielder.

When asked about the national team's plans, Estili said: "Fortunately, we have good cooperation with Mr. Dragan Skocic in this regard, and our goal is to prepare a strong team for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. At the current time, we are focused on the two remaining matches. Then we have the Qatar World Cup draw, and based on the draw, we will plan to select good teams for friendly games ahead of the tournament. The football federation and all those who are responsible for the national team will do their best. So, the national team can participate in the World Cup with the best conditions and without worries," the national team director concluded.

On Mar. 24, Iran will face Korea at the Seoul World Cup Stadium and will host Lebanon in Mashhad five days later.

## Iran thrash Tajikistan in CAFA U18 Women's Championship

TEHRAN – Iran football team thrashed Tajikistan 11-0 at the CAFA U18 Women's Championship on Sunday.



# Babouei re-elected as president of School Sport Federation of Iran

MARCH 14, 2022

Straight Truth

**TEHRAN TIMES** 

TEHRAN – Hossein Babouei was re-elected as president of the School Sport Federation of Iran for a four-year term till 2026.

In the elections held on Sunday in Tehran, Babouei secured 40 of 52 votes cast.

Farshid Eramian sits second with 12 votes.

# Mehdi Rahmati named Aluminum coach

TEHRAN – Former Iran and Esteghlal goalkeeper Mehdi Rahmati was named as new head coach of Aluminum football club on Sunday.

The 39-year-old coach replaced Rasoul Khatibi in the Arak based football club.

Khatibi parted ways with Aluminum by mutual consent Saturday night.

Khatibi was named as Aluminum coach at the beginning of the 2021/22 Iran Professional League (IPL) season but failed to meet the expectations in the team.

Aluminum are 11th in the table with 26 points from 22 matches.

The team are also scheduled to play Persepolis in Iran's Hazfi Cup quarterfinals in April.

## Rouzbeh carries Iran's flag at Paralympic Winter Games closing ceremony

TEHRAN – Female Para-snowboarder Sedigheh Rouzbeh carried Iran's flag at the closing ceremony of the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games Beijing.

Rouzbeh, 40, was also flag bearer for Iran at the closing ceremony of the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, Korea Republic.

The 2022 Winter Paralympics finished Sunday night at the Beijing National Stadium in Beijing, China.

Iran sent five athletes to the Games.

Elaheh Gholi Fallah was flag bearer for Iran at the opening ceremony.

# There is no final agreed upon text: analyst

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian expert who accompanied the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna has said that the talks in Vienna have not resulted in a final agreed-on text yet.

The expert, Seyed Mohammad Marandi, expressed surprise over allegations by some journalists who claimed that the talks have reached a final text.

"I'm surprised that some journalists seem to think the Vienna talks are concluded. There is no final agreed upon text yet," he said on Twitter. "We're near the finish line and the US and E3 need to stop dragging their feet like children."

The tweet also seems to be refuting the assessment of the European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, who said there is a final text.

"A pause in #ViennaTalks is needed, due to external factors. A final text is essentially ready and on the table. As coordinator, I will, with my team, continue to be in touch with all #JCPOA participants and the U.S. to overcome the current situation and to close the agreement," Borrell said on Twitter.

Earlier, the senior coordinator of the Vienna talks had said the negotiations are at a critical juncture and now the U.S. and Iran must show

more flexibility in their message exchanges and must try to overcome the time limit.

He made the remarks in a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The two diplomats held talks over the latest results and the trend of the Vienna talks to remove anti-Iran sanctions as well as some other international issues of mutual interest including the Ukraine crisis.

Borrell said that economic guarantees are important for Iran and the EU supports this, adding, "You and we will continue our efforts to reach a deal because we have come a long way. You Iranians are tough and highly capable negotiators." The Iranian foreign minister, for his part, thanked the EU foreign policy chief and senior coordinator of the Vienna talks for his efforts and the progress made so far. Amir Abdollahian said, "If all sides behave realistically, we are still close to reaching a good and robust deal."

The foreign minister of Iran underlined that the making of new demands by the U.S. has no logical justification and this is at odds with the country's stance on swiftly reaching an agreement. Amir Abdollahian added that the main issues and sanctions removal must not be affected by the excessive demands on the part of the U.S., according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The top Iranian diplomat also said the U.S. cannot convey a new and different message to the Iranian negotiating team through the coordinator under the pretext of being under the pressure of the American public opinion. "If the U.S. faces a problem in terms of public opinion, I should say that we also face the problem of public opinion in Iran [and] they are monitoring the developments very closely and carefully and seek answers from the government and demand it get the sanctions lifted and preserve a highly peaceful nuclear energy."

Amir Abdollahian also underscored that the issues related to Iran's "national heroes" are non-negotiable.

Elsewhere in his comments, the Iranian foreign minister outlined the principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the Ukraine crisis. He emphasized, "We believe, while considering the UN Charter, that the root-cause of this crisis must be addressed so that lasting stability and security are established in the region through halting the war and focusing on political solutions."

# Iran, Qatar FMs discuss Vienna talks

TEHRAN – The chief diplomats of Iran and Qatar on Saturday discussed over the phone a number of issues including the latest developments in talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Thani and Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian also held talks over latest bilateral and regional developments, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In the phone call, the foreign ministers underlined the necessity of seriously pursuing the agreements reached by the two countries at the Iranian president's recent meeting with the Qatari emir in Doha.

Regarding the Vienna talks, Amir Abdollahian criticized the U.S. for raising new issues and underscored that the Islamic Republic of Iran keeps making efforts to reach a good, robust and lasting deal.

During the conversation, Qatar's top diplomat also stressed the importance of the Tehran-Doha relations and also the positive results of the recent visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Qatar. He said efforts by Iran and other parties to the Vienna talks to reach a deal are important.

The Qatari Foreign Ministry also said

in a statement that the two foreign ministers reviewed the situation around the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

After his conversation with Amir r Abdollahian, Sheikh Abdul Rahman is called U.S. Secretary of State a Antony Blinken. r

"The call dealt with reviewing strong bilateral ties between the State of Qatar and the United States, and the means to enhance them in different fields. The call also dealt with the latest developments of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis, nuclear talks, as well as developments in Afghanistan's security and political fields. They also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of joint interest," the Qatari Foreign Ministry said of the second call.

Bloomberg reported on Sunday that the Qatari foreign minister was to travel to Moscow on Sunday after talks to revive the Iran nuclear deal stalled.

Al Thani planned to meet with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, a person with knowledge of the matter said. He could also potentially meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the person added, asking not to be identified.

The visit comes as Qatar works to salvage the Iranian nuclear talks, according to Bloomberg.

The possible visit comes as the Europeans are blaming Russia for pause in the Vienna talks.

Talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal came to a halt right before the last outstanding issues were supposed to be addressed in order to close the much-awaited deal.

The European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said that the pause was due to "external factors" which he refused to specify. "A pause in #ViennaTalks is needed, due to external factors. A final text is essentially ready and on the table. As coordinator, I will, with my team, continue to be in touch with all #JCPOA participants and the U.S. to overcome the current situation and to close the agreement," Borrell said on Twitter.

France, Germany, and the UK -collectively known as the E3- made it clear what "external factors" mean. After implicitly accusing Russia of presenting "extraneous" conditions on March 8, the E3 pointed the finger of blame squarely at Russia on Saturday, warning of the collapse of the Vienna talks if Russia continued to insist on guarantees it is now demanding to shield its economic cooperation with Iran from Western sanctions over Ukraine.

"Nobody should seek to exploit JCPOA negotiations to obtain

assurances that are separate to the JCPOA," the E3 said in a joint statement. "This risks the collapse of the deal."

The European backlash came after Russia said it needed guarantees that sanctions being slapped on Moscow by the West over the war in Ukraine won't impede Russia's cooperation with Iran in all fields.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on March 5, "We need guarantees that sanctions [over Ukraine] will not affect in any way the regime of trade, economic and investment ties set out in the JCPOA on Iran's nuclear program. We asked our American colleagues (because they are running the whole show here) to give us guarantees in writing, at least at the level of the Secretary of State, that the current process launched by the U.S. will not impinge in any way on our free fullscale trade, economic, investment and military-technical cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Russian and Iranian officials are in close contact to discuss the matter, according to Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Dzhagaryan.

The Russian ambassador underlined that the Russian interests should be taken into account but he said that securing Russia's interests won't be at the expense of the interests of others.



Iran captain Negin Zandi found the back of the net four times in this match.

Zahra Masoumi scored a hat-trick.

Sara Didar, Hasti Forouzandeh, Kimia Kafi and Mohadase Zolfi each scored a goal.

Tajikistan were reduced to 10 just seven minutes into the match and Iran's Fatemeh Pasandeh was also shown a red card in the 24th minute.

Iran had started the competition on Friday with a 1-0 win over Uzbekistan.

Iran will play Kyrgyz Republic on Tuesday.

Four Central Asian teams take their first preparatory steps on the road to the 2024 AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup as Tajikistan plays host.

The tournament has brought Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz Republic in the round-robin event, which will give young prospects the chance to shine on the regional stage.

This tournament feature players from the age group that will compete in the opening qualification stage of AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, which is scheduled to be held in March 2023.

All six matches will be held at Central Republican Stadium, where the action will conclude on Tuesday.

## Iran on brink of advancing to 2022 Women's Junior World Handball

TEHRAN – Iran are on the verge of qualifying for the 2022 Women's Junior World Handball Championship after defeating Uzbekistan 25-21 in the 2022 Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship on Sunday.

Iran lost to Kazakhstan 30-24 in their opening match but defeated India (42-37) and Thailand (28-21) in their next matches.

The Championship is the 16th edition of the championship scheduled to be held from Mar. 7 to 14 in Almaty, Kazakhstan under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

Kazakhstan, Iran, Uzbekistan, India and Thailand compete in the edition.

It's the fifth time in history that the championship is be organized by the Kazakhstan Handball Federation.

It also acts as the qualification tournament for the 2022 Women's Junior World Handball Championship, with top two teams from the championship directly qualifying for the event to be held in Slovenia.

On Monday, Kazakhstan will play Uzbekistan and India meet Thailand.

Iran will advance to the world championship if end the competition as top two finishers.

# ECONOMY

### MARCH 14, 2022 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

# **Trades at TSE expected to rise** next year: SEO head



TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said this year, the monthly sales of the shares of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) has been very good and it is predicted that the growing trend of the exchanges will continue in the next Iranian calendar year (begins on March 21) as well, IRIB reported.

"Considering the general provisions approved in next year's budget bill we expect that companies will have good capital increase and take positive development measures, and it will be easier for investors to make decisions,' Majid Eshqi told the press on Saturday.

Mentioning the measures taken for the improvement of the market in the current year, the official said: "For nearly 12 years, no new brokerage companies were established across the country, but since late October 2021, a licensing permit has been issued in this regard and a new brokerage firm has also been established."

The establishment of new financial institutions including investment funds, investment consulting companies, financing firms, and financial information processing companies were also mentioned as other steps taken in this regard.

Eshqi also pointed to the launch of Iran's largest and most advanced capital market data center earlier this month, and said that in order to promote the use of information technology in this sector, a smart system is also going to be unveiled for monitoring and assessing the capital market and investment companies.

The above-mentioned data center was established with the aim of stabilizing and developing technology infrastructure in all areas of processing, storage, and security in order to protect the interests of shareholders and meet the technological needs of the capital market.

Back in October 2021, Eshqi had outlined new strategies and programs for the country's stock market during his tenure, among which supporting investors, creating a transparent, efficient, and equitable market, as well as reducing inclusive risk based on the market's broad objectives can be mentioned.

Eshqi had stressed the use of modern technologies and mechanisms to increase public access to market data as a major strategy in this regard.

According to the SEO head, another strategy would be amending the market's rules and regulations to increase justice and accountability, while strengthening the medium- and small-scale level financing through new mechanisms.

"Diversification and promotion of the capital market (in terms of market, tools, and institutions), increasing the transparency and quality of information published in the capital market, reforming business processes and increasing the efficiency of financial markets, development of financial institutions and de-monopolization, development and strengthening of technical infrastructure, facilitating and clarifying the issuance of licenses in the capital market and the development of the debt market and increasing its liquidity will also be pursued," Eshqi had explained.

# Monthly non-oil trade up 52% yr/yr

From page **1** > and 46 percent billion with other countries in the rise in terms of value and weight, as compared to the same month of the past year, and 13 percent and 15 percent growth in value and weight, as compared to the tenth month of the present year.

China, UAE, Turkey, Germany, and Iraq were the main sources of import, he said.

As previously announced by the IRICA deputy head, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent during the first 11 months of the current year (March 21, 2021-February 19, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Foroud Asgari said that Iran traded over 149.4 million tons of non-oil products worth \$90 mentioned period.

He noted that the weight of trade in the mentioned period also grew by 12 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous year's same 11 months

The official put the 11-month non-oil exports at 112.658 million tons valued at \$43.517 billion, with a 40-percent rise in value and 10 percent growth in weight.

The Islamic Republic imported 36.777 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$46.577 billion in the first 11 months of the present year, with a 36 percent growth in value and a 19 percent rise in weight year on year, according to the official. IRICA has previously announced



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

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

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

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion,

the United Arab Emirates the third with importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

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

# German firm inks MOU with MERDCI to co-produce solar panels

**TEHRAN - Micro Electronics Research Center** of Iran (MERDCI) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the German firm Dr. Hegenbart Unternehmensberatung GMBH & Co. to cooperate in the manufacturing of solar panels and modules.

As reported, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Energy Committee has been the coordinator for the signing of the mentioned MOU, the ICCIMA portal reported.

In this regard, Arash Najafi, chairman of the mentioned committee, stressed that transferring new technologies to Iran is one of the main priorities of the ICCIMA Energy Committee.

Based on the mentioned MOU, the German company is going to install a fully automatic production line for the manufacturing of solar panels in the central Fars Province.

In this memorandum, it is emphasized to use the maximum capacity of domestic manpower, resources, and materials to facilitate the technology transfer.



Najafi pointed to the said MOU as a step towards the development of technological capabilities and engineering of solar power plants in the country and noted that: "This memorandum provides a comprehensive mechanism to ensure the improvement of domestic technology in the mentioned area."

He also announced the launch of a consortium comprising of the private sector companies active in the field of energy and added: "This consortium is also going to sign an agreement with the mentioned German company to transfer technology while producing solar panels and promote self-sufficiency in this section.

"We have also put the export of solar panels on the agenda," Najafi said.

Back in January, Najafi had said European companies, especially German firms, are currently willing to provide Iran with solar panel production lines.

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

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

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

# Ban on auto imports to be lifted as of late May

TEHRAN Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin has announced a decision for lifting the ban on car imports as of late May, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Fatemi-Amin has mentioned the imbalance

not able to meet the market's demand the government has decided to allow imports.

The official noted that another reason for the mentioned decision has been the fact that the country is currently in a better position in terms of foreign currency



incomes have been following an upward trend this year, with non-oil exports reaching more than \$47 billion, he stressed, adding: "So, next year we will not have to worry about the forex balance, and this is another reason why the import ban is not going to be extended."

and the imports and increase in production will lead to a balance in the market," Fatemi-Amin said.

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

# **TEDPIX gains 2,000 points on Sunday**

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 2,379 points to 1.335 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 7.3 billion securities worth 37.8 trillion rials (about \$145.3 million) were traded at the TSE.

TEDPIX rose 67,000 points (5.2 percent) to 1.348 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Tehran Oil Refining Company, Mobarakeh reduction of petrochemical feed prices, the reduction of interbank interest rates, the restriction of the sale of securities, preventing the increase of government mining salaries, and the increase of the exchange rate of banks.

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

between supply and demand and the improvement of the country's economic conditions with regard to foreign currency revenues as the main reasons for the mentioned decision.

According to the minister, Iranian automakers are currently producing nearly one million cars annually, while the domestic demand for automobiles is over 1.5 million, so since the domestic manufacturers are

resources compared to the three years ago when the car imports were banned.

"In the Iranian calendar year 1397 (started in March 2018), oil sales fell due to sanctions and car imports were banned to manage foreign currency spendings,' Fatemi-Amin explained.

According to the minister Iran is not facing those restrictions anymore since the country's non-oil trade has increased significantly.

"With the lifting of the import ban, up to 100,000 and maybe more, cars will be imported into the country,

According to the data, the production by the mentioned companies rose just 4.1 percent compared to the previous year's same 10 months in which the output stood at 730,477.

Steel Company, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, National Iranian Copper Company, Social Security Investment Company, and Isfahan Oil Refinery were the most widely followed ones.

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

The mentioned resolutions include the

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

# Gas supplied to 291 deprived villages in less than 6 months

TEHRAN- The managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said that gas has been supplied to 291 deprived villages in less than six months.

Majid Chegeni said that the process of supplying gas to the rural areas has accelerated, especially with the approvals of the provincial trips of the president in the current government.

The official has previously announced that all of the country's rural and urban population will have access to natural gas through the national gas network within the next

two years.

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

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

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

### ICCIMA board of representatives discuss post-sanctions economic strategies

of the sanctions.

TEHRAN – The 21st meeting of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) board of representatives was held on Sunday to discuss appropriate economic strategies for the post-sanctions era, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The main focus of this meeting, which was chaired by the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, was the promotion of development economics and also expanding the country's foreign trade through free and special economic zones.

Speaking at the meeting, the ICCIMA head referred to the developments achieved in the Vienna talks and the possibility of reaching an agreement and explained some points that should be considered by the government considering the private sector after the lifting

"[If the sanctions are lifted] we should change the approach of the country's economic management to development economics which has been greatly absence in the country's economy over the past decade," he said.

"It is feared that this temporary opportunity [the lifting of sanctions] will be wasted like the experience in the first round of the talks, so the private sector suggests some measures to be put on the government's agenda in the short- and medium-term," Shafeie added.

According to the official, managing foreign currency resources, sustainable supply of basic goods and raw materials, curbing inflation, developing production, amending rules and regulations, and promoting non-oil exports should be among the government's top priorities when the sanctions are lifted.

Elsewhere in the meeting, the ICCIMA head welcomed Saeed Mohammad, the secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council, to the meeting and mentioned some of the major issues related to the country's free and special economic zones.

"One of the organizations that can play a key role in the economic growth of the country if sanctions are lifted is Free Zones High Council. If we look at the history of successful developing countries in the twentieth century, we find that free zones, without exception, have been one of the most important tools of governments to develop trade and boost exports," the official said.

# JCPOA can help Iran diversify economic ties: American expert

TEHRAN – Barbara Slavin, director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, believes that Tehran can diversify its economic ties by reviving the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

"It is in Iran's interest to diversify its economic relations," Slavin tells the Tehran Times.

While the negotiations between Iran and the Western powers are reaching the last station, some commentators argue that Tehran no longer needs the JCPOA that was abandoned by the Trump administration in May 2018.

After Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign failed to change Iran's regional policies, Iranian policymakers came to the conclusion that the country can carry on with or without the nuclear deal.

Add to it new developments in the world resulting from Russia's attack on Ukraine.

"Iran has survived but hardly thrived under sanctions," Slavin notes.

"By its own standards, inflation and unemployment are high. Iran has also increased its dependence on China, which values its relations with countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE more than with Iran," she remarks.



Following is the text of the interview:

Apparently, the negotiations for reviving the JCPOA have reached the last station, but some commentators say that there are still unsolved issues. What is your comment?

I am not privy to the details, I am afraid. From my vantage point, it looks like Russia is setting up obstacles to a final deal by demanding a guarantee against sanctions on economic dealings with Iran that goes beyond the nuclear cooperation specified by the JCPOA.

In view of the fact that Iran succeeded to survive Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign in which a total ban was imposed on Iran's oil export, what will be the advantages of reviving the nuclear deal

for Tehran? Iran would benefit significantly by being able to sell oil freely for the next few years, especially at a time of record prices caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Iran could build on the JCPOA with talks with the U.S., Europe, other countries and Arab neighbors to seek to de-escalate tensions more broadly in the region and perhaps obtain additional sanctions relief.

Do you think America's (and the West in general) assessment of Iran is correct? Iran is not Saudi Arabia that depends on oil sales. Iran could develop its infrastructure and defense system under sanctions. Don't you think that there is a kind of miscalculation when it comes to Iran's capacities?

Iran has survived but hardly thrived under sanctions. By its own standards, more than a third of the population is poor and inflation and unemployment are high. Iran has also increased its dependence on China, which values its relations with countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE more than with Iran. It is in Iran's interest to diversify its economic relations.

Republicans such as Mike Pence and Donald Trump threaten that they will abandon any possible deal with Iran if they win the 2024 presidential elections. Do you take it seriously or just empty slogans? Is there any idea about the failure of Trump's maximum pressure campaign among Republicans?

Unfortunately, Iran has long been a partisan issue in the U.S. But our elections are more than two years away and a lot can change by then. The most important thing is to take advantage of the opening presented by the Biden administration to make progress in our relations and regional de-escalation.

# **TEHRAN TIMES**

INTERNATIONAL

## Russia strikes Ukraine army base near Poland as it widens attacks



#### Russian troops launched multiple air strikes at the training ground near the western city of Lviv, local official says

Russian troops have launched multiple air raids on a large Ukrainian military facility outside the western city of Lviv near the Polish border, Ukrainian officials said, in what appeared to be the westernmost attack since Moscow launched an invasion on February 24.

Russia "launched an air strike on the International Centre for Peacekeeping and Security", the head of the Lviv regional administration, Maxim Kozitsky, said on Sunday on his verified Facebook page, adding that eight missiles were fired.

Initial reports indicated "there are no dead, but information about the injured and wounded is being clarified", said Anton Mironovich, spokesman for the Academy of Land Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, according to Interfax-Ukraine news agency.

The governor of Lviv, however, said at least nine people were killed and 57 others wounded in the air raid on the facility.

Al Jazeera was unable to verify the reports regarding the attack and casualties. Russia offered no immediate comment.

The 360 square km (140 square miles) Yavoriv military facility less than 25km (15 miles) from the Polish border, is one of Ukraine's biggest and the largest in the western part of the country. Ukraine holds most of its drills with NATO countries there.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said foreign military instructors worked at the facility. "Foreign instructors work here. Information about the victims is being clarified," he said in an online post.

Many Ukrainians have fled to relative safety in Lviv since the launch of Russia's invasion.

A short drive from European Union member Poland, the city is also a transit hub for those

leaving Ukraine.

Separately, the mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk in western Ukraine said the city's airport was targeted in an attack.

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"According to preliminary information, this morning's explosions were from an attack on the airport," Mayor Ruslan Martsinkiv said on Facebook.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned Russian forces they face a fight to the death if they try to occupy Kyiv as air raid sirens again woke residents on Sunday morning.

"If they decide to carpet bomb and simply erase the history of this region ... and destroy all of us, then they will enter Kyiv. If that's their goal, let them come in, but they will have to live on this land by themselves," Zelenskyy said on Saturday.

The president, who has repeatedly appeared on social media from the capital, said some small towns no longer existed in the third week of the Russian attacks, the biggest assault on a European country since World War II.

Russian shelling has trapped thousands of people in besieged cities and sent 2.5 million Ukrainians fleeing to neighbouring countries.

Ukraine accused Russian forces on Saturday of killing seven civilians in an attack on women and children trying to flee fighting near Kyiv. France said Russian President Vladimir Putin had shown no readiness to make peace.

The Ukrainian intelligence service said the seven, including one child, were killed as they fled the village of Peremoha and that "the occupiers forced the remnants of the column to turn back".

Moscow denies targeting civilians since invading Ukraine on February 24. It blames Ukraine for failed attempts to evacuate civilians from encircled cities, an accusation Ukraine and its Western allies strongly reject.

# Ukraine war is the 'post-post-Cold War' world: professor

From page 1 ► awakened West (not just the U.S. but Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan) to recognize that Russia aspires to restore its great-power status. This is the post-post-Cold War world.

Do you think the world is witnessing the birth of a new world order, given what is going on in Ukraine? Once upon a time, the U.S. could invade other countries without a serious reaction from the global community. Now it's Russia's turn.

Great powers often get away with what they wish despite norms—think China in Xinxiang. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had unanimous condemnation in the SC and appropriate response. It is impossible under the UN Charter to take a decision to counter one of the P5.

Are Western powers who were involved in invasions against Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and others entitled to oppose Russia's military operations in Ukraine? Isn't it a double standard?



You're lumping too many things together. 1991-2 Iraq war was justified but 2003 was not. Libya had approval from the SC, and Gaddhafi menaced civilians under R2P. Double standards are better than single standards if the single is to do nothing ever.

We see a massive sympathy from the West for the Ukrainians while the world has been witnessing the tragedy in Yemen under the Saudi-led war since March 2015? Don't you think we are facing a kind of discrimination in reactions to catastrophes? If you are white or Western you will enjoy sympathy but if you are Muslim that would be normal to suffer.

The willingness to react more quickly to one's kith and kin is a universal human one. That said, the reactions to the humanitarian plight of Yemenis and Syrians have been appalling and to be condemned.

Given China's position coupled with the Arab states' reluctance to back the U.S. moves against Russia for its attack on Ukraine, don't you think that Ukraine would turn into a scene of confrontation between the West and the East?

China and India and UAE "abstaining" in the SC was revolting. They are usually the defenders of sacrosanct state sovereignty. The vote in the GA was nonetheless rather indicative of world sentiment, only 5 against and quite of few cowardly abstentions.

# War on Yemen "escalates" with more child casualties

From page 1 ► The U.S. has supported the richest Kingdom in the region, waging war on the poorest nation in the region.

It has provided hundreds of billions of dollars worth of weapons to Riyadh that have all been used the former government which was loyal to Riyadh.

While Saudi Arabia said the military operation would be over in a matter of weeks, stubborn Yemeni resistance and recently more sophisticated retaliatory attacks

services. During the reporting period, nine attacks on schools and five attacks on hospitals were verified. UNCTFMR also verified six incidents of military use of education or health facilities

Yemen is currently suffering from

against Yemenis. America has provided logistical and intelligence support. One of the worst tragedies of the airstrikes was a missile that hit a school bus killing around 50 children and injuries scores of others. American news media investigations found the remnants of the bomb with American fingerprints all over it.

One airstrike alone on a funeral killed hundreds of civilians, while hospitals, schools, communication towers, residential neighborhoods have been struck. There isn't much of Yemen that hasn't been hit.

This war has been going on for seven years, countless number of children as UNICEF notes have been traumatized if not killed or maimed.

And according to UNICEF's report, children are not just dying from violence alone. The all-out blockade on the country has led to rising diseases among kids who are suffering and dying from infections that can be avoided if there is access to food and medicine in the country.

According to the UN paper, "over 2.25 million children 0-59 months were projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021," with nearly 400,000 cases of children estimated to endure severe acute malnutrition.

In 2015, Washington supported the Saudi-led coalition in its military campaign against the people of Yemen in an effort to restore against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates caught Riyadh off guard and taken the entire American-backed coalition by surprise.

Nevertheless, the war has had a major impact on the people of Yemen, it's economy, and other vital sectors. According to UNICEF, since 2015 Yemen's economy has shrunk by more than half, with over 80% of the population currently living below the poverty line.

UNICEF reports that between January and September 2021, the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) documented 2,350 incidents of grave violations against children, and 92 percent of the reported incidents were verified. The number of child casualties remained high including 386 children killed and maimed (86 girls, 300 boys). Since the war started, over 10,000 children have been killed or injured from violence.

This is widely believed to be a conservative figure which experts have challenged saying the United Nations' recently announced death toll of hundreds of thousands of people killed is itself a low figure as the UN stopped counting for several years admitting it was impossible to do so.

According to UNICEF in 2021, International Humanitarian Law continued to be challenged, with attacks on or use of public service facilities such as schools, hospitals as well as water and sanitation the impacts of a protracted war with human development set back more than 20 years. Seven years into the conflict, 20.7 million people (70 percent of the total population) need humanitarian assistance.

Nearly four million people, including two million children, are internally displaced, making this the fourth largest internally displaced population globally.

The war has led to the virtual collapse of basic social services with COVID-19 exacerbating the crisis

Throughout 2021, over 50 districts across Yemen were directly affected by active frontlines, up from 45 districts in 2020 and 35 districts at the end of 2019.

The escalation in hostilities and shifting frontlines in Ma'rib and Al Bayda governorates, along with continued clashes in Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Ad Dali', Ta'iz City, and adjacent areas, has contributed to the challenging humanitarian situation.

The UN children's fund says the fuel crisis continues and it's engaging with the authorities working towards a sustained, safe, and principled humanitarian response across the country.

For the first time since the beginning of the war, no commercial fuel imports entered Al Hodeidah seaport for 52 days (28 January to 21 March 2021)

As more than half of Yemen's com-



mercial fuel imports came through Al Hodeidah in recent years, this had a significant impact on the availability and price of fuel, raising the cost of transportation, food, and threatening medical services as well as the supply of clean water and electricity.

In 2021, children in Yemen continued to be impacted upon by the limited basic social services.

UNICEF has documented less than 50 percent of the health facilities in Yemen are functioning and those that are operational lack specialists, equipment, and basic medicines.

The war has taken a toll on children's access to education. An estimated two million children of estimated 10 million school-aged children (5 to 17 years old) are out of school.

This war must end but the American military-industrial complex is making too much profit for this war to end. And so are the weapons' manufacturers of other Western countries who shed crocodile tears for Ukraine but have maintained their silence for seven years over Yemen.

Analysts argue that Washington neither cares for Ukrainians or Yemenis, it wants to destabilize West Asia and Eastern Europe and hit independent countries with a brutal sanctions regime, but it can't sanction itself or it's allies.

# Lebanese political experts uncertain about timely parliamentary elections

Lebanese political analysts have expressed uncertainty about holding the parliamentary elections scheduled for May 15 on time, given the attempts by some leaders to put off the voting in light of the country's unprecedented financial crisis.

Lebanon is in dire need to hold parliamentary elections, which is among the many conditions imposed by the international community to extend support to the crisis-hit country.

However, the Lebanese government's decision to delay municipal elections, due to lack of material and human resources, was perceived by many as an introduction to delay the parliamentary elections as well.

Samir Ayoub, deputy secretary-general of the Sabaa party, told Xinhua that the postponement of parliamentary elections is possible because the Lebanese Ministry of Interior has not yet received funds to proceed with necessary preparations for the process.

"The shortage of funds may be used as an excuse by some parties who aim to put off voting, fearing the results of elections amid loss of confidence in the Lebanese system," Ayoub said.

Ayoub stated that Gebran Bassil, head of the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) and President Michel Aoun's son in law, has been the most prominent advocate for delaying the elections as latest polls revealed that his Christian support plummeted amid great discontent over the economic collapse that took place during Aoun's term.

Youssef Diab, a political analyst at the Lebanese University, told Xinhua that Bassil's attempts to put off elections won't succeed because his main ally, Hezbollah, has an interest in holding the parliamentary elections after the withdrawal of former Prime Minister and Sunni leader Saad Hariri from the political arena.

"Hezbollah is the strongest party today and is in favor of holding the elections because it is expected to gain more seats after Hariri's withdrawal and in the absence of a united front to face the Shiite party," Diab said.

He added that "Hezbollah is keen to win the upcoming elections which would guarantee the appointment of a president who is supportive of its policies."

Meanwhile, Ali Mourad, a professor of Public Law at Beirut Arab University, told Xinhua that the international community has been pushing for timely elections, seeking to see some changes in Lebanon before they can offer any support in the future.

"Political parties intend to delay elections, but what may push for voting to happen is the international community's pressure in this direction," Mourad said.

The United Nations called on many occasions for timely elections and pledged to offer logistical support to ensure the success of the event.

Meanwhile, the European Union (EU) delegation to Lebanon announced in February that it will deploy an EU election observation mission to observe the elections.

Mired in debt, Lebanon has been in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but has so far failed to implement necessary reforms to unlock the billions of U.S. dollars in foreign aid.

(Source: english.news.cn)

# TOURISM

### MARCH 14, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

# World Heritage sites getting ready to host new year vacationers



From page **1** > a fortified medieval town built in vernacular technique using mud layers (Chineh), sun-dried mud bricks (khesht), and vaulted and domed structures.

### Takht-e Soleyman

Takht-e Soleyman ("Solomon's Throne") bears testimony to various eras of the nation's history. It is situated in the southeastern highlands of West Azarbaijan province overlooking a lake with a backdrop of a snowcapped mountain range.

The historical ensemble was established

#### in a geologically anomalous location as the base of the temple complex sits on an oval mound roughly 350 by 550 meters. Inspired by natural context, the rich harmonious composition draws local and foreign travelers who want even for minutes to revel in its peaceful atmosphere.

#### Persepolis

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

The royal city of Persepolis, which ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art, was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

TEHRAN - The holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam, hosts an average number of 500,000 pilgrims each day.

Some 500,000 people go on a pilgrimage to the holy shrine per day... and in this regard, Astan Quds Razavi tries to do its best to ensure the well-being of the pilgrims, an official with the administrative organization which manages the shrine complex and other associated institutions said on Sunday.

The spiritual tradition of pilgrimage to the holy shrine along with sustained efforts to safeguard hospitality services for Razavi pilgrims may soon join UNESCO's listing of cultural treasures as Iran has asked the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO to recognize the concept of 'Good safeguarding practices to improve hospitality services for Razavi Pilgrims'.

As mentioned by the UN cultural body, the rituals and ceremonies merged with the pilgrimage rites are generated based on the social and religious needs and requirements rooted in the public beliefs, the consistency and persistence of which exhibit



Half a million pilgrims visit

Imam Reza shrine per day

their significance and values.

Moreover, the tradition of pilgrimage to the holy situated shrine, which is in the northeastern city of Mashhad was registered on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage List by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts last year under the number 2015 upon a proposal offered by the tourism department of Khorasan Razavi province

Mashhad, the provincial capital, is Iran's holiest and secondlargest city. Its raison d'être is the striking shrine complex of the eighth Shia Imam that is encircled

by dozens of five-star hotels and many other accommodation centers. Mashhad and the buffer zone of the complex present a unique approach and exercise towards the development of pilgrimage areas during history concerning a city and its religious core, in a way that the expression of the pilgrimage concept can be vividly seen in the architectural and urban planning of the city.

The Imam Reza complex, in general also in detail enjoys unique creativity and genius, altogether has formed a unique cultural, artistic masterpiece all over the world. The architectural design of the complex has also complied with these traditions and rituals to address the needs of people and the urban landscape. Every year, over 20 million pilgrims visit the holy shrine and perform a set of traditions, one of which is the upper mentioned salutation rituals.

Historical data suggests that the complex has been developed in different stages of time according to the needs of the people and rituals associated with the holy shrine, yet the structure, design concepts, forms, material, tangible and intangible aspects, morphology, entering circumstances, praying rites and the spirit of the complex retained its authenticity and integrity the whole time and with legal and religious support of authorities and people.

Regarding the cultural historic, and architectural aspects, as mentioned by UNESCO, the complex could be comparable with several other religious complexes such as "Saint Peter's Tomb" in the Vatican, "Mahabodhi Temple" in India, "Mount Emei" in China and "Lumbini" in Nepal.

# Eight cultural heritage elements gain national status

TEHRAN - Eight traditional skills passed down from generation to generation in Khuzestan province have been registered in Iran's national list for intangible cultural heritage.

The elements include the skill of crafting and playing an ingenious type of ney (two attachd end-blown flutes); making a kind of organic beard and indigenous knowledge of palm tree cultivation, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Moreover, a native game, a special mourning ritual practiced by Arab-speaking women of the province as well as a religious ceremony long been observed in certain mosques of the southwestern province were inscribed in the prestigious list, the report said

Some 2,000 elements are currently been registered on Iran's national list of intangible cultural heritage, tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami says.

"So far, about two thousand intangible cultural elements have been registered in the country," the minister said on March 4.

"Intangible cultural heritage such as culture, religion, and rituals are of very high importance as they shape the identity of any nation," Zarghami said.

In addition, 17 Iranian elements have been registered in UNESCO's list of the Intangible



Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Among Iran's entries to the prestigious list is Radif of Iranian music; traditional skills of carpet weaving in Kashan; Music of the Bakhshis of Khorasan; Naqqali, Iranian dramatic story-telling; traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats in the Persian Gulf; and traditional skills of crafting and playing Dotar.

Furthermore, Iran seeks to register five intangible elements on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in near future. They are ancient festivities of Mehregan and Yalda, crafting and playing [the stringed instrument of] the Oud, traditional craft of silk spinning, and Turkmen Duzi (a kind of traditional textile being practiced by Iranian Turkman tribes).

## Archaeologists carve special drainage to shield royal bas-relief in Persepolis

TEHRAN – A team of archaeologists has carved a precise drainage system behind a royal bas-relief in the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in order to protect the massive rock-carved art from absorbing moisture which accelerates its erosion.

The drainage was designed and made following an archaeological survey aimed to help protect a trilingual bas-relief, which is attributed to Darius the Great (r. 522 BC - 486 BC), ILNA reported on Sunday.

"Historical monuments are usually eroded and damaged quickly due to constant climate change, moisture absorption, and evaporation," said Iranian archaeologist Vahid Barani, who led the survey.

Rainwater is one of the factors for the surface damage of sedimentary and calcareous rocks as it penetrates and dampens inner rock layers, the archaeologist explained.

"This moisture carriages soil minerals to the rock layers... and after evaporation of water, harmful minerals will be remaining on the rock face."

This phenomenon causes damage and erosion of the outer surface of the stones, here the ones that bear reliefs and inscriptions, he said.



carved on a rock face measuring 8.15 meters by 2.05 meters near a southern entrance to Persepolis.

Therefore, the experts of Persepolis's Archaeological Department focused on eliminating the harmful elements, especially moisture, and examined the possibility of creating drainage with the least possible interference.

Furthermore, the team pursued a scientific, archaeological approach to shield (and eliminate) soil that existed behind the basrelief, Barani explained.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

The royal city of Persepolis, which ranks The inscription of Darius the Great was among the archaeological sites which

have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art, was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world's greatest archaeological sites.

The ancient region, known as Pars (Fars), or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenid Empire founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC. Alexander the Great defeated the Achaemenian army at Arbela in 331 and burned Persepolis apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 vears earlier.

# Huge water park to make debut in scenic Sarein

TEHRAN –A gigantic water park is being constructed in Sarein, a mountainous city in Ardabil province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 870 billion rials (\$3.3 million) has been allocated to the project, which is the first of its kind in the region, Nader Fallahi explained.

Covering an area of over nine hectares, the project is being carried out by the private sector, the official added.

Sarein is a small scenic city in the northwestern Ardabil province. There are many hot springs in the city, which makes it a popular tourist destination.

Due to its climate and hot

springs, Sarein attracts more than five million tourists annually from across Iran and around the world. Nine hot springs are located here, each with distinctive composition and property.

Some of the most notable tourist attractions surrounding Sarein are as follows: 'Kanzag' is a historic village that has historic caves related to the Parthian period which have been registered on Iran's National Heritage list.'Alvares' is a ski resort that absorbs many tourists to enjoy winter sports every year.

The ancient 'Anahita Hill', 'Golestan Valley' - a habitat of partridge, goat, and mouflon -, and 'Vargehsaran waterfall' are among

the most spectacular tourist spots of the region. Despite its arid climate, Iran's

tourism sector has tried to boost hydro tourism or water tourism in recent years.

This branch of tourism involves traveling to places specifically to take part in water-based activities. Some individuals who do not wish to partake in water-related activities embark on water tourism trips so that they can visit tourist sites that sit close to bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, dams, oceans, etc.

While water tourism often includes active chases, some water tourists visit islands and shore regions to join more relaxed pursuits such as diving or swimming. Travel

businesses organize tours of coral reefs and arrange for local tour guides to preside over excursions on which travelers can swim with local marine life such as dolphins or even sharks. Some tour operators also cater to families who are primarily focused on swimming and tanning rather than interacting with aquatic life.

Water trips occasionally involve inland destinations such as lakes and rivers. Holidavmakers can sail or swim on lakes while many rivers are ideally suited to white water rafting. Additionally, some leisure businesses operate water parks that contain swimming pools, water slides, and areas for kayaking or canoeing.

# Millennia-old rock-cut tombs in northwest Iran to become demarcated

for millennia-old rock-cut tombs, which are situated near the city of Poldasht in West Azarbaijan, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

A proper budget is to be accolated for the demarcation of the site, which dates back to the first millennium BC, IRNA quoted Jalil Jabari as saying on Sunday.

"Upon allocating more funds for archaeological research, a suitable access road will be constructed, signs will be installed and bars will be erected, to facilitate visiting the tombs," the official added.

The tombs are carved in the heart of large limestone rock and comprise a hall with an area of nine square meters and two smaller rooms with an area of four square meters in

TEHRAN – New boundaries will be defined the north and south directions of the hall, he explained.

> The historical site was inscribed on the national heritage list in 1996.

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

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

# Yazd embraces further national heritage

TEHRAN -A selection of eight historical structures and aging buildings, which are scattered across Yazd province, have recently been added to the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism,

and Handicrafts on Saturday announced the inscriptions in separate letters to the governorgeneral of the central province, CHTN reported.

Historical mansions of Qanbari, Tavakoli, and Sadat Hosseinpur as well as Yazdbaf Factory and Heshmat Abad Castle were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain,

the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious publicreligious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

It is a living testimony to the intelligent use

of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a ganat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Windcatchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways together

with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the ganat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

# Precipitation 15.5% less than normal in Iran

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MARCH 14, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES** 

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2021), the country has received rainfall 15.5 percent below normal.

According to the latest report of the National Center for Drought Warning and Monitoring Center, the total rainfall of the whole country has reached 112.8 mm, which has decreased by 13.5 mm compared to the long-term period of 130.4 mm, from the beginning of the current water year to February 17.

The precipitation rate during autumn (September 23-December 21, 2021) was not very favorable, as the Meteorological Organization has considered this autumn one of the driest seasons in the past 50 years.

However, from the beginning of winter (December 22, 2021) to February 17, the amount of rainfall was accompanied by a growth of over 6.1 percent compared to the long-term average.

But overall, the rainfall rate during the current water year is not yet favorable, as it is 15.5 percent lower than normal averages.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.



### Climate change and extreme weather events

Climate change is a fact that cannot be run over, whether the temperature rais-

es over 2 or 6°C, natural incidents such as flooding, droughts, and severe storms are among the main consequences of climate change.

shortages, wa-

ter-borne illness-

Moreover, next five years. water and food

temperature variations. In tropical areas also the risk of floods will rise.

Heavy rain and other extreme weather events will become more frequent, which can lead to floods along with decreasing water quality, but

also decreasing availability of water resources in some regions. Climate change will also bring

es, cold or heat-related deaths extreme wet and dry seasons, will come up as the results of which mainly causes rainfall fluctuations and water scarcity. While there have been prolonged droughts nationwide in past recent years leaving people scrambling for water.

So, nations must take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the future, preventing the emissions peak, otherwise, they might not be able to breathe on the planet in the future, or migrate to other places if found.

The study may also come efficient when it comes to making the people aware of climate change impact in their own city, within their lifetime, to avoid experiencing an entirely new climate that is beyond human experience.

# Iranian delegation to attend UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation headed by Eskandar Momeni, the director of anti-narcotics police headquarters, will attend the 65th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The event will take place on March 14-18 in Vienna, Austria.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO), and International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) - come together to hold a Joint Call to Action on Scaling Up the Implementation of International Drug Policy Commitments on Improving Availability of and Access to Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes.

The Joint Call to Action raises awareness for the importance of improving the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, underscoring the critical need for sustainable funding in this area.

While delivering a speech at the meeting of the Narcotics Commission, Momeni will meet Ghada Wali, Director-General of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and sign a joint cooperation agreement.

They will also have multilateral meetings



### Iran holds world record for narcotics confiscation

Iran holds the record for narcotics confiscation in the world, Momeni said in December 2021.

However, great achievements in the field of countermeasures have been gained, and the United Nations has officially announced that 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of world heroin have been discovered by Iran.

Last year, about 1,200 tons of drugs were discovered, which was the highest rate of discovery in the world," he explained.

According to figures released by the United Nations in 2000, Afghanistan produced about

In other words, the production of narcotics has increased fifty times, which has doubled the need for prevention efforts, he highlighted.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

# KARUN, the only navigable waterway in Iran

KARUN RIVER (Rud-e Karun) is the largest river and the only navigable waterway in Iran. It flows out of the central Zagros range, traverses the Khuzestan plain, and joins the Shatt al-Arab before the latter discharges into the Persian Gulf.

### i. Geography and Hydrology

The river Karun has its rise in the Bakhtiari Zagros mountains west of Isfahan and follows a meandering course to the Persian Gulf. A straight line between the source and the mouth measures only about 250 km, while the river actually travels between 860 and 890 km.

The loops are sizeable in the mountains and much more frequent on the plain. The river's course can be divided into three natural sections: (1) the upper, mountainous course from its source to Gotvand, where it leaves the mountains, about 400 km downstream; (2) the middle course, from Gotvand, through Shushtar, to its junction with the Ab-e Dez, then all the way south to the rapids of Ahvaz; and (3) from Ahvaz across the rest of the Khuzestan alluvial plain, where the river flows gently towards the Shatt al-Arab.

The upper course. The source of the Karun is the western spurs of Kuhrang in the heart of Bakhtiari land, about 75 km west of Isfahan. It is called Sarcheshme-ye Kuhrang, not far from the source of the Zayandarud, which flows eastwards onto the Isfahan plain.

Diverting dam-and-tunnel systems between the sources of the two rivers have been constructed to redirect the headwaters of the Karun into the Zayandarud.

The upstream section of the Karun can be characterized as a steep, powerful stream, descending through a series of mountainous anticlinal ridges and synclinal valleys, and for long stretches the river flows rapidly between lofty cliffs. As the river flows downward, its volume increases almost constantly, as it is nourished by springs and snowmelt channeled into the tributaries that successively join the Karun.

Approximately two-hundred streams comprise the upper Karun. Up to its confluence with the Beheshtabad river, at a point 120 km downstream from the Karun's source, the river is often called by the name of its source, Kuhrang.

In spite of its significantly meandering course, the river runs mostly in a southerly to southeasterly direction until the powerful tributary Vanak diverts the Karun's course in a southwesterly direction, which is generally maintained even when the Bazoft, one of its main tributaries, merges in.

Another major orientation change occurs at the next chief tributary, the Khersan, which actually takes the Karun into its own northwesterly direction, a direction which the Karun follows for much of the rest of its upper course.

However, a full, convex, southward curve begins at the confluence with the Ab-e Shalla, countered by a remarkable concave bend at the Sabzab, and lastly another huge curvature between Ab-e Kia and Gotvand village, where the Karun exits the mountains. It continues the rest of its course in an average southward direction.

The middle course. The Karun departs the mountains at a 5-km long defile known as Tang-e Oal'a Dokhtaran and meets the village of Gotvand on its right bank. Here it flows around the fertile plain of Aqili in a curve before it passes through a hilly stretch. A few kilometers down, the Karun swings westward, and just before it reaches the old Shushtar, 30 km downstream from Gotvand, it bifurcates into two navigable arms.

The left/west arm makes the Karun proper, also known as Ab-e Shotavt "little river" and. farther downstream, as Ab-e bozorg-e Shushtar "great stream of shushtar."

The right/east arm, Ab-e Gargar, is artificial in origin. The two arms are also called Chahardangeh and Dodangeh. The island between the two temporary arms, Mianab or Miandab, embraces the town of Shushtar and stretches southward some 45 km to the village of Band-e Qir, which stands at the southern apex of the island.

Here, not only do the two arms of the Karun reunite, but also the Ab-e Dez, flowing in a southeastward direction, unites with the Karun from the right/west. Significantly enlarged by the Dez, the Karun now flows 250-300 meters wide for some 20 km straight southwards, up to the village Veys.

From Veys southwest to Ahvaz the river winds in three sharp meanders for 45 km—over twice the straight-line distance. From the junction at Bande Qir to Ahvaz the Karun flows some 74 km.

Just before reaching Ahvaz, and after the small island of Omm-al-Nakhl, the Karun breaks through the sandstone hills known as the spurs of the Jabal Hamrin. This gives rise to the 3-km long rapids of Ahvaz.

Except for these rapids, the middle and lower courses of the river are navigable, although below Ahvaz the riverbed is not always deep enough for navigation.

The lower course and the delta. After bisecting modern Ahvaz, the river continues in a general southerly direction, within a series of bends and convolutions, and then flows straight southwest towards its mouth at the Shatt al-Arab (in Persian: Arvand Rud).

The river's lower course runs gently through the alluvial plain formed by the Karun itself.

Its average slope here is 8 cm in a km; this is 0.008 percent, compared with a slope average of more than 3 percent for the entire course of the Karun.

The Karun delta begins some 5 km above Khorramshahr, where the river bifurcates into two major branches, either of which may be regarded as the river's natural mouth. (1) The shorter branch, still called Karun, flows a few kilometers westward, until it meets the Shatt al-Arab, already an effluent of the Euphrates and Tigris.

Now expanded by the Karun, the Shatt al-Arab runs southeast for about 200 km before joining the Persian Gulf. (2) The Bahmanshir branches off the left bank of the Karun and flows 70-80 km in a channel 500-800 meters wide, parallel with the Shatt al-Arab, with which it forms the island of Abadan; it flows into an estuary called Khor-e Bahmanshir before entering the sea.

Two other distributaries, into which the Karun historically changed course alternately, branch off left of the Karun's delta and run southeast toward their estuaries at the Persian Gulf. (1) The Shatt al-A'ma, traverses the marshlands until it spreads into the Khor-e Silij. (2) The Qadimi the old stream, so called on account of it being considered an old bed of the Karun, finally broadens out into the Khor-e Musa.

The basin and discharge. The Karun drains

Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent in the

and visits with relevant UN officials and relevant Austrian officials.

200 tons of narcotics, but in 2018, it has grown to 9.500 tons.

# 5th Mustafa Prize slated for October 2023

From page **1** > and a special cash gift that is provided from the endowment of science and technology, and so far more than 400 benefactors from different countries as members of the Khadem Al-Mustafa community have supported this scientific-cultural movement.

The deadline for nominations is August 31.

During the 2021 Mustafa Prize award ceremony, five Muslim scientists were awarded cash prizes amounting to \$1 million, as the laureates of the 4th edition of the event. The Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation has provided the opportunity for the development of scientific and technological cooperation by establishing a network of nearly 6,500 science and technology experts from 50 countries and interacting with 910 prestigious international centers.



an area of around 60,000 km2, two-thirds of which is mountainous and a third of which is piedmonts and plains; a third of this catchment basin belongs to the Dez. the main tributary of the Karun. The main source of the Karun in the central Zagros is covered with snow for up to five months a year and receives annual precipitation rates of up to 600 mm.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

## **COVID-19 UPDATES ON MARCH 13**

New cases	3,330
New deaths	118
Total cases	7,123,093
Total deaths	138,949
New hospitalized patients	610
Patients in critical condition	2,832
Total recovered patients	6,779,494
Diagnostic tests conducted	48,250,947
Doses of vaccine injected	144,800,754

# **ENGLISH IN USE**

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran starts smart screening program to contain coronavirus

The second phase of the social distancing plan in Iran started on Tuesday within the framework of a screening program to curb the spread of coronavirus.

"Under the program, we will conduct tests on the asymptomatic people who are transmitting the virus to the community without awareness," Health Minister Saeed Namaki said explained, IRNA reported.

"With the help of knowledge-based companies, we are moving to centers that have no symptoms, and for this we need an extensive diagnosis," he added.

آغازطرح فاصله گذاری هوشمند در ایران براى مقابله باكرونا

اجرای گام دوم طرح غربالگری و مقابله با کرونا در کشور روز سه شنبه به گزارش ایرنا، سعید نمکی، وزیر بهداشت، در تشریح این طرح گفت: در این مرحله سراغ افراد بدون علامت که منشا عفونت هستند می رویم و برای این اقدام به آزمایشهای گسترده نیاز داریم. او افزود: با کمک شرکتهای دانش بنیان، سراغ کانونهایی میرویم که علامت ندارند، اما ویروس را در سطح جامعه جابهجا می کنند.

# EHRAN TIMES



Tehrantimes79



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#### MARCH 14, 2022

#### GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I wonder at a man who loses hope of salvation when the door of repentance is open for him. Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:14 Evening: 18:29

Dawn: 4:52 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:16 (tomorrow)

# Abulgasem Ferdowsi: Life

#### Part 2

According to the poet himself, this man was extremely generous, magnanimous, and loyal; he had a high opinion of the poet and gave him considerable financial help.

In the whole of the Shahnameh, this is the only moment at which the poet speaks explicitly of having received financial help from anyone, and since he wrote this after the death of Mansur, there is no reason to believe that it was written in order to please the object of his praise.

Further, that he did not remove his praise of Mansur from the Shahnameh even after he added that of Sultan Mahmud to the poem's introduction indicates the extent of his attachment to Mansur (and before him to his father Abu Mansur), as well as his sympathy for the political and cultural tendencies of Abu Mansur.

The year 987, in which Mansur was arrested in Nishapur and taken to Bokhara, where he was then executed, was a turning point in Ferdowsi's life; in the Shahnameh from this moment onward there is no mention of anything to indicate either physical comfort or peace of mind, rather we find frequent complaints concerning his old age, poverty, and anxiety.

Nevertheless, Ferdowsi was able to complete the first version of the Shahnameh by the year 994, three years before the accession of Mahmud.

The poet, however, continued to work. In 997, when he was 58 or a little older, composed the story of Slavakhsh and a year later wrote a continuation of the former narrative, the "Revenge for Siavakhsh".

with both meanings. In the second case Ruzbeh is probably the name of Ferdowsi's servant.

This period of happiness passed quickly. Two years later, in 1004, at the beginning of the story of Kay Khosrow's great war, during the course of a panegyric on Mahmud, he complains in accents of despair of his poverty and weakness; he points out the value of his work to Mahmud and asks Mahmud's vizier. Fazl ibn Ahmad Esfarayeni, to intercede on his behalf so that some help may be forthcoming from Mahmud.

The year 1006, when the poet was 67, was the worst period of his life. In this year his 37-year-old son died.

The poet describes his grief in extremely simple and personal language, complaining to his son that he has gone on ahead and left his father alone, and asks God's forgiveness for him.

What is most striking in this elegy is the hemistich: hami bud hamvara ba man dorosht ("He was always rude to me"). Was there a disagreement between father and son? And if so over what? No answer to this question can now be given.

The poet inserts this elegy into the narrative of the reign of Khosrow Parviz. Approximately 1,500 lines further on, at the end of this reign, he writes that he has now completed his sixty-sixth year.

This does not seem to accord with his previous statement, but if one takes into account the exigencies of rhyme and the fact that the poet was not always 100 percent accurate over figures, even in such a case, one can draw the conclusion that the reign of Khosrow Parviz (a little more than four thousand verses) was written during the years 1005-6, when the poet was 66 or 67 years old.

# Tehran museum uncovers treasure trove of Iranian artworks on Nezami Ganjavi

TEHRAN – Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) is playing host to an exhibition displaying a collection of Iranian artworks on Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi.

The museum has also borrowed some artworks from collectors for the showcase entitled "Panj Ganj" ("Five Treasures").

Opening on Saturdav evening with a special musical performance by Avay-e Mehr ensemble beside Japanese artist Noriyuki Haraguchi's "Oil Pool", the exhibition borrows the title from the Khamseh, Nezami's pentalogy which is also known as Panj Ganj (Five Treasures).

Works by Iranian art's greats Gholam-Hossein such as Nami, Farmarz Pilaram, Monir Farmanfarmaian, Ali-Akbar Sadeqi, Sadeq Tabrizi, Hossein Mahjubim Kurosh Shishegaran, Mohammad Ehsai, Sohrab Sepehri, Mohammad-Bager Agamiri and Yaqubi Emdadian have been chosen for the exhibition, which will run until May 8.

"When we were collecting the artworks for the exhibition, I



Iranian culture minister aide Mahmud Shalui (L) and a number of artists visit the Five Treasures Exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on March 12, 2022. (Honaronline/Gatha Ziatabari)

noticed that there are few artists who have created works on Nezami," TMCA director Ehsan Aqai said at the opening ceremony of the exhibit.

"Those artists whose works have been selected for the exhibition studied at the schools which used to pay more attention to Persian poetry and literature, but due to today's method of

education, the younger generation of artists is not associated with literature," he added. He proposed that art schools

and academies should pay more attention to literature "so that the country can witness an increase in the number of artworks representing the profundity of Persian literature."

Speaking at the ceremony,

Iranian culture minister aide Mahmud Shalui, who is also the director of a commemoration program for Nezami, also lamented the lack of attention to Persian literature in modern Iranian art.

He pointed to Esfand 21 on the Iranian calendar year, which is celebrated as Nezami Day every year, and said, "This day has been dedicated to celebrate Nezami Ganjavai. However, we haven't done anywhere near enough to promote the great poet."

He proposed that permanent secretariat should be set up to seek more intensive commemoration programs for Nezami in upcoming years.

Iran is commemorating Nezami Ganjavi in a weeklong program, which began Esfand 21 on the Iranian calendar year (March 12), which is celebrated by Iran as Nezami Day.

This year's celebration for Nezami Day, which will run for a week, features special events Iran is organizing in response to some false claims made by the Azerbaijan Republic about the Iranian poet.

# Art Dubai hangs works from Iranian galleries

TEHRAN - Four galleries from Tehran attended Art Dubai, a leading West Asian international art fair taking place every March in the United Arab Emirates.

Parallel Circuit Gallery, +2 Gallery, Dastan's Basement Gallery and Mohsen Gallery sent artworks for the Contemporary category.

Dastan's Basement also showcased a collection in the Art Dubai Digital category of the three-day event, which wrapped up on Sunday.

Dastan's Basement took works by Majid Biglari, Amir-Hossein Zanjani, Fereidun Aav, Sepand Danesh and Peybak to the art fair.

Works by Nasser Bakhshi, Mehrdad Mohebali, Maryam Eivazi, Meqdad Lorpur, Asal Peiravi and Andisheh Avini were put on view by +2 Gallery.

Yusha Bashir, Mamali Shafahi, Farrokh Mahdavi and Hoda Kashiha also hung their artworks in collaboration with Parallel Circuit Gallery.

Works by Iranian artists, including Mohammad Ehsai, Reza Derakhshani, Aref

Montazeri and Parinaz Eleish Gharagozlu, were showcased by Leila Heller Gallery from New York

cemented its role in being a major catalyst in the local, regional and international conversations on art from the West Asian and surrounding region, putting art from these territories onto the global map.

As one of the world's major art fairs, Art Dubai has further expanded its commitment to cultivating a culture of discovery, offering exciting new global perspectives and broadening conversations about art beyond traditional Western-led geographical scopes and narratives.

The fair drives meaningful engagement with the rich cultural heritage and contemporary art practices of the region and extending to territories across Southeast and Central Asia, the African continent and Latin America through presentations across its gallery sections.

In its role as a talent incubator, Art Dubai has been the launch pad and development



A file photo shows an art lover visiting an exhibition at Art Dubai.

platform of the successful careers of artists, curators and art professionals, and continues to celebrate art excellence through its extended fair programming and initiatives.

The art fair also works closely with its partners in producing innovative art programming and supporting the cultural community.

## "Tonight's Homework" brings Kiarostami to life at Ljubljana festival

TEHRAN – World-renowned filmmaker Abbas Iranian Kiarostami was remembered at the Ljubljana Documentary Film Festival in Slovenia last Wednesday by screening the Iranian documentary "Tonight's Homework".

In the documentary, directors Ashkan Nejati and Mehran Nematollahi repeat the

questions Kiarostami asked

a number of students in his

In the new documentary, the

directors come to the conclusion

that the school system and

society itself have changed

dramatically. The gulf between

rich and poor has grown far

wider, and that has become

evident in schools. Parents,

many of whom are illiterate, are

unable to help their youngsters,

documentary

directed in 1989.

"Homework"



during its Focus Program: The Future Tense.

"The six-year-old school kids he interviews on subjects such as homework, punishment and reward have been drilled to provide socially appropriate responses, but with gentle persistence the director elicits more honest answers, painting a more realistic picture," the

Over the past 15 years, Art Dubai has

He was then a quite different poet from the pleasure-loving and wealthy young man depicted in the introduction to the story of Bijan and Manijeh.

He complained of poverty, old-age, failing sight, and pains in his legs and looked back on his youth with regret. Even so, he hoped to live long enough to bring the Shahnameh to its conclusion.

In 999, he started work on the reign of Anushiravan and once again complained of old age, pains in his legs, failing sight, and the loss of his teeth and looked back to his youth with regret.

The poet was, nevertheless, very active during this year. By the time he was 61, in 1000, he had composed almost 4,300 of the almost 4,500 verses of the story of Anushiravan.

The poet prayed that God would grant him sufficient life to finish the Shahnameh. Two years later, in 1002, the poet was busy writing the narrative of the reigns from Bahram III to Shapur II (four reigns in all, covering 76 years in little more than 700 verses).

It is not clear what occurred during this year to make the poet more content. In the first of these verses the word ruzbeh is used, which can be interpreted as either "fortunate" or as a person's name, and which appears in the Shahnameh

This obvious contradiction over the exact age of the poet, however, is not found in the variant "I was sixty five and he was thirty-seven" (mara shast o banj o vera si o haft) found in certain manuscripts.

In the course of the history of Khosrow Parviz, the poet complains that, due to the calumny of rivals, Mahmud has not given his attention to the stories of the Shahnameh, and the poet asks the king's salar (general), Mahmud's younger brother Nasr, to intercede for him and turn Mahmud's attention toward the poet.

From this it is clear firstly that no payment from Mahmud had ever reached Ferdowsi, and secondly that Ferdowsi had sent some of the narratives of the Shahnameh separately, before he either took or sent the whole poem to Ghazna.

The poet mentions his poverty many times during the course of the Shahnameh, and frequently praises Mahmud, his brother Nasr, and his governor of Tus, who would seem to have been Abul-Hares Arslan Jazeb, but there is nowhere any suggestion that he had ever received any assistance from these individuals.

> Source: Encyclopedia Iranica To be continued

or otherwise too busy with their careers to supervise homework. Any sense of interest or guidance is absent.

In "Homework", Kiarostami put questions to students at a public school: questions about homework, punishments, and dreams of the future. The result was a portrait of the generation that grew up during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, trapped by uncertainty and a rigid upbringing.

One more screening has also been arranged for "Tonight's Homework" for March 15, during which the winners will be announced.

Kiarostami's "Homework" was also reviewed in 2021 by the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)

organizers said. "Kiarostami's visual investigation paints a disturbing picture of the Iranian school

system, and thereby also of a society that both produces these educational methods and is shaped by them."

"The conversations also form a portrait of the generation that grew up during the Iran-Iraq war... and were allowed few opportunities to enjoy the playfulness of childhood."

### David Cottington's short introduction to modern art published in Persian



Front cover of the Persian translation of David Cottington's "Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction".

TEHRAN - "Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction" by British author David Cottington has been published in Persian. Mahi is the publisher of the book translated

### into Persian by Ahmadreza Taqa.

Public interest in modern art continues to grow, as witnessed by the spectacular success of the Tate Modern in London and the Bilbao Guggenheim.

"Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction" engages general readers, offering them not only information and ideas about modern art, but also explaining its contemporary relevance and history.

The book focuses on interrogating the idea of modern art by asking such questions as: What makes a work of art qualify as modern, or fail to? How has this selection been made? What is the relationship between modern and contemporary art? Is postmodernist art no longer modern, or just no longer modernist? In either case, why--and what does this claim mean, both for art and the

#### idea of the modern?

Cottington examines many key aspects of this subject, including the issue of controversy in modern art, from Manet's Dejeuner sur L'Herbe (1863) to Picasso's Les Demoiselles, and Tracey Emin's Bed (1999).

He also looks at the role of the dealer from the main Cubist art dealer Kahnweiler, to Charles Saatchi.

The book is from the series "Very Short Introductions" that offers an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics.

Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam