

Iran's Efforts to Neutralize U.S. Sanctions Reach New Heights

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Report

The awkward confrontation

TEHRAN— Former President Barack Obama returned to the White House on Tuesday afternoon for the first time since leaving office five years ago.

Obama's return was scheduled to coincide with an event commemorating the 12th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, his biggest legislative achievement during his presidency. President Biden announced changes to the statute at the event.

The visit comes as Biden faces the lowest approval rating of his administration, as well as months of low popularity and disfavor connected to his handling of the Ukraine conflict.

"It is good to be back in the White House," Obama said at the event with Biden and Vice President Harris. "Nothing made me prouder than providing better health care and more protections to millions of people across this country. So when President Biden said he was not going to just celebrate the ACA but announce actions that would make it even better, I had to show up."

In addition to Obama's attendance at the event, Biden had lunch with the former president. Their meeting comes just over three weeks after Obama announced testing positive for COVID-19.

"They are real friends, not just Washington friends," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said. "I'm sure they will talk about events in the world as well as their families and personal lives."

"It feels like the good old days," Biden stated alongside his former boss, whose return to the East Room seemed like a reunion of his top loyalists, many of whom are now serving in Biden's Cabinet or in Congress.

Obama started his speech by addressing his host as "Vice President Biden," but immediately corrected himself. "That was a joke!" he exclaimed as he walked up to hug Biden. "That was all set up. Joe Biden, my President."

"I'm still going to call you for advice," Biden said. But was the "slip of tongue" really staged?

The uncharismatic leader of the United States is not at the best state of health, as well as decision-making. Many American analysts have for long said that this is not the Biden administration, and the United States is being run by other behind-the-scenes actors and players. ▶ Page 2

Iran volleyball to play friendlies against Argentina, Serbia

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team will play two friendly matches against Argentina and Serbia.

The matches are part of the preparation for the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League (VNL).

Iran are scheduled to play the Netherlands, Australia and Japan in Week 1 to be held in Brazil.

Behrouz Ataei's team will play Serbia, who were headed by former Iran coach Igor Kolakovic, in the European country and then travel to Argentina ahead of the 2022 VNL Week 1.

The 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League will be the fourth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League, an annual men's international volleyball tournament.

The preliminary round was scheduled to be held during five weeks between June 7 and July 10, 2022. The final round was scheduled for July 20 and 24.



Israeli regime has arrested over 9,000 Palestinian kids since 2015

A new report has exposed the shocking scale of Palestinian children that have been detained by the Israeli regime from 2015 until today.

According to the Palestinian Prisoner Society (PPS) more than 9,000 Palestinian boys and girls have been placed behind bars by the occupation forces.

Palestinians kids have had their childhood stolen away from them on a regular basis by the occupation forces. In many cases the arrests that take place involve children being dragged off the streets by the regime forces and thrown in the back of military jeeps.

In other cases, heavily armed Israeli forces storm family homes in the middle of the night, literally exploding the doors off their hinges, dragging children away from their parents and again throwing them in the backs of military jeeps, often kicking or hitting them with the backs of rifles. ▶ Page 5

Kazakhstan to host exclusive expo of Iranian products in early July

TEHRAN – Kazakhstan's city of Almaty is going to host an exclusive exhibition of Iranian products during July 1-3, according to the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

Alireza Peyman-Pak said that buildings and new technologies in the construction industry, agricultural machinery, technical and engineering services, oil, gas and petrochemical, industrial machinery, food industry, educational products and services, mining machinery, medicine and medical equipment, home appliances, furniture, and wooden products, and health tourism are some of the areas in which Iranian companies will showcase their products and achievements in the exhibit.

Kazakhstan is one of the major export destinations of Iranian products in Central Asia. Iran and Kazakhstan's positive political relations, as well as easy access to each other's markets through road, rail, air and sea, have created a very high potential for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries. ▶ Page 4

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Iran among top three Asian countries in biomedicine

TEHRAN – The production of biopharmaceuticals, thanks to the efforts of knowledge-based companies, has reached 28 items, making Iran the third leading country in Asia, IRIB reported on Wednesday.

A biopharmaceutical, also known as a biologic medical product, is any pharmaceutical drug product manufactured in, extracted from, or semi synthesized from biological sources.

Different from totally synthesized pharmaceuticals, they include vaccines, whole blood, blood components, allergenic, somatic cells, gene therapies, tissues, recombinant therapeutic protein, and living medicines used in cell therapy.

In the world today, biomedicine has attracted the attention of many governments and investors due to its strategic position and great added value. In Iran, the value-added of biomedical production after the field of information technology ▶ Page 7



Iftar meal at Imam Hossein square

People have gathered for Iftar meal at Tehran's Imam Hossein square, Wednesday, April 6.

People come every day during the month of Ramadan, reciting verses of the holy Quran before the call to prayer.

Lorestan's Sassanid-era fortress draws thousands of travelers

TEHRAN – The centuries-old Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress in Khorramabad, was the most visited monument in the western province of Lorestan during the two-week New Year (Noruz) holidays (March 21-April 2).

While over 1.6 million Noruz trippers visited the historical sites and natural sights across

the province, 190,967 people visited Falak-ol-Aflak Castle during the mentioned period, making it the top most visited attraction in the province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

After Falak al-Aflak Castle, Lake Keeyow attracted the most visitors during the time

noted, Seyyed Amin Qasemi explained on Wednesday.

The unmissable eight-towered Falak-ol-Aflak Castle dominates the city as one of the most visited travel destinations in the region for both domestic and foreign sightseers. ▶ Page 6

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Report

Arrogant countries accepted nuclear Iran: nuclear chief

TEHRAN – Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has said the arrogant countries in the world have accepted the reality of nuclear Iran.

In an interview with Al Alam news channel, Eslami addressed a variety of issues related to Iran's nuclear program.

He said the "arrogance" accepted the reality of a nuclear Iran.

The arrogance is an appellation Iran often uses to refer to the United States and some of its Western allies.

"We have always patiently and regularly mentioned and within the framework of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards that it is an international body of the United Nations and has a legal duty to assist, support, mediate and endeavor to promote, develop and use nuclear technology in all countries," Eslami said, adding "But not only didn't this happen to Iran, but the opposite happened, as they raised many problems for Iran and put pressure on the International Atomic Energy Agency. But we are already past this stage. They have accepted the fact that there is a nuclear Iran. Nuclear energy in the general sense of the word, not the things they accuse Iran of. Nuclear technology has a general meaning and a wide range of applications, including an important part of public health, food security, industrial fields, including process measurements and control systems in sensitive and mother industries, nuclear power, etc."

The AEOI chief pointed out that the arrogant America and its allies are determined to obstruct Iran's progress in any way possible. ▶ Page 3

Cinema Organization of Iran launches council to protect female filmmakers against sexual abuse

TEHRAN – Cinema Organization of Iran (COI) announced on Tuesday the inauguration of a council, which has been assigned to protect female filmmakers against misconduct, sexual harassment and abuse.

The Cinema Professional Ethics Council is composed of the managing director of the Iranian House of Cinema, the director of the Culture Ministry's Supervision and Evaluation Office, the managing director of the Farabi Cinema Foundation, the director of the COI Security Office, the director of the COI Legal Office, the COI adviser on professions, lawyer Maedeh Chitsaz and filmmaker Ensieh Shah-Hosseini.

The council has been established in response to an Iranian Me Too movement, which emerged last week after Somayyeh Mirshamsi, an assistant director, revealed her tale of being victimized by acts of misconduct and sexual harassment committed by a renowned actor in 2021. ▶ Page 8

The awkward confrontation



From page 1 ► Did Obama accidentally reveal the real leader of Washington?

After two terms in Obama's shadow, Biden has attempted to distinguish himself from his former boss at times, most notably on foreign policy. Many analysts say that Obama has been conscious of the need of letting Biden to rule as his own man, therefore, justifying the lack of communication between the two old friends.

The rift between Obama and Biden began when they worked together in the White House, but it got more serious when Obama declined to endorse Biden over other Democrats in the 2020 Democratic primary, a step both men argued was required to allow for a meaningful internal party contest.

Many democrat analysts compared Obama to Franklin D. Roosevelt, the "ultimate

transformer as they put it."

But Biden's tenure is full of embarrassing defeats, both in domestic and foreign affairs. From the shameful handling of the horrible withdrawal from Afghanistan, to a full year of negotiations in Vienna that have come to a halt due to the White House's inaction.

The Democrats viewed Biden as a conciliator and restorer, but so far, he has failed to do anything for the Americans. Fuel price has risen to an all-time high, inflation has spiked to set a historical record, the Ukraine-Russia conflict got worse with the American interference, Pakistan got into trouble due to the meddling of Washington, and so on.

Perhaps Biden is not as uncharismatic as Gerald Ford, but he will surely sit next to the worse presidents in the American history.

Iran to receive a large portion of frozen assets soon

TEHRAN — A significant portion of Iran's blocked assets will be released following a new agreement, IRNA reported on Wednesday, citing a well-informed source.

The recent agreement to release Iran's

assets has nothing to do with the JCPOA (the 2015 nuclear deal), and is the second major foreign exchange opening in recent weeks, the source added.

So far, the central bank has remained silent on the report.

Germany doesn't tolerate views of a 93-year-old woman: Iran's rights chief

TEHRAN – Iran's human rights chief has said Germany, which allows great flexibility toward insults against religious sanctities, does not tolerate the views expressed by a 93-year-old woman.

Ursula Haverbeck, dubbed the "Nazi Grandma" by German media, has questioned the Holocaust.

"Having given so much leeway to launch a broadside against religions and sanctities, Germany fails tolerate a 93-year-old for merely expressing her views," Kazem Gharibabadi tweeted on Tuesday.

Gharibabadi, a former diplomat who represented Iran at the international

organizations in The Hague and Vienna, said such an approach is an example of "systematic clampdown" against those who refused to give in to the "West's narratives".

"Only double-standards? Absolutely not! It is a systematic clampdown against those refusing to kow-tow to West's narratives," Gharibabadi remarked.

Haverbeck repeatedly said that Auschwitz was "not historically proven" to be a death camp, claiming it was a labor camp instead.

She has served a spate of prison terms for her views. Now she is back in jail after judge said she "spreads poison".

One cleric martyred, two wounded in stabbing attack at holy shrine of Imam Reza

TEHRAN — One Iranian cleric has lost his life and two others have been wounded in an unprecedented stabbing attack at the holy shrine of Imam Reza in the northeastern city of Mashhad, Press TV reported.

The assailant was arrested immediately after the attack, which took place at the courtyard of the holy shrine of the eighth Shia Imam in Khorasan Razavi Province on Tuesday, the third day of the fasting month of Ramadan.

The injured clerics were transferred to the hospital after being stabbed with a knife.

The intelligence arm of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in the province said in a statement that the identity and nationality of the assailant have been determined.

It added that an investigation is underway to shed light on the incident, cautioning against any speculation before the results are out.

Mashhad's Prosecutor General Mohammed Hossein Doroudi said four other people

besides the attacker have been arrested in connection with the incident.

The assailant, named Abdollatif Moradi, is a 21-year-old Uzbek national who illegally entered Iran through Pakistan. Videos of him is being circulated in the media that shows he was influenced by Takfiri and Wahhabis' ideology.

The motivation behind this terrorist attack is under investigation.

Many high-ranking officials condemned the attack, calling for unity among Sunnis and Shias.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi said, "Those who were hostile were from the Takfiri movement, and the colonialists and hypocrites must not be allowed to abuse ethnic and religious issues to sow discord between Muslims and the people of our country with neighbors; because sowing discord is one of the old methods of the colonialists."

Nuclear chief: R&D limitation has been reduced to 11 years in Vienna talks

TEHRAN — Mohammad Eslami, Iran's nuclear chief touched on nuclear steps in the new Iranian year.

Speaking in a press briefing, the vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) discussed the agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the alleged cases against Iran.

"As long as the Zionist regime forges fake documents and sabotages Iran's nuclear industries, this would be an ongoing battle. This is a process that is not condemned and suppressed, and it is natural that this is a battle between two movements, the movement of truth and the other is the movement of falsehood."

In this regard, he added, the AEOI is pursuing its goals and it will not be affected by these "loud noises."

He added that the IAEA inspectors came to Iran and saw the claimed evidence, concluding that the Israelis have forged some documents.

It is claimed that there is a type of uranium in one of the sites "which does not exist in Iran at all. The Zionist regime, which carries out these acts and commits terrorist acts, can do any kind of sabotage," Eslami pointed out.

According to Eslami, with the agreement reached with the IAEA, steps were announced to resolve the issue of four alleged nuclear sites, which the IAEA announced that their questions

about one location had been resolved and that the IAEA must conclude its investigations regarding the three remaining sites by the end of June and the file should be closed.

"It is a claim and it must be closed and they themselves know that the truth is not what the Zionist regime is pursuing," the nuclear chief said.

Responding to a question, Eslami said that the documents that Iran should have sent on March 20 have been provided to the UN nuclear watchdog and probably a number of IAEA inspectors will come to review the answers and then write the final report.

In response to a question about the Vienna talks and also stalemate in the talks, the vice president said, "The talks are being conducted by the Iranian negotiating team and are going through their own stages. The important issue is the will of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always been a pioneer, is to resolve the ambiguities and so far, it has built trust."

He stressed that the Iranian nation has never accepted and will not accept "illegal remarks".

"For our own good and to show our goodwill, at the time the JCPOA was signed, the Atomic Energy Organization acted exactly on the JCPOA, and none of the other signatories acted on their obligations under the JCPOA.

'Our nuclear technology is domestic'

Elsewhere in the presser, Eslami talked about nuclear



technology in Iran.

"What is used in Iran's nuclear technology is all Iranian," he stressed.

He added that Iran has purchased some items, but it is important to recognize the technology that has been achieved through research.

Iran has broken the monopoly of nuclear technology, Eslami reiterated.

He then went on to say that for the Iranian new year, 9 new achievements will be unveiled on April 9, which includes three achievements in the field of radiopharmaceuticals that are used for diagnosis and treatment, which will enter clinical trials with the permission of the Ministry of Health. Two achievements in the field of plasma, which is perhaps the first time that the country uses cold plasma technology, one of which is in the discussion of plasma therapy for the treatment of cancer, which is a harmless and effective method due to the large number of cancer patients.

He added that in the field of plasma technology, the issue of detoxification with plasma technology will be revealed, especially for products such as pistachios, which are commonly infected with pests and have caused damage to Iranian products in global markets.

The nuclear chief also stated, "We will pursue the construction plan of a 360-megawatt indigenous power plant in Darkhovin in the Iranian new year, to employ all knowledge-based

industries, and to implement the first power plant with domestic contractors and knowledge-based companies, and the country will have a respectable position among the builders of nuclear power plants."

'Relations with IAEA have been normal'

He also referred to international relations and interactions with the IAEA, saying, "In the past few months, with special measures that have been taken, we have been able to conduct completely normal conditions, with logical relations and in accordance with the rules and regulations. We hope this relationship can be strengthened every day."

'Russia no longer pursues issue of guarantees'

According to the AEOI chief, Russia has officially announced that it has received a letter from the U.S. State Department and is no longer pursuing concerns about assurances.

Responding to a question about the R&D limitation in the Vienna talks, Eslami said that the R&D issue is mainly about machines, and what is being discussed is within the framework of the AEOI's views.

"We hope that the in line with our commitments, the commitments of the other side will be fulfilled. Four years of our limitation in the R&D field has been reduced, and it is now 11 years instead of 15 years, and we hope that these steps will be taken sooner so that we do not talk with doubts," he added.

President calls for knowledge-based management

TEHRAN — Iran's president believes that the management in the country should be knowledge-based.

Speaking on Tuesday in a meeting with entrepreneurs and knowledge-based production actors that lasted about 2 hours, President Ayatollah Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi stated that it is necessary to change the perspective in the field of knowledge-based economy.

"Today, officials and entrepreneurs must work hard to bring the current situation closer to the desired situation."

Emphasizing that management in the country should be knowledge-based, the president said that he believes that the need to move towards a knowledge-based economy is "to seek knowledge-based management, so change in management areas is a serious necessity of society."

To do great things in the country, Raisi added, it is necessary to change the processes, otherwise in the existing complex administrative system nothing can be done.

"Therefore, the process of idea formation is necessary to transform and facilitate its



transformation into a product," the president remarked.

Referring to the important role of industries and large companies in strengthening knowledge-based companies, Raisi added that large industries should base their activities and production on knowledge, and if this does not happen, small knowledge-based companies cannot grow effectively.

The president noted, "By providing the necessary incentives, government agencies can lead large industries and companies to knowledge-based activities and support the products of knowledge-based companies."

Raisi also put an emphasis on making the

motto of the year happen, saying that it is not only the duty of the vice-president for science and technology, but "all institutions should feel responsible in this regard."

The president added that in institutional transformation, it is necessary to transform the departments related to knowledge-based companies, and in this regard, instead of knowledge-based companies going to executive bodies, it is these departments that should seriously pursue the concerns and problems of knowledge-based companies.

Raisi described uncontrolled imports as a serious obstacle to the development of companies and knowledge-based products, adding, "The relevant authorities need to seriously prevent such imports and identify them if there are secret groups in this field."

The president concluded his remarks by saying that when there are products with advanced technology and with the necessary and competitive standards in the country, similar ones should not be imported into the country and in no way should some people be allowed to seek uncontrolled imports through favoritism.

Iran urges international community to pressure Israel to join NPT

TEHRAN– Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations on Tuesday urged the international community to exert pressure on the Israeli regime to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Zahra Ershadi emphasized how nuclear weapons posed "an existential threat to humanity."

"This global cause of insecurity should have brought the international community together. Instead, we are witness to the ongoing escalation of political and military tensions, including the continuous threat to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear

countries," she told the annual meeting of the UN Disarmament Commission.

The diplomat drew attention to the Islamic Republic's initiative at the UN to establish a zone in West Asia from free from weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

"The Israeli regime is a vivid obstacle to this noble goal. It possesses all types of WMD and threatens to use them against the regional countries," Ershadi warned.

Israel, which follows a policy of deliberate ambiguity regarding its nuclear weapons program, is thought to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads, making it the

sole holder of non-conventional weapons in West Asia.

Israel has refused to allow inspections of its military nuclear installations or ratify the NPT.

The regime has also killed at least seven Iranian nuclear experts and carried out various sabotage operations against the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities throughout the years.

"Furthermore, this regime has committed various terrorist attacks against nuclear scientists and has also initiated different sabotage attacks against nuclear facilities," Ershadi likewise pointed out.

"Therefore, it (Tel Aviv) must be

forced to join all related instruments, including the NPT, without any precondition and as a non-nuclear party must place all its nuclear facilities and activities under the comprehensive safeguards of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," she insisted.

Ershadi's speech is as follows:

I congratulate you, other bureau members, and the chairs of the working committees on your election. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the NAM by Indonesia. The full version of my statement will be submitted later.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

TEHRAN – A remarkable amount of Iran's blocked assets has been released in accordance with a deal separate from the 2015 nuclear deal, whose negotiations have come to a standstill.

Iran's state news agency IRNA broke the news Wednesday amid growing uncertainties over the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

A significant portion of Iran's blocked foreign exchange resources will be released following a new agreement that is independent of the JCPOA, IRNA said, citing an informed source.

The state agency said the assets are “many times” larger than the €470 million recently released by dent of a deal between Iran and the UK.

The recent agreement to release Iran's foreign assets is independent of the JCPOA and is the second major release of Iranian assets in recent weeks.

The release of Iran's funds comes against a backdrop of renewed improvement in leading sectors of Iran's economy. For instance, Iran's oil production rebounded to pre-sanctions levels at a time when the U.S. hasn't removed any of its oil and gas restrictions on Iran.

Iran's Oil Minister, Javad Oji, has announced that the country's crude oil production has reached the pre-sanction level.

Underlining that the current capacity of Iran's oil production

Iran's efforts to neutralize U.S. sanctions reach new heights



has reached more than 3.8 million barrels per day (bpd), the minister said, “We hope that through the efforts of all those active in this sector, we will reach higher figures in the exports of crude oil, gas condensate, oil products, and petrochemicals in [the current Iranian calendar year] 1400 (started on March 21)”.

“By taking effective measures in onshore and offshore oil fields, drilling new wells, repairing wells, rebuilding and modernizing

facilities, and oil collection centers, the current oil production capacity has reached before the sanctions, and we have no problem in performance and this amount of production,” Oji added.

“Iran's oil exports have risen under the toughest sanctions and without waiting for the outcome of the Vienna talks,” the minister had said in mid-March.

Back in January, Head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr

said the country's oil revenues have increased significantly over the past few months and the country has received the payment for all its crude oil sales since the new government.

The positive economic indications come as the talks in Vienna remain in limbo due to the unwillingness of the Biden administration to make tough political decisions. Over the last few months, the U.S. has been constantly calling for the instant conclusion of the talks without taking any practical steps to achieve that goal.

On the other hand, Iran made all the necessary decisions concerning the Vienna talks which resumed in April last year. Iranian Foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has recently said that “the ball is now in the United States' court.”

The economic rebound of Iran also highlights the fact that the U.S. needs to resurrect the JCPOA more than Iran does. The U.S. imposed sweeping sanctions on Iran with the aim of using them as leverage to extract concessions from Iran. But these sanctions are losing their effect by the day. Iran has managed to successfully weather the storm while the U.S. is now grappling with the adverse effects of its sanctions policy toward Iran.

Iran is now in a better position than it was a year ago. It has coped with the effects of U.S. sanctions and is now preparing for the growth of more than 5 percent for the new Iranian year.

Arrogant countries accepted nuclear Iran: nuclear chief

Frome Page 1 ▶ Responding to a question of the cooperation between Iran and IAEA in face of sabotages, Eslami said, “The topic is important in talking to the Agency, the origin of this matter is the allegations and fabricated documents that the Zionist entity [Israel] prepares and submits to the Agency on a regular basis. With the use of pressure by taking advantage of the capabilities of the available forces, pressure is escalated on the International Atomic Energy Agency to put pressure on Iran and thus disrupting the progress of the Iranian nuclear industry. In this course, discussions took place on the same topics. The documents requested by the Agency have been sent, and we hope, as previously announced, that all exchanges will take place by June at the latest, clear up all vagueness and close the door to these allegations so as not to further harm our country and allow us to proceed on a normal course of developing our nuclear program.”

He noted, “The Agency can usually proceed from whatever source it gets the information and it has no restrictions. But the monitoring imposed by the Agency on Iran is not found in any other country. America and its allies are determined to obstruct Iran's progress in any way possible. This is the main goal of the arrogance and its allies, and we have to repeat this issue constantly and we believe that they do not want Iran to advance in any way, so they are ready to create any kind of obstacles and pretexts and stir up problems.”

He continued, “Of course, the Agency needs to review the information it routinely produces, and these accusations have been steadily increasing for 20 years now. They pretend there is something and they come and check and then it turns out it's not true, then they close the case. For a while they gave up on it and then started the same procedure again.”

Underlining the IAEA double standards, Eslami pointed out, “Iran's capacity in the field of nuclear technologies in terms of facilities and capabilities is between 2 to 3 percent of the world's maximum capacity, but 25 to 26 percent of the Agency's supervision takes place in Iran, and it is from these two figures that the double standards of the Agency can be understood. For some countries, there is a 'nuclear spring' and they do whatever they want, they have nuclear weapons and no one pays attention to them.”

Eslami also pointed to Israel's nuclear weapons, saying that “the Zionist entity has dozens of warheads and nuclear weapons, and carries out various types of clandestine activities, and has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty either. But they do no address it in any

way, and they are not held accountable at all. But they do most of the inspections in Iran, and this is in perfect harmony with the main objective and motive behind their desire to impede Iran's progress.”

Eslami also highlighted France's double standards. He said, “Today we see that the French president announces a nuclear renaissance in his country, and then at the same time calls the president of our country and says why are you working in the field of nuclear technology! OK, if nuclear technology is halal, profitable, and constitutes a basic foundation for sustainable development, and you have moved to nuclear technology and nuclear electricity in order to obtain sustainable energy and the absence of pollutants, then why do we not use this technology?!”

He stated, “These are the double standards that are used, rooted in hostility to the Islamic Revolution, by those who do not want any progress to be made under a banner that is not theirs, who do not want the world to realize that without the hegemony and dictates of arrogance, progress can be achieved. They want to suggest that progress will only happen under their control, and there is no way to progress without it, but the Islamic Revolution came and paid the price with the blood of its martyrs to say that progress will happen and that the strength is for all of us.”

Eslami lambasted the U.S. pressure on Iran, saying that the so-called policy of “maximum pressure” on Iran did not work.

“Sanctions and harassment against the Iranian people and country must be removed, and the phase of confidence-building can begin. But they did not fulfill their pledges and chose the maximum pressure method to destroy the revolution and the Islamic Republic. While the Islamic Republic not only has not stopped, but has become more advanced and successful, and they themselves admit that these methods were ineffective and must return to the nuclear agreement again. Please go back to the nuclear agreement. The nuclear agreement is a clear document, and each of them has duties in it, and this is a return to commitments.”

He added, “Iran has fulfilled all its obligations in good faith, and you who did not abide by your signature, and you did not act according to your signature, everything that was specified in the nuclear agreement must be implemented, so there is no new understanding. The purpose of these negotiations taking place today is to return to the understanding that was reached

mutual and international concerns, including collaboration and coordination among Caspian Sea littoral states.

The Turkmen top diplomat mentioned progress at the expert level in preparing drafts with the goal of enhancing cooperation among Caspian Sea littoral countries, collaborating in the scientific arena, coordinating Search and Rescue (SAR), combating drug trafficking in the region, as well as deepening relationship among these states, holding joint

meetings among foreign ministers, and preparing joint sessions at leadership level.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the establishment of friendly and advancing ties between Turkmenistan and Iran, stating that the Islamic Republic actively encourages the extension of relationship in all spheres, particularly among Caspian Sea littoral states.

Iran has always welcomed regional collaboration and joint working sessions to strengthen

connections, particularly in the Caspian Sea region, according to the Iranian foreign minister.

The Iranian foreign minister also thanked his Turkmen counterpart on the holy month of Ramadan, invoking God's favor and kindness on Turkmenistan's government and people.

On March 30, both Iranian and Turkmen foreign ministers met in China. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors hosted by China.

Lyon memories spur Iran football team

TEHRAN - Iran are set for their sixth FIFA World Cup adventure. Currently the top Asian nation on the FIFA World Ranking, they previously appeared at the tournament in 1978, 1998, 2006, 2014 and 2018.

Team Melli failed to record a win on their World Cup debut in 1978, but their maiden victory came the next time they qualified. At France 1998, under coach Jalal Talebi, they went down 1-0 in their opening match to Yugoslavia before facing the U.S. in their second outing.

This match grabbed the headlines at the time, and not just on the sports pages, due to the political tensions between the two countries. Fans in Lyon who got to attend the evening game were treated to a defining moment in sport. Together with referee Urs Meier, the two teams posed for a photograph before kick-off, while the Iranian players gave the opposition players flowers as a gesture of peace.

The match itself was an example of fair play, with Iran triumphing 2-1 thanks to goals from Hamid Estili and Mehdi Mahdavia, who would go on to play in the Bundesliga. Brian McBride pulled a late goal back for the Americans, but it was too little, too late.

After the final whistle of what was a thrilling contest, the solidarity inherent in football was once again on display as the players congratulated one another and exchanged jerseys. The group stage was as far as either team would go on this occasion, with Germany and Yugoslavia making it through to the Round of 16 instead, FIFA.com wrote.

The same fate befell the Iranians at the World Cups of 2006 and 2014, when they again went out in the group stage, each time having picked up a solitary point. At Russia 2018, Iran performed admirably, beating Morocco 1-0, losing to Spain by the same scoreline, and drawing 1-1 with Portugal. Unfortunately, a 3-3 draw between the Iberians didn't help their cause and they just missed out on the knockout phase.

At Qatar 2022, Iran will be eager to go one better. Group B will see coach Dragan Skocic's team face the winner of the European play-offs between Scotland, Ukraine and Wales, England and the U.S. in a repeat of that iconic match from France 1998. In what promises to be an exciting group, the three points up for grabs in that latter match could well decide if one of those two teams makes it through.

Led by star players Sardar Azmoun (Bayer Leverkusen) and Mehdi Taremi (Porto), the Iranians will be looking to secure a second World Cup win over USA on 29 November and celebrate qualification for the Round of 16 for the first time in their history.

Iran to hold training camp in Doha: Estili

TEHRAN – Director of Iran national football team Hamid Estili says that Team Melli will hold a two-week training camp in Doha, Qatar in June.

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with England, the U.S. and the winner of the European play-offs between Scotland, Ukraine and Wales.

Estili says that the football federation has negotiated with several teams for the friendly matches, in which Team Melli will play four warm-up games in Doha.

“We had already negotiated with USA for friendly match but after Iran was paired with the team, the match was canceled,” Estili said.

“Team Melli will hold a two-week training camp in Doha as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup. Iran will play four friendly matches in the camp,” he added.

Iran's motto at 2022 Deaflympics revealed

TEHRAN - Iran Deaf Sports Federation unveiled its official motto for the 2021 Deaflympics.

“Success in Silence” was revealed as official motto of Iran delegation in the Games.

The 24th edition of the 2022 Summer Deaflympics will be held in Brazilian city of Caxias do Sul from May 1 to 15.

Iran will take part in eight sports, namely athletic, football, wrestling, judo, beach volleyball, shooting, karate and taekwondo.

Originally, the latest edition of the Summer Deaflympics were scheduled to take place from December 5 to 21 last year but it was postponed to May 2022 in January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Organizing Committee have revealed that they believe around 1,000 volunteers will contribute to putting the event together.

The 24th edition of the competition, which claims to be the world's oldest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games having first been held in Paris in 1924, is anticipated to involved 6,500 people, including teams, technical commissions, and deaf athletes from over 90 countries.

This contrasts to the estimated 5,000 athletes and delegates who participated at Samsun five years ago.

It is set to feature 219 events in 18 sports, the same number as the 2017 version.

This includes athletics, badminton, basketball, golf, table tennis, taekwondo and tennis.

In 2019, the 19th edition of the Winter Deaflympics was hosted in the Italian northern Province of Sondrio.

Mousavi terminates deal with Fenerbahce

TEHRAN - Fenerbahce HDI Sigorta volleyball club parted company with Iranian player Seyed Mohammad Mousavi.

Mousavi's contract the Turkish club was terminated by mutual agreement.

The 34-year-old middle blocker had joined the Yellow-Navy Blues at the beginning of the season.

“We have parted ways with Seyed Mohammad Mousavi, the player of our Fenerbahçe HDI Sigorta Men's Volleyball Team, who has an agreement until the end of the season. We thank our player for all his efforts and wish him success in his future career,” the club announced in a statement.

Fenerbahce have won 21 out of 26 matches in the AXA Sigorta Efeler League this season. They are in the 2nd place after Halkbank with 63 points.

There is a five points difference between Fenerbahçe HDI Sigorta and the leaders Halkbank.

10-man Esteghlal held by Paykan: IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team missed a golden chance to move eight points clear at top of Iran Professional League (IPL) table Tuesday night.

The Blues shared the spoils in a goalless draw in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Esteghlal were reduced to 10 men after Brazilian defender Raphael Silva was sent off in the 41st minute.

Paykan created so many chances but their strikers failed to capitalize on them.

Esteghlal goalkeeper Hossein Hosseini was the Man of the Match.

In Isfahan, struggling Naft Masjed Soleyman earned a great 1-0 win over Zob Ahan and Gol Gohar seized a late 3-3 draw against rock-bottom Shahr Khodro in Sirjan.

Esteghlal sit six points clear of Persepolis atop the table.

ICCIMA board member outlines major concerns of businessmen this year

TEHRAN – Keyvan Kashefi, a board member of Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has said the increase in wage rates, the elimination of subsidized foreign currency, and the dependence of the foreign exchange rates on the results of the Vienna talks are among the most important concerns of Iranian businessmen in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), the ICCIMA portal reported.

Stating that the increase in wages will be one of the serious problems for business owners this year, Kashefi said: “Although in theory the minimum wage has increased by 57 percent, but taking into account other expenses such as insurance, taxes, etc., the figure will reach 100 percent.”

Speaking in a meeting with the representatives of Kermanshah Province’s private sector, the official warned about the consequences of such a great rise including unemployment and inflation, saying: “I believe that it is not logical to set wages on a solid basis and we should move towards floating and negotiated wages that will both boost production and increase productivity.”



He further mentioned the government’s plan for eliminating the allocation of foreign currency with subsidized exchange rates to the imports of basic goods, noting that although such exchange rates have created serious rent and corruption, their elimination must be gradually and based on a well-thought plan.

Kashefi also pointed to the possible results of the nuclear talks that are currently undergoing in Vienna and said that if a good agreement is reached, part of the government’s assets will be released and the government will have the freedom to inject currency into the local market and adjust foreign exchange rates.

Housing price increases 16% in Tehran city



TEHRAN- Average housing price rose 16 percent in the capital Tehran during the last month of the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), compared to the same month in the preceding year, according to a report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 351.2 million rials (about \$1,377) during the last month of the past year,

up 6.2 from its previous month, and 16 percent from the same month of the preceding year.

As reported, the number of real estate deals stood at 6,800 in the capital city in the last month of the past year, falling 19.9 percent from its previous month, while increasing 29.6 percent, from the same month of the preceding year.

Back in April, 2021, the head of Iran’s Property Advisers Union had said that housing prices in the country should decrease at least 25 percent in order for people to be able to afford to purchase.

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

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

Annual export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province rises 177%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province rose 177 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year, a provincial official announced.

Jahanbakhsh Moradi, the deputy head of the province’s Industry, Mining and Trade Department for trade affairs, said that over 130,000 tons of commodities worth \$92.785 million were exported from the province in the previous year, indicating also 252 percent growth in terms of weight year on year.

He named tiles and ceramics, home appliances, milk powder, urea and ammonia, almonds, aquatic feed, floor covering, fish feed, metal and plastic products, and gas cylinders as the main products exported from the province, and Iraq, Turkey, India, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, and Georgia as the major export destinations in the past year.

As previously announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran’s Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran’s non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400, as compared to its previous year.

Alireza Moqadasi put the country’s non-oil trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122 million tons of non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for its preceding year.

The country’s non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official underlined.

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.

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

Comprehensive plan underway to supply water to 10,000 villages



TEHRAN - Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian said his ministry is currently implementing a comprehensive program for supplying drinkable water to 10,000 villages across the country, IRNA reported.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of a meeting with members of the Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources, and Environment Committee of the parliament on Tuesday, Mehrabian pointed to the issues raised in this meeting, saying “This was our first meeting in the current year 1401 (began on March 21) during which the plans of the Energy Ministry for this year were presented.”

“Hopefully with the budget allocations that have been approved within the framework of the current year’s budget bill, the implementation of the ministry’s programs will be accelerated,” the minister said.

According to Mehrabian, the mentioned comprehensive plan is a large-scale development project which will be implemented in all the provinces, and the water problems of many villages will be resolved when the program is completed.

With regard to the urban water supply, the development of water supply to cities, especially cities in dry areas and those which have emergency plans, has been given

priority, the official added.

“This year we hope to be able to implement many of these projects, although we have difficult years ahead due to reduced rainfall. Unfortunately, we are facing serious water problems in some provinces, especially those that have already experienced drought for two consecutive years,” he said.

Iran has been wrestling with severe drought over the past decade and the situation is expected to get worsened in the future.

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.

Back in March 2021, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology announced the preparation of a national document for preserving water resources, managing drought, and soil erosion, and protecting the environment.

Optimization of water consumption, protection of the environment, management of sand and dust storms (SDSs), and reduction of pollutants in water, air, and soil were the four main themes of the mentioned document.

Kazakhstan to host exclusive expo of Iranian products in early July



Licensed by Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, the exhibition is going to be organized by Trade and Exhibition Event Promotion Company in collaboration with the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Astana, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Ministry of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan and Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber of Commerce.

The exhibition comes shortly after the two countries held their 17th Joint Economic Committee meeting in Tehran during February 21-22.

The mentioned event was attended by senior officials from the two countries, including Iranian Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad, Kazakhstan’s Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov, Kazakhstan’s Ambassador to

Tehran Askhat Orazbay, ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, and ICCIMA Deputy Head Mohammadreza Karbasi as well as Iranian ambassador to Astana Majiad Samadzadeh Saber.

During the meeting, the two sides expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of economic relations between the two countries and noted that the level of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan can reach \$3 billion in the next three years.

At the end of the event, the two sides signed five cooperation documents in various fields including standards, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural as well as customs.

The mentioned documents were signed by Iran’s Sadati-Nejad and Kazakhstan’s Sultanov who co-chaired the two countries’ 17th Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Trade between Iran, EAEU exceeds \$5b in 11 months

TEHRAN - The value of trade between Iran and the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) reached \$5.034 billion during the 11-month period from March 21, 2021 to February 19, 2022, Mohammad-Reza Karbasi, a member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) told the Young Journalists Club (YJC).

Iran and Eurasian Economic



Union reached a free trade agreement in October 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed on May 17, 2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan,

and Kyrgyzstan).

The free trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides.

The agreement with the bloc has increased Iran’s exports to the EAEU member states significantly, which is a turning point for the Islamic Republic’s plans for boosting non-oil exports during the U.S. sanctions.

Cabinet approves resolution to support developing oil, gas downstream sectors



TEHRAN – The cabinet has approved a new resolution proposed by the Oil Ministry to add a note to Article (17) of the executive law on supporting the development of downstream oil and gas condensate sectors in order to allow changing the license of refinery projects to petro-refinery ones.

As reported by Shana, the mentioned resolution was approved in a cabinet meeting headed by President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday.

Based on the mentioned resolution, the contractors implementing refinery projects across the country can request to change their legal project license into petro-refinery after receiving proof of financial capability and approval of their development plan by the Oil Ministry.

Increasing the country’s petro-refining capacity has recently become a hot topic among Iran’s top research institutions and research centers as a key defense mechanism against the impacts of the U.S. sanctions on

the country’s oil industry.

Experts and analysts argue that in addition to generating more revenue, the conversion of crude oil to oil products will have many other benefits including creating new job opportunities, economic prosperity, and reviving other industries. And most importantly, it will lead to a stronger economy that could easily withstand U.S. pressures.

Based on the national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), Oil Ministry has been authorized

to use various resources including the private sector and foreign investments to construct petro-refineries with a total capacity of 300,000 barrels per day across the country.

The decision in this regard was announced during a Parliament’s (Majlis) open session in early March.

The ministry is also allowed to barter crude oil for paying the contractors of the mentioned project.

Earlier in January, Oil Minister Javad Oji said some major domestic banks are going to form a consortium with a total investment capacity of four billion dollars to implement petro-refinery projects across the country.

“A large part of the financial resources required for the implementation of the country’s oil projects will be provided with the support of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, and this includes the financial resources needed for the refining sector as well,” Oji said.

announced on March 15.

“One of the plans of the central bank and the securities and exchange organization for this year is to launch money market funds that [currently] exist in the world but not in Iran, so we hope to create them in the present year,” Ali Saleh-Abadi stated.

Saleh-Abadi made the remarks at the unveiling ceremony of SEO’s new capital market assessment and monitoring system in Tehran.

TEDPIX falls 7,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 7,675 points to 1.463 million on Wednesday.

Over 12,303 billion securities worth 60.457 trillion rials (about \$237.08 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market’s index dropped 9,654 points, and the second market’s index lost 2,990 points.

Back in October 2021, the head of Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO)

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.

Meanwhile, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) plans to collaborate with the SEO to launch money market mutual funds in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), the bank’s governor

Israeli regime has arrested over 9,000 Palestinian kids since 2015

From page 1 ▶ In most cases, the detained children are subject to interrogation without the presence of their parents or an attorney or placed in solitary confinement, while there is an ongoing and systematic torture.

According to PPS testimonies provided by the minors show that most of them underwent some sort of physical or psychological torture at the hands of their Israeli interrogators using a range of mechanisms and methods in violation of laws, international agreements and conventions on children's rights.

PPS says 19,000 children have been detained since the outbreak of the second Intifada (uprising) in September 2000 that included children less than ten years of age. The report also stated that about 19,000 girls and boys were detained between 2000 and March 2022.

160 children under the age of 18 are currently serving time in Israeli prisons.

The regime has also been documented by other Palestinian advocacy groups as targeting children who suffer from medical conditions and are held without charge or trial under administrative detention.

In other words Palestinian kids are not treated any differently from Palestinian adults when it comes to Israel's cruel imprisonment.

When kids are regularly dragged off the street for throwing stones at regime forces it does beg the question what threat do they pose toward Israeli regime tanks and warplanes?

Palestinian advocates say it just reflects the exceptionally brutal and illicit apartheid regime which has been practicing, what is known under international law, as state sponsored terrorism for decades now.

The lack of international media attention towards the regime's war crimes has also been a source of major concern and alarm.

Analysts have been making increasing comparisons with the Western media's rolling non stop coverage of the unfortunate conflict in Ukraine and the lack of any coverage towards Israeli



attacks and war crimes against the Palestinians during the same period let alone over the past 74 years.

The only coverage by western government's state media is the narrative that Israel has the right to defend itself which means Palestinians only have a right to die, while the coverage in Ukraine has been the exact opposite.

The question that also raises itself is: what's the difference between the sanctity of Ukrainian children and the sanctity of Palestinian children?

Is there a difference or really just a matter of an exceptionally hypocritical political class in the West and it's complicit media that covers up the reality?

There is certainly a double standard that reflects imperialist interest. The corporate media or state sponsored media in Western imperialist powers avoid paying any attention to the war crimes happening in the occupied Palestinian territories while at the same time actively justifying them.

Just like the media in the U.S. and the UK and some European countries who are part of NATO are taking sides in the Ukraine conflict, they are doing the same in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Unfortunately in the occupied Palestinian territories, "their side" is the side of the colonizer, the side of the occupier, the side of the perpetrator of apartheid and the side of the war criminal.

What we see, instead of the reality,

is propaganda demonizing the Palestinians' legitimate resistance which is an absolute and fundamental right under international law to resist occupation and aggression. And that involves any necessary resistance including armed struggle.

Instead in the occupied Palestinian territories, this is demonized, which analysts say is a double standard that shows these countries are not just onlookers in the ongoing crimes taking place but complicit participants and perpetrators in the Israeli regime's ongoing war crimes against the occupied Palestinians.

The Commission for Detainees and Ex-Detainees' Affairs, says Israeli occupation forces have arrested more than 50,000 Palestinian children since 1967. Abdul Nasser Ferwaneh, the commission's head of Studies and Documentation Department, says this number, includes girls and boys, stressing that Israel does not respect international laws and conventions when it comes to dealing with minors.

About 1,300 Palestinian children were detained in 2021, Ferwaneh said; a 140 per cent increase in the rate of child detentions compared to the previous year. Since the start of 2022, Ferwaneh said, Israel has detained more than 200 children.

But analysts say the number fails to reflect the hundreds of thousands of other children who are arrested, interrogated and then sent home who might not have been placed in a jail cell but nevertheless subjected to the same

psychological trauma that has been going on for decades.

Meanwhile, according to a new report published by the Ministry of Health, during the year 2021, Israeli occupation forces also killed 355 Palestinians and injured more than 16,500 others. It said that 265 of the Palestinians killed by the regime were in the besieged Gaza Strip and mainly during the Israeli war on Gaza in May of last year, and 90 were in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem (Al-Quds).

Most of the injuries registered by the ministry were also recorded in May during Israel's 11-day aggression against Gaza, the ministry said, adding that 3000 injuries were hospitalized, including 2131 in the besieged Gaza Strip and 964 in the occupied territories' hospitals.

According to data provided by the ministry, the number of Palestinians killed by Israel in 2021 jumped from 10 in April to 303 in May. Among those killed, 87 were children, 60 were women, and 18 were elderly.

The Ministry of Health said that in the occupied West Bank, the Nablus district recorded the highest number of Palestinians killed by Israelis and reached 30, followed by 14 in Jenin, 13 in Ramallah and al-Bireh district, 11 in the Hebron district, and 10 in the Jerusalem district.

In the Gaza Strip, 120 Palestinians were killed in Gaza City, 75 in northern Gaza, and 34 in the Khan Yunis area in the south.

Injuries by live bullets jumped as well from 56 in April 2021 to 2866 in May of the same year as a result of the war on Gaza. One out of four live bullet injuries was a child less than 18 years old, said the report. It said that 50% of the injuries were due to live bullets, and that out of the 964 injuries treated at the West Bank hospitals, 35% were in the upper extremities.

"This indicates that the Israeli soldiers had the will to kill Palestinians especially if we take in consideration the 50% live-bullet rate," said the Health Ministry in its report.

Australia, UK, US alliance to develop hypersonic missiles

The United States, United Kingdom and Australia announced Tuesday they will work together via the recently created security alliance known as AUKUS to develop hypersonic missiles, ABC News reported.

The move comes amid growing concern by the U.S. and allies about China's growing military assertiveness in the Pacific. U.S. President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the plan after holding a check-in on the progress of AUKUS, the Indo-Pacific alliance that was launched by the three countries in September.

The leaders said in a joint statement they are "committed today to commence new trilateral cooperation on hypersonics and counter-hypersonics, and electronic warfare capabilities, as well as to expand information sharing and to deepen cooperation on defense innovation."

The U.S., Russia and China have all looked to further develop hypersonic missiles — a system so fast that it cannot be intercepted by any current missile defense system.

In October, Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed that China had conducted a test of a hypersonic weapon system as part of its aggressive effort to advance in space and military technologies.

Milley described the Chinese test as a "very

significant event of a test of a hypersonic weapon system, and it is very concerning," in a Bloomberg Television interview.

Russia has used hypersonic missiles "multiple" times in Ukraine, according to the top U.S. commander in Europe.

Last fall, as U.S. intelligence officials had become increasingly concerned about the massing of Russian forces on the Ukraine border, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged the country's arms manufacturers to develop even more advanced hypersonic missiles to maintain the country's edge in military technologies.

The Russian military has said that its Avangard system is capable of flying 27 times faster than the speed of sound and making sharp maneuvers on its way to a target to dodge the enemy's missile shield. It has been fitted to the existing Soviet-built intercontinental ballistic missiles instead of older type warheads, and the first unit armed with the Avangard entered duty in December 2019.

The Kinzhal, carried by MiG-31 fighter jets, has a range of up to 2,000 kilometers (about 1,250 miles) and flies at 10 times the speed of sound, according to Russian officials.

The Pentagon's 2023 budget request already includes \$4.7 billion for research and development of hypersonic weapons. It includes planning that

takfiri groups as a kind of "good terrorism" fighting against the dictatorship in Syria to justify their presence in this country.

The division of terrorism by the West into good and bad groups was a dangerous distance that led to the growth and development of terrorism even in Europe. Naturally, the issue of terrorism and terrorism is condemned and irrational in every way, and at that time, Iran, which is at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, condemned the false concepts of good and bad terrorism.

With the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, the concepts of "good occupation" and "bad occupation" are entering the world political literature. The United States, which has never condemned the Israeli occupation of Palestine and has supported the Saudi-led invasion and occupation of

Yemen, has raised the banner of opposition to the occupation of countries, including Ukraine, and supports Ukraine's territorial integrity. Interestingly, the occupying regime in Jerusalem, which has been committing crimes against the occupation of Palestine for many years, also declares its opposition to the occupation of Ukraine. More interestingly, Turkey, which has occupied northern Cyprus since 1974 with a military offensive, also condemns Russia's occupation of Ukraine. In another double standard, Turkey opposes the Armenian occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh in the Caucasus, while considering itself an occupier of Northern Cyprus. The US and NATO occupation of Afghanistan were one of the good occupations under the pretext of fighting terrorism, which led to the destruction of Afghanistan and the

humiliating defeat of NATO.

But more disgusting is the occupation of territories, the division of occupation into good and bad, and the dual attitude of Western countries and their allies and international organizations, including the United Nations, in support of the territorial integrity of countries. In their view, if a European country is occupied by mobs and whites, it is a "bad occupation" and should be dealt with severely. But if Palestine or Yemen and other West Asian countries are occupied, it is a "good occupation" and should be supported.

In the Ukraine crisis, Western countries and international institutions deprived Russia of its rights. In this crisis, FIFA ignores the "non-political nature" of sports matches, and Russia as a "bad occupier," can not participate in the Qatar World Cup. While

The Ukraine war is bad for global efforts to slow spread of nuclear arms: analysis

In a commentary published on the Project Syndicate on March 30, Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, has said the Ukraine war is "bad for global efforts to slow spread of nuclear weapons".

Following is the text of the article:

It is one month into Russian President Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine. Actually, there are two wars: A Russian war waged mainly against Ukraine's cities and civilian population, and a war fought by Ukraine's armed forces against Russian troops. Russia is winning the former; Ukraine is winning the latter.

Ideally, negotiations will lead to a ceasefire and a lasting settlement. But it is equally if not more likely that the conflict will continue for some time, especially if Putin decides to embrace a strategy that reduces the exposure of his troops to combat and rejects a negotiated outcome on terms the government of Ukraine could accept. "Limited war, no peace," to paraphrase Trotsky, would be the result.

Who would be the winners and losers in such a scenario?

It is easiest to point to the biggest loser: Russia. It is clear now that Putin will be unable to achieve the political objectives he likely sought, namely, to march into Kyiv and replace Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's government with one friendly to the Kremlin. Putin's war of choice may have destroyed much of Ukraine physically, but the unprecedented sanctions and economic isolation his decision has wrought are destroying Russia economically.

In addition, many talented Russians have voted with their feet and left the country. Moreover, Russia's army has been decimated (losing as many as 15,000 soldiers in a month) and exposed as something of a Potemkin force, one that will take years to rebuild.

The calculation is more complex when it comes to Ukraine. The resilience of its leadership, society, and armed forces are a marvel. National identity is more robust than ever; Ukraine's staunch resistance has strengthened its young democracy.

But that strengthening has come at a great cost. An estimated ten million Ukrainians – a quarter of the population – are internally displaced or refugees. The economy has been wrecked. Rebuilding will take a lot of time and a lot of money.

NATO, although untested militarily, is a big winner so far. It is more united and stronger as a result of Russia's aggression. It also benefits from the poor performance of the Russian armed forces, which appear to be no match for the Western alliance, and from an American president who believes in it.

Germany and its new government and chancellor are another big winner. Implicit in the response of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government is the understanding that the legacy of Scholz's predecessor, Angela Merkel, is now decidedly more mixed, because she allowed Germany to become so dependent on Russian energy.

Scholz's decision to cancel the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, commitment to double defense spending, and willingness to funnel arms to Ukraine represent dramatic, significant changes. The only disappointment is that it will take years for the German economy to wean itself from



Russian gas, a reality that provides critical ballast to Russia's economy.

US President Joe Biden has also gained. He has for the most part skillfully managed a policy of supporting Ukraine, penalizing Russia, and, by rejecting calls for putting "boots on the ground" or establishing a no-fly zone, done so without risking World War III.

Biden has also brought America's allies together, something sorely needed after four years of Donald Trump and a mishandled US withdrawal from Afghanistan. His one major slip has been to corner Putin further by calling him a war criminal and hinting at regime change when the goal of US policy ought to be to get Putin to stop the war and avoid escalation of any sort.

China and its president, Xi Jinping, are in a worse position strategically than they were just one month ago. By associating so closely with Putin, Xi has exposed himself to criticism for a flawed judgment that damages China's reputation and raises the risks that it will be targeted with secondary sanctions.

While China has long sought to divide the West, its alignment with Russia has done the opposite, alienating Western Europe, where it had been making significant economic inroads. It will also lead to a much tougher US policy toward China and highlight the costs China could face if it were ever to move militarily against Taiwan.

Otherwise, there are many more losers than winners, as befits a war. The United Nations and especially the Security Council appear feckless. The war is bad for global efforts to slow the spread of nuclear weapons. Ukraine gave up its stockpile 28 years ago in exchange for an assurance of its territorial integrity, only to be invaded twice since 2014. The crisis has likewise been bad for efforts to combat climate change, which at least temporarily appears to have taken a back seat to measures designed to promote energy security.

It is also a bad crisis for those who have been arguing that territorial conquest and wars between countries were a thing of the past or those who have argued in recent years that things have never been better. Events have also worked against the arguments of those on the left and right alike that the biggest danger to international security is American overreach and that the United States can safely turn inwards.

Last but far from least, there is the matter of what this conflict will mean for world order. Russia's invasion violated the most basic tenet of what stability exists in the world: that borders are not to be changed by the threat or use of force. Much will hinge on whether Putin gets away with his gamble, or whether the price he is forced to pay exceeds any gains. That, more than anything else, will determine history's ultimate verdict regarding what was won and what was lost in Putin's war.

integrity and has not even voted in favor of Russia or the occupation of Abkhazia and Georgia in international forums, including Crimea.

It seems that the world, after dividing terrorism into good and bad, should also experience the division of "good and bad occupation". Today, the dual treatment and unfair division of internationally accepted concepts and values ??are one of the main reasons for the emergence of various wars and the world moving away from just peace. Until international organizations, especially the United Nations, can end the current divisions between "good and bad terrorism" and "good and bad occupation", we must see the growth of terrorism and the occupation of countries in future.

(source: Mehr News Agency)

Good occupation, bad occupation

TEHRAN– The reversal of concepts and realities under the guidance of powerful governments and their mass media is a new phenomenon in the international system.

During Obama's presidency in the United States, new terms such as "good terrorism" and "bad terrorism" entered the world's political literature. With this approach in the case of Israel's invasion of Palestine, the Western media described the oppressed Palestinians as an example of "bad terrorism" and called the Zionist regime's crimes against Palestine "a defense of the rights of the Jews." After the creation of ISIS and al-Qaeda, the Americans described

Lorestan's Sassanid-era fortress draws thousands of travelers



From page 1 ► The fortress dates from the Sassanid era (224–651). It seems particularly imposing and dramatic when floodlit at night, offering picturesque views of its encircling crenelated battlements.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in Iranian history, under which

Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

Soaked in history and culture, Lorestan is one of the lesser-known travel destinations in Iran, which mainly acts as a gateway to the sweltering plains below in adjoining Khuzestan province. Lorestan is also a region of raw beauty that an avid nature lover could spend weeks exploring.

The region was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Ancient relics discovered accidentally in northern Iran

TEHRAN –Two historical objects have recently been unearthed accidentally in the historical texture of Gorgan, the capital of northern Golestan province, previously known as Astarabad.

The relics, dating back to the Islamic era, were discovered during a restoration project on an old building, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Wednesday.

The locals soon informed authorities in charge of protecting the cultural heritage and the objects were handed over to an archaeological museum for further study and better preservation, Seyyed Faramarz Mir announced.

Astarabad is situated along a small tributary of the Qareh River, 37 kilometers from the Caspian Sea. The city, which was prosperous during the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC), for long suffered from inroads of the Turkmen tribes who

occupied the plain north of the Qareh River and were subjected to incessant Qajar-Turkmen tribal conflicts in the 19th century according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

It was renamed Gorgan in the 1930s after being devastated by a massive earthquake. In modern times the plain around Gorgan has become a flourishing granary.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Clean-up project to begin on UNESCO-tagged desert

TEHRAN – A clean-up project is planned to be commenced on Shahdad, part of the UNESCO-registered Lut desert, on Thursday, the director of the World Heritage site has said.

There were a large number of tourists and travelers during the Noruz holidays (March 21-April 2) in the Lut desert, thus carrying out this kind of project seems necessary, Moein Afzali stated on Wednesday.

The project will be done in collaboration with some cultural heritage aficionados and environmental activists as well as local people and volunteers, he noted.

Promoting the culture of a clean environment, preserving and protecting valuable natural heritage, as well as helping to clean the environment are the objectives of the project, he added.

Situated in southeastern Kerman province, Shahdad is home to shifting sands, salt plains, meteorite fields, and rocky terrain, which offers visitors breathtaking vistas and unparalleled serenity of the

intact nature and wilderness.

It has long been a destination for adventurers, nature lovers, off-roaders, and trekkers.

The Lut Desert, widely referred to as Dasht-e Lut (“Emptiness Plain”), is a large salt desert encircled by the provinces of Kerman and Sistan–Baluchestan, and South Khorasan. It is the world's 27th-largest desert and was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List on July 17, 2016.

Seven years of satellite temperature data analyzed by NASA show that the Lut Desert is the hottest spot on Earth. Based on the research, it was the hottest during 5 of the 7 years and had the highest temperature overall: 70.7°C in 2005.

The desert is also considered one of the top areas in the world for finding meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant finds have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams of researchers.

designed, through which you will enter the mosque facing the qibla, while no trace of this deviation can be seen from outside the mosque.

On the other hand, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque does not have a minaret and a nave, and this issue is rare in the architecture of Iranian mosques.

You will be amazed when you enter the mosque and look over your head. The dome of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque is one of the most beautiful domes in Iran. The grandeur and decoration of this dome will make any viewer admire it, especially when light enters through the windows, the play of color and light begins, and the famous peacock of the mosque is formed on the inner layer of the dome. There are 16 windows around the dome that allow the sunlight to enter the mosque throughout the day.

The altar of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque can also

Over 600,000 overnight stays recorded in Iranian capital during Noruz

TEHRAN – Noruz travelers made over 600,000 overnight stays in Tehran province during the Persian new year holidays (started March 21), the provincial tourism chief has said.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak last Noruz, Tehran's occupancy rate of accommodation centers was the lowest in its annual average, however, during this Noruz, occupancy rates topped 85 percent, CHTN quoted Parham Janfeshan as saying on Wednesday.

The tourists and travelers stayed at authorized accommodation centers such as hotels, motels, tourist complexes, guest houses, and apartment hotels during the mentioned time, the official added.

Earlier this week, a tourism official announced that Iranians made over 50 million overnight stays during the Noruz holidays.

“Based on data obtained from all provinces, a total of 50, 663, 296 overnight stays have been

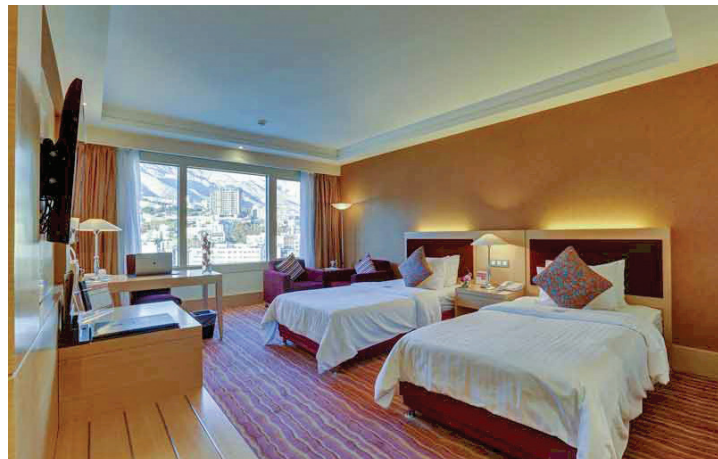
recorded across the country during Noruz holidays,” he noted.

The majority of the overnight stays were recorded in authorized accommodation centers, hotels, and guest houses in the provinces of Mazandaran, Khorasan Razavi, Gilan, Hormozgan, Fars, Isfahan, Bushehr, Yazd, Khuzestan, and Tehran, the official said.

On March 12, President Ebrahim Raisi said Iranians who have received the second dose of COVID vaccine were allowed to travel across the country during the new year holidays.

Noruz journeys as well as (public) gatherings and celebrations will be allowed if coronavirus protocols declared by National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control are observed by people, Raisi said.

“Noruz ceremonies and trips, if practiced under health protocols, could be beneficial for the revival of the tourism industry and handicrafts, which have



been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic in many provinces,” he explained.

Last year, in the face of intensive coronavirus restrictions, the number of domestic travels fell by 96 percent during the Noruz holidays compared to two years earlier, the tourism ministry announced.

Iranians made some 2.5 million overnight stays across the country during the Noruz holidays, while the number added up to over 74 million in the same period in 1398 (March 21-April 2, 2019), which shows a drastic fall.

Available data suggest the country's tourism industry has suffered \$233m losses due to COVID restrictions over the past two years. “Iranian tourism facilities have incurred a loss of 69 trillion rials (\$233 million) due to the outbreak of the coronavirus over the past two years,” an official with the tourism ministry said in January.

Iranians traditionally make hundreds of thousands of domestic trips during the New Year holidays, when most businesses and workplaces are closed, as are schools.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.

Rey, in which signs of settlement date from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

Iranian police seize ancient relics from smuggler

TEHRAN – A total of 54 historical objects have recently been confiscated from an antique dealer in the ancient city of Seymareh, western Ilam province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The relics are estimated to date back to the Parthian, Sassanid, and Islamic eras, Abdolmalek Shanbehzadeh said on Wednesday.

The relics include bronze, silver, iron, and pottery coins, earrings, rings, bracelets, bowls, arrowheads, mirrors, and headbands, the official added.

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

Establishing a primary residence at Ctesiphon, on the Tigris River in southern Mesopotamia, Parthian kings ruled for nearly half a millennium and influenced politics from Asia Minor to northern India, until they were overthrown by Sasanian armies from southwest Iran in the early third century CE.

Parthian wealth obtained through lucrative trade networks resulted in substantial patronage of the arts, in particular, relief sculpture, statuary (large and small scale), architectural sculpture, metalwork, jewelry, and ceramics; coins with images of Parthian rulers form another important category of objects.

In many ways, Iran under Sassanian rule witnessed tremendous achievements of



Persian civilization. Experts say that the art and architecture of the nation experienced a general renaissance during Sassanid rule.

In that era, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

The legendary wealth of the Sassanian court is fully confirmed by the existence of more than one hundred examples of bowls or plates of precious metal known at present. One of the finest examples is the silver plate with partial gilding in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The dynasty was destroyed by Arab invaders during a span from 637 to 651.

The term Islamic art not only describes the art created specifically in the service of the Muslim faith (for example, a mosque and its furnishings) but also characterizes the art

and architecture historically produced in the lands ruled by Muslims, produced for Muslim patrons, or created by Muslim artists.

As it is not only a religion but a way of life, Islam fostered the development of a distinctive culture with its own unique artistic language that is reflected in art and architecture throughout the Muslim world.

Seymareh ancient city, with an area of 200 hectares, is located near Darreh Shahr city. It dates back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and is believed to be built on remnants of the Elamite capital, Madaktu.

The archeological findings show that the city included about 5,000 houses with some modern aspects like a water distribution system through clay pipes and underground sewers. The city was destroyed and deserted after a huge earthquake around 950 BC.

The remnants of the city were inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1931.

Darreh Shahr was once the summer capital of Elamites, a pre-Iranian civilization dated from 2700 to 539 BC. The city also enjoyed centuries of prosperity during the Sassanid era.

Darreh Shahr and its surrounding regions boast vestiges of Sassanid constructions such as arches, ceilings, alleys, and passages that follow a specific order of urban development criteria of the time.

Ardabil registers over 246,000 overnight stays

TEHRAN – Noruz travelers made over 246,000 overnight stays in the northwestern Ardabil province during the two-week Persian new year holidays (March 21-April 2).

In comparison with the same period last year, the figure shows a 120 percent increase, the provincial tourism chief Nader Fallahi said on Wednesday.

Over 19,000 people also toured

historical sites and museums across the province during the mentioned time, the official added.

Last April, tourism authorities of the province announced that they have developed extensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter season to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known

for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.



Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque: a famous masterpiece of Iranian architecture

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque is one of the valuable treasures of Naghsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan- a historical square where every corner you look at is a masterpiece of Iranian architecture. It has already been registered in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque may not have a magnificent exterior in comparison to its counterpart in Naghsh-e Jahan Square, namely Imam Mosque, except for its spectacular dome, but when you step inside this mosque, you will be amazed by the beauty of the architecture and decorations in the building. The tiles of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque next to its dome are one of the attractive parts.

The entrance of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, like Imam Mosque, has a 45-degree angle with the qibla. To solve this problem, a corridor has been



be considered as one of the masterpieces of altar design in Iranian mosques. Aesthetic tiles adorn the altar with delicate and artistic patterns on them. Mohammad Reza Isfahani was the architect of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque.

This mosque was built during the Safavid period by order of Shah Abbas I. Shah Abbas's purpose

in building the mosque was to celebrate Sheikh Lotfatullah Misi, the great scholar of that time. A heritage that is still one of the valuable assets of Isfahan after four hundred years.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e Jahan which is translated into “half the world”; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of

nearly one million.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning “Image of the World”), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Built in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan. Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

Over 2,500 Iranian expat entrepreneurs back home

TEHRAN – Iran’s technology and innovation ecosystem has led to the return of 2,510 Iranian specialists and graduates from 720 prestigious and top universities in the world, IRIB reported on Wednesday.

Under the Connect Platform established in 2011, some 285 technological projects have been registered by Iranian experts and entrepreneurs abroad; 170 of these people work as guest professors and 420 as assistant professors in the country, while 150 study opportunities have also been provided to these applicants.

The platform aims to establish companies in the field of advanced technology, provide conditions for transferring new skills, methods and capabilities by Iranian specialists abroad, provide suitable conditions for the development of emerging and advanced technologies in the country, using the scientific capacity and professionalism of Iranian specialists abroad in the country’s scientific, technological and industrial centers.

Iran also implemented a plan to return elites from the top 100 universities in the world, through the



national model, the facilities are provided for their return, by creating technology parks, innovation centers, and factories.

The plan was able to bring back 2,000 Iranian students from the top 100 universities in the world over a three-year period, amounting to 600 people a year.

“Despite U.S. sanctions, Iran achieved scientific growth, and with the help of the technology ecosystem and domestic scientists, we

were able to become one of the top countries in the field of technology in the region,” Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari said in January 2021.

500 top researchers return in 4 years

About 500 Iranian researchers have returned home over the past four years to transfer their knowledge and expertise to the country’s universities, according to the vice presidency for science

and technology.

With the support of the National Elites Foundation and Science and Technology Vice Presidency, universities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled ‘cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepreneurs and elites’ in 2015.

The plan aims to attract Iranians abroad to share knowledge in different forms including postdoctoral research, research opportunity, and visiting fellows, in addition to being faculty members.

So far, it has attracted more than 500 prominent Iranian researchers living in other countries as faculty members of the country’s top universities, which has had a significant impact on raising the quality of research, and educational activities of universities.

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus, the return of elites to the country decreased in the first 5 months of last year, however, more than 300 graduates of the top 200 universities in the world came back to cooperate with domestic science and technology centers, which is almost double compared to a year before.

Afghans account for 25% of foreign students in Iran

TEHRAN – Twenty-five percent of the foreign students studying in Iranian universities are Afghan nationals, Mohammad Javad Salmanpour, the deputy head of the Organization for Student Affairs, said on Wednesday.

Afghan students attend Iranian universities in three ways; some enter the university by participating in the national entrance exam of Iran, and some others receive admission from universities that have non-Iranian student licenses. The third group also attended the country’s universities through scholarships, he explained.

Many of the Afghan students are studying in master’s and PhD courses in Iranian universities, he added, IRNA reported.

Currently, foreign nationals constitute 1.64 percent of the country’s student population, which is about 0.14 percent higher than the goal set by the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016–2021).

According to the plan, some 1.5 percent of the population of university students in the country

should be non-Iranian, however, the figure stood at 1.64 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020–March 2021), Afshin Akhoundzadeh, an official at the Organization for Student Affairs, said, IRNA reported in May 2021.

Also, according to the 20-Year National Vision Document (ending 2025), foreign students should account for 1.8 percent of the whole student population, which is likely to even reach 2 percent, Akhoundzadeh explained.

“Some 57,675 foreign nationals from 133 countries are studying in Iranian universities, 30,600 of whom are studying in universities affiliated with the Ministry of Science, while 25,000 others are receiving education in Azad University, and about 2,000 in medical universities.”

Fifty-seven percent of the international students are studying for a master’s degree, 27 percent for a bachelor’s degree and 15 percent are educating to receive a Ph.D., while the remaining one percent study at other levels.

Law, Persian literature and computer en-



gineering are the top three fields of study for foreign students in Iran, while civil engineering, business management, political science, English language and literature, Quran and hadith sciences, international relations, electrical engineering, and other majors with the highest number of non-Iranian students.

In 2013, 35 centers were allowed to admit foreign students, which has increased to 77 in 2021.

Iraq drops PCR test for Iranian pilgrims

TEHRAN – The PCR test certificate is not needed anymore for Iranian pilgrims to enter Iraq, the head of public relations of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, has stated.

To facilitate the movement of pilgrims to Iraq, the negative PCR test mandate for Iranian pilgrims was

lifted, IRIB quoted Vahid Eskandari as saying on Wednesday.

As in the past, Iranian pilgrims must have a valid vaccination card issued by the Ministry of Health, indicating two-doses inoculation, and there is no need to receive a PCR test, he explained.

In November, Turkey agreed to drop mandatory PCR tests for fully vaccinated Iranian travelers, ILNA reported.

Travelers are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving their final dose of a vaccine approved by the World Health Organi-

zation (WHO).

Passengers between the ages of 12 and 18, who are not vaccinated, will need to be tested for COVID-19. If the test is negative, they can proceed with their travels in Turkey. If the test is positive, they will be required to quarantine.

Iran among top three Asian countries in biomedicine

From page 1 ► services has the highest value-added. Accordingly, those in charge of this field are trying to provide the ground for growth and development.

Iran is one of the countries that has made great efforts in the field of medicine to free itself from the struggle to supply medicine and bypass sanctions and be able to respond to its local needs by relying on knowledge-based companies. One of these areas is the production of biopharmaceuticals, which has grown to 28 items.

12th in biotechnology

Iran is also ranked 12th in the world and first in West Asia in terms of biotechnology, as 9.5 percent of the income of knowledge-based companies and more than 60 percent of their exports are related to biotechnology.

Foreign exchange savings of \$1 billion per year by producing 22 biopharmaceuticals, gaining the first rank in biotechnology products and vaccines in West Asia, and the presence among the top five biotechnology producers in Asia are among the country’s achievements, Mostafa Ghanei, secretary of the biotechnology development office of the Vice Presidency

for Science and Technology, said in October 2020.

So far, 27 biotechnology medicines, 12 vaccine projects, 90 pharmaceutical raw materials, and 55 projects in agriculture and food security have been implemented in order to gain a 3 percent market share and biotechnology assistance to the development of the economy, he explained.

Some 8 major companies are responsible for managing the country’s 117 priority products in the fields of biopharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical raw materials, vaccines, probiotics, equipment, and chemical drugs, he emphasized.

ENGLISH IN USE

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‘Water transfer from Sea of Oman entails no considerable environmental risk’

Transferring water from Sea of Oman to central drought-ridden provinces of the country, provided that the environmental requirements are met, will not poses threats to the environment, Issa Kalantari, the Department of Environment (DOE) chief has announced.

To provide the amount of water needed for the country, agriculture and industries, there is no choice but to use seawater, the incredible and abundant resources, now and in the future, Kalantari stated, IRNA reported on Monday.

He went on to say that Iran located in an arid and semi-arid area, is facing environmental problems including water shortage, sand and dust storms due to low precipitation amounts coupled with climate change.

“Renewable water resources have drastically decreased to less than 80 billion cubic meters from 132 billion cubic meters over the past 50 years, and 50 billion cubic meters water consumption rate have increased to 95 billion cubic meters,” he lamented.

شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان مشکل زیست محیطی ندارد

رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور گفت: شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان به استان های مختلف به شرط رعایت الزامات محیط زیستی، جانمایی مناسب در ساخت آب شیرین کن و رهاسازی پساب آن مشکل و مانع زیست محیطی ندارد و از نظر این سازمان بلامانع است.

عیسی کلانتری دوشنبه شب در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: برای تامین آب کشاورزی، آشامیدنی و صنایع کشور چاره ای جز استفاده از آب دریا نداریم و باید چه اکنون و چه آینده به این منابع بیکران و بسیار فراوان رجوع کنیم.

وی افزود: ایران کشور پر آبی نیست و سالهای سال با بحران بی آبی، خشکسالی و مسائل زیست محیطی، گرد و غبار و ریزگردها مواجه است.

معاون رئیس جمهوری تصریح کرد: ۱۲۰ میلیارد مترمکعب آب تجدید پذیر ایران در ۴۰ تا ۵۰ سال گذشته به کمتر از ۸۰ میلیارد و مصرف آب از ۵۰ میلیارد مترمکعب به بالای ۹۵ میلیارد مترمکعب رسیده است.

Tens of technological transport projects implemented

TEHRAN – A total of 135 technological projects in different fields of transport have been implemented by knowledge-based companies across the country.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology supported the companies to carry out the projects in the air, land, and sea sectors, IRNA reported.

Some 6,600 knowledge-based companies are endeavoring to materialize the national goal of socio-economic development.

Based on the latest statistics, 746 knowledge-based companies, 18 innovation centers, and 8 accelerators are active in the transport industry.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has earmarked a sum of 2.4 trillion rials (about \$9.1 million) to provide finance for 29

macro projects in the transportation industry over the past eight years.

“National macro technology projects” are knowledge-based and technological projects with commercialization abilities, implementation of which requires the extensive cooperation of various sectors.

Sourena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology, has said that the knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of the country’s GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP.

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

Doab landslide in Haraz highway: a mining-induced environmental risk

By Mehdi Zare

A debris slide occurred in the afternoon of April 2, 44km south of Amol, Central Alborz Belt, Mazandaran province. The slide took place on the eastern edge of a major landslide along the eastern end of Nour valley, named “Razan”.

The great Razan landslide was created originally in the past millennia, most probably during a major (M>7.0) earthquake along the North Alborz fault. However, the recent debris slide is evidently triggered by mining explosions for the exploitation of sand and gravel as construction materials.

The explosion operations had been stopped since March 20 (during Persian New Year vacations), but the explosions have been manipulated as a routine by March 20. This caused the landslide zone to be in critical condition and

ready for collapse.

There was a rainy condition in the last 2 weeks of March and the landslide was finally triggered by multiple causes: A major earthquake in Central Alborz triggered the Razan landslide; mining explosions provoked the sliding zone and the spring rain provided the final triggering factor.

These Central Alborz landslides created the dried lakes of ancient landslide dams, which are highly used for the mining of sand and gravel as construction materials. These landslide zones when used for mining, are the most possible landslide risk zones for Haraz highway.

The green coverage of the Alborz belt has been decreased over the last decades. The environmental pollution by mining and man-made damage to the Hyrcanian Forests of the south Caspian zone is now a major environmental concern.

Health tips for Ramadan

Part 5

Ramadan is the month in which God opens the doors of mercy, forgiveness and blessings upon Muslims.

The month of Ramadan which leads to the glorious and auspicious occasion of Eid al-Fitr holds a special place in Islam and among Muslims because Holy Quran was revealed upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in this month.

The month is given great importance by Muslims, who, in each part of the world, welcome and observe this month with all the reverence, prestige and dedication it deserves. The mosques are filled with people, the recitation of Quran takes place and people become charitable. In this month Muslims make special preparations to ask for forgiveness from God and plead for His blessings and mercy.

In addition to the spiritual blessings of the month of Ramadan, fasting- for those who are capable of observing the demanding task physically- is of great benefits to the body.

The Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine is one of the best routes to have a better fasting experience considering long hot days of Ramadan.

Here are some tips to feel better during and

after long fasting days.

Eat sour, full of water, cool foods

Eating food items which are sour, have cooling characteristics and are high in water content (with regard to one’s temperament) such as lemon, barberry syrup, pomegranate juice, and fresh tamarind are recommended during the month of Ramadan.

Breaking fast with lukewarm drinks

Instead of drinking cold water at the Iftar meal- which is pretty harmful to digestive system- it is better to break the fast with lukewarm water, weak tea, warm milk, or warm honey water (again with regard to one’s temperament).

Due to the fact that the stomach has been empty all day long it has shrunk in size and drinking or eating large quantities of food stuff might hurt the digestive system.

Eat bran bread, cheese, walnuts

To complete the Iftar meal after drinking lukewarm drinks one can eat some toasted bran bread, cheese, and walnuts or some vegetables.

Those who do not like to have cooked meals for Iftar can have some butter, bread and their favorite jam instead.

To be continued

COVID-19 UPDATES ON APRIL 6

New cases	4,228
New deaths	44
Total cases	7,180,008
Total deaths	140,451
New hospitalized patients	494
Patients in critical condition	1,493
Total recovered patients	6,900,097
Diagnostic tests conducted	49,779,243
Doses of vaccine injected	147,435,574

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APRIL 7, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Poverty often disables an intelligent man from arguing his case; a poor man is a stranger in his own town.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:13:07 Evening: 19:49 Dawn: 5:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:41 (tomorrow)

Abulqasem Ferdowsi: Life

Part 10

Four tall columns with double-headed bull capitals rise on the corners of the chamber supporting the highly ornamented stepped-comice.

Each wall is further decorated with a pair of similar but shorter engaged columns which are joined by stepped-lintels to form pseudo-doorways.

The Persepolis traits are further indicated by the image of a winged man (which in Achaemenid art represented the Royal Fortune but which is popularly known as the Foruhar symbol) carved on the upper part of the south wall of the chamber.

The cornice supports an entablature that is turned inward to form a square base for a wall 100 cm high, which itself tapers inwards to create a smaller square on which rests the uppermost wall, again 100 cm high, carrying the roof.

Eight columns surrounding the aforementioned innermost-platform rise half way up to carry a roof and form two upper and lower corridors within the chamber.

(3) An outer stepped-platform of dressed marble, on which stands the chamber.

Many inscriptions (engraved by Hasan Zarrinkhat) and sculpted scenes (carved by Shaban Purjafari) adorn the monuments. Most texts are verses from the Shahnameh and carved on walls.

The epitaph inscribed on the tomb-stone may be rendered in English as follows: "In the name of the Lord of life and wisdom [this is a distich which opens the Shahnameh. This auspicious site is the resting place of the most eminent of Persian poets and the composer of the Iranian national saga, Hakim Abulqasem Ferdowsi of Tus, whose words are the resurrector of the country of Iran and whose grave is eternally revered by the people of this land. Date of birth 323; date of death 411; date of construction of the mausoleum 1353."

Thirty years after the raising of this monument it became necessary to rescue it from dampness and provide it with sufficient space.

Under the supervision of the architect Hushang Seyhun, the Ministry of Culture and Art enlarged the mausoleum in the following manner.

The solid floor of the original chamber was hollowed out and the area beneath expanded on all sides to form a hall measuring some 900 m², with an entrance from the west and walls decorated with glazed tiles or plaques of inscriptions and sculpted scenes representing stories from the Shahnameh.

At the same time the garden was expanded on all sides, covering an area of 56,753 m², and the site was provided with restaurants, hostels, and a library.

A statue of the poet was also erected southeast of the monument, and the entire complex was officially "opened" in April 1968 in time for the first annual congress of Tus, which was devoted to the study of Ferdowsi and the Shahnameh.

Ferdowsi's mausoleum has assumed the sanctity of a national shrine. One of the most photographed sites in Persia, it has also appeared as the designs on many handicrafts as well as on stamps and official currency. As recently as 1992-95, it served as the reverse design of the 10 rial coins minted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ferdowsi: Millenary celebration

By the early 20th century, European studies (particularly by Mohl and Nöldeke) about Ferdowsi and his achievement, and French, German, and English renditions of the Shahnameh had made Ferdowsi a household name in the scholarly circles of Europe.

Persians, aware of these developments and spurred by the patriotic sentiments motivated by the Constitutional Revolution and the works of fervently nationalistic poets and scholars, began to voice the necessity of the official recognition of Ferdowsi as the true "resurrector" (after the

Arab conquest of Persia in the 7th century) of Iranian identity.

This movement was led by four notable nationalists: Sayyed Hasan Taqizadeh, the statesman and scholar, who not only made the research of Theodore Nöldeke and others available in Persian but also contributed substantially to Ferdowsi studies; Kaykhosrow Shahrokh, the highly respected representative of the Zoroastrian community in the Majles; Mohammad-Taqi Bahar, the most influential poet of the time and a politician-journalist; and Mohammad-Ali Forugh, the erudite prime minister.

Already in 1922, Bahar urged Reza Khan (later Reza Shah), who had recently seized power, to prove his asserted nationalism by celebrating Ferdowsi and building a worthy mausoleum for the "resurrector of Iranian national identity and people", while Shahrokh, Abdhossein Teymurtash, and others explored the best way to achieve such a goal.

By 1933, Reza Shah was persuaded, despite angry protests from fanatical anti-Ferdowsi groups to arrange for an official celebration of Ferdowsi's millenary.

Nöldeke had calculated Ferdowsi's birthdate to be 934-35 and Taqizadeh strongly favored this date, which meant the dating of the millenary to be 1934-35.

Jules Mohl and Bahar, however, had demonstrated that the birthdate was 939-40, which favored the holding of the millenary in 1939/40. Forugh settled in favor of 1934: "The hezarah of Ferdowsi in any rate coincides with these current years. A few years earlier or later makes no difference".

The celebrations were held in Tehran, Mashhad, and Tus (where the Ferdowsi mausoleum was inaugurated in 1934) and lasted for nearly a month.

Simultaneously, various state officials and scholars in the Soviet Union, France, Britain, U.S.A., Germany, Egypt, Iraq, and a number of other countries held festivities in universities, clubs, and embassies, and various publications were dedicated to the study of Ferdowsi and the Shahnameh.

The gathering of some one hundred distinguished scholars as well as many dignitaries of various nationalities in Tehran and Mashhad was a most beneficial event for Iranian studies in general and for research on Ferdowsi and the Shahnameh in particular.

The Persian delegation, comprised of forty members, was led by Forugh (who delivered the inaugural speech) and included, among others: Mohammad-Taqi Bahar, Ahmad Bahmanyar, Abbas Eqbal, Nasrollah Falsafi, Badiozaman Foruzanfar, Jalaleddin Homai, Ahmad Kasravi, Mojtaba Minovi, Saeid Nafisi, Hasan Pirnia, Ebrahim Purdavud, Abdolazim Qarib, Gholamreza Rashia Yasami, Mohammad-Ali Tarbiat, and Hasan Vahid Dastgerdi.

The elder statesman Mohtashem-al-Saltana Hasan Esfandiari was appointed honorary chairman of the congress, Isa Sadiq served as its coordinator, and Arthur Christensen, Abdolvahhab Azzam, and Henri Massé as its secretaries.

Forugh, Ali-Asghar Hekmat, and Shahrokh accompanied Reza Shah during his visit and played host to the large gathering. After Persia, the Soviet Union sent the largest delegation, which included Iosif Orbeli, A. A. Freiman, Yuri N. Marr, and Evgeni E. Berthels.

In addition, the Soviet Union presented the people and government of Persia with reproductions, which had been manufactured by a galvanoplastic technique from actual specimens in the Hermitage, of eleven Sassanid and post-Sassanid plates; a facsimile of a Shahnameh manuscript dated 1333; and a number of books on Sassanid metalworks.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Cinema Organization of Iran launches council to protect female filmmakers against sexual abuse

Frome Page 1 ► Afterwards, a group of about 300 actresses and female filmmakers, including Taraneh Alidoosti, Narges Abyar, Hedyeh Tehrani and Niki Karimi, signed a statement condemning any forms of misconduct, violence, sexual harassment, bullying and rape in the workplace and asking for prosecution of the perpetrators.

"In its first mission, the Cinema Professional Ethics Council is tasked with setting up an all-female committee of two filmmakers, a psychologist, a sociologist and a lawyer to investigate the case immediately and give the council a report on the issue," said COI director Mohammad Khazaei.

He also asked the Iranian Cinema House, which is also known as the Iranian Alliance of Motion Picture Guilds, to investigate and search for solutions to resolve the issue by activating its Safeguards Council.

Khazaei said that the Cinema Organization of Iran sees it as a duty to protect the dignity and honor of female filmmakers.

In a more recent case revealed on Tuesday, screenwriter Chista Yasrebi recounted her story about a famous filmmaker's attempt to rape her.

Managers of the Cinema Organization of Iran attend a meeting in Tehran on April 5, 2021, to announce the launch of the Cinema Professional Ethics Council. (COI)

The spread of the Me Too movement has also sparked reactions from officials.

Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Ensieh Khazali has invited the organizers of the Me Too movement to a meeting with her to search for safeguards to protect them against their male colleagues' misconduct, sexual harassment and abuse.

"The Office of the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs sees it as a necessity to lend a sympathetic ear to the demands of women in the Iranian cinema," she said.

Earlier this week, Deputy Head of

the Iranian Judiciary and Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi also offered words of support in a press release.

"Due to their susceptibility, the women active in the art fields, especially those who are working in cinema, must be supported and protected," he said.

Poet Parvin Etesami to come back to life at Tehran theater

TEHRAN – The life story of Parvin Etesami (1907-1940), one of the most prominent Persian poets of the 20th century, will be staged at the main hall of Tehran's City Theater Complex in the near future.

Published in early 2021, the play "Parvin" will be directed by Hossein Kiani, who also wrote it.

He intended to stage the play last summer, but his plans were canceled due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Etesami's poetry is based upon themes of social, humanitarian and mystical concepts, and contains no allusions to romantic love or feminine sentiment.

"We have numerous influential figures in our culture and literature," Kiani said after the release of his play in March 2021.

"Biographical plays can represent the value of such personalities to theatergoers. Countries have the valuable tradition of performing biographical plays on their national and cultural luminaries. It's worthwhile to pay more attention to such plays. I wrote this play to raise public awareness of this literary and cultural personality," he added.

"Staging historical dramas has a greater impact than literary-historical books, because these books have a limited number of readers such academics, researchers or history lovers," Kiani noted.

He has previously said that it is expected that

the official cultural organization will prepare the appropriate conditions for plays on national cultural luminaries to be performed.

He warned that if an appropriate time and funds are not allocated for the play he would withdraw his plan to stage the play, "because the play and the national cultural figure would be ruined."

Born in Tabriz, Etesami was the daughter of the journalist and man of letters Yusof Etesami. Early in her life, the family moved to Tehran, where, in addition to formal schooling, she received solid training in Arabic and classical Persian literature from her father.

She also met a number of noted poets and literati of the time who held literary meetings in Etesami's home.

After graduation in 1924 from the Iran Bethel, an American high school for girls, she taught for a while at that school. In 1926 she was invited to tutor the queen of the new Pahlavi court, but she declined.

She accompanied her father on several trips in Persia and one to Iraq. In 1934 she married a cousin of her father and moved to Kermanshah. However, after only ten weeks she returned home, and the marriage was dissolved.

In 1936, the Ministry of Education honored her with a third-class medal but she refused to accept it, probably because it was too low to appeal to her sense of dignity.

A portrait of poet Parvin Etesami.

Her father's death in 1938 bereft Parvin of his loving support and virtually severed her contact with the outside world. Her sudden death only three years after her father shocked the country and was mourned in many elegies. She was buried near her father in Qom.

Parvin was only seven or eight years old when her poetic talent revealed itself. Encouraged by her father, she rendered into verse some literary pieces that her father had translated from Western sources.

Her earliest known poems, eleven compositions printed in 1921-22 issues of her father's monthly magazine, Bahar, display an astonishing maturity of thought and craft.

The first edition of her divan, comprising 156 poems, appeared in 1935 with an introduction by the renowned poet Mohammad-Taqi Bahar.

“Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature” published in Persian

TEHRAN – “Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature” by Erich Auerbach, a German philologist and comparative scholar and critic of literature, has been published in Persian.

Naqsh-e Jahan is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Masud Shirbacheh.

More than half a century after its translation into English, Erich Auerbach's “Mimesis” remains a masterpiece of literary criticism.

A brilliant display of erudition, wit and wisdom, his exploration of how great European writers from Homer to Virginia Woolf depicted reality has taught generations how to read Western literature.

This book includes a substantial

Cover of the Persian edition of Erich Auerbach's book “Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature”.

essay in the introduction by Edward Said as well as an essay, never before translated into English, in which Auerbach responds to his critics.

A German Jew, Auerbach was forced out of his professorship at the University of Marburg in 1935. He left for Turkey, where he taught at the State University in Istanbul.

There he wrote “Mimesis”, publishing it in German after the end of the war. Displaced as he was, Auerbach produced a work of great erudition that contains no footnotes, basing his arguments instead on searching, illuminating readings of key passages from his primary texts.

His aim was to show how from

antiquity to the twentieth-century literature progressed toward ever more naturalistic and democratic forms of representation.

This essentially optimistic view of European history now appears as a defensive – and impassioned – response to the inhumanity he saw in the Third Reich.

Ranging over works in Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, Italian, German and English, Auerbach used his remarkable skills in philology and comparative literature to refute any narrow form of nationalism or chauvinism, in his own day and ours.

For many readers, both inside and outside academia, “Mimesis” is among the finest works of literary criticism ever written.

The sacrifices made by the Kurdistan people to defend their homeland have become a paradigm for the rest of the world

An interview with Kianush Golzar

Kianush Golzar's latest book, “Bardehsour,” was released in bookstores after “Shonam” and “Evenings of Keriskan” as the last book of this trilogy, IBNA reported. This book, like the two previous ones, has narrated parts of Komala's crimes in Kurdistan. Yadollah Khodadad is the main narrator of this book, and he was imprisoned with the author as well. He was a teacher in Kurdistan when he got captured by the Komala counter-revolutionary group in October 1980, and he was the only survivor of a group of eight people that were caught at the same time.

*** Would you tell me a little about this book and what inspired you to write it?**

This book is about Yadollah Khodadad and the story of his 30 months of captivity in one of Komala's prisons and how he escaped from it. The prison of the Bardehsour in Sardasht was a terrible place, and we felt as though we were trapped in a swamp with no way out. All of the crimes, murders, and sacrifices that I witnessed there inspired me to create these books, and we were able to get certain stories and happenings from Mr. Yadollah when we found him.

*** Why did you choose this title for the book?**

Because this was the name of the prison, as well as a village, and a river near the prison; besides, In Kurdish, the word “Bardeh” means “red stones,” a metaphor for those whose

blood has been spilled on the rocks, and the region's rocks have all become crimson as a result.

*** Why did you choose to write about a topic that receives less attention than the imposed war?**

Writing about the soldiers' experiences of the imposed war had already begun, and books had been written on the subject, but the issue of Kurdistan remained uncertain for writers and general politics as to whether or not to discuss it. Fortunately, the book “Shonam” shows that it is possible to address this issue; however, they were many considerations about it, like writing about the suffering of Kurdish people, as well as the crimes of Komala.