

Saudi, Kuwaiti Envoys Return to Lebanon as the Country Braces for Election

Page 3

Interview

Can barter trade realize Iran-Pakistan \$5b trade target?

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Despite close political relations and geographical distance, U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic have prevented Iran-Pakistan's economic ties from realizing their full potential over the past decade, particularly because the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot access international banking.

To resolve the mentioned problem, the two countries inked a barter trade agreement during the meeting of their Joint Economic Committee in Tehran in early November 2021.

According to the government officials of the two countries, under the framework of this agreement, the two countries' annual trade exchange is expected to reach \$5 billion.

Although barter trade is clearly an effective tool for sidestepping economic sanctions on Iran, the question is: "will it be enough for Iran-Pakistan trade to get back on track?"

Sanctions and solutions

As mentioned earlier, the trade ties between Iran and Pakistan have been overshadowed by U.S. sanctions and the two countries, despite having great historical and cultural ties, have been stripped of opportunities for mutually beneficial business.

Bilateral trade between the two neighbors, which share a border of 960 kilometers, stood at about \$300 million in 2021, while the value of Pakistan's trade with China amounted to over \$27.8 billion in the same year. ▶ Page 4

Interview

Nobody should take Group B lightly, expert says

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iranian football expert, Asghar Maziar, believes that Iran's World Cup group is not easy and nobody should take Group B lightly.

Iran have been drawn with England, the U.S., and one of Scotland, Wales, or Ukraine in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

"You go into a World Cup, there are no easy matches, and any team can beat any other team," said the Iranian member of the AFC's Technical Study Group (TSG).

"Yes, it could be worse, but there is no easy draw in a tournament like the World cup. All the teams that qualified for the 2022 World Cup have tried successfully and are competently among the 32 teams. It's clear that they are ready to do their best in such a prestigious event. So, there is no easy opponents," he said.

"However, some teams have a great history in the football world, such as Brazil, France, Spain, and England, whose names are big for every rivals. But in this edition of the World Cup, almost all groups are distributed equally in terms of the power of the teams," he added.

The 'Persian Leopards' are looking to book a spot in the next stage for the first time.

"Technically, when we look, we see that England are at their peak. On the other hand, the U.S. also have good players. The third opponents are not clear yet, but apart from that obvious point, England, ▶ Page 3



Major symbolic move in Yemen as former president transfers "power"

TEHRAN– Former Yemeni President, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who Saudi Arabia declared war on Yemen seven years ago to reinstate in power, says he is delegating "his full powers" to a Presidential leadership council.

Many Yemeni officials argue that Hadi never had any power or influence on Yemeni affairs and policies ever since his term ended in late 2014 and he fled the county soon after.

They also say the conflict is between the Saudi-led coalition and forces both loyal to

the new government in Sana'a and the popular Ansarullah movement which led the Yemeni revolution in 2014.

Hadi, who is based in Riyadh, said on Saudi state media "I irreversibly delegate to the Presidential Leadership Council" ▶ Page 5

Iran will seriously deal with Takfiri terrorism, interior minister says of attack on clergymen

TEHRAN — While condemning the terrorist crime in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in the northeastern city of Mashhad, the interior minister stressed that the terrorist and Takfiri movements and the promoters of this ideology will be dealt with severely.

In an interview with the state TV on Friday,

Ahmad Vahidi condemned the Tuesday brutal terrorist attack in the holy shrine.

He stressed the need to prosecute the perpetrators of the terrorist crime, saying, "This was a very heinous terrorist operation that took place against three hard-working clerics who served the people."

The minister continued by saying that this ugly, bitter and terrorist incident showed that the enemy has not stopped promoting terrorism in the region."

He then pointed out that terrorism in the West Asian region is a kind of Takfirism nurtured by the arrogant imperialism. ▶ Page 2

10 African countries importing Iranian-made COVID vaccines: health minister

TEHRAN – Health Minister Behram Einalahi has said the country is currently exporting domestically-made vaccines for coronavirus to ten African countries.

"We started exporting coronavirus vaccines one or two weeks ago," he said, adding, "For the time being, Iranian-made vaccines are being exported to ten African countries," IRNA reported on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the head of the Food and Drug Organization has said some four million doses of domestically-made vaccines have been so far exported.

"Despite limitations of the World Health Organization, Iranian products are waiting to be confirmed by the organization," Bahram Daraei wrote on his Twitter account on Wednesday. ▶ Page 7

Arrays of prehistorical relics unearthed in southeast Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have recently discovered arrays of prehistorical relics when dug trenches on an ancient hill some 60 kilometers away from the UNESCO-registered Burnt City in southeast Iran.

"The excavated relics include pottery, azure stone beads, stone vessels, and bronze tools,

which suggests the existence of a workshop for making tools and stone objects in this area," ILNA quoted the Iranian archaeologist Hossein Moradi as saying on Wednesday.

"We carved specific trenches in different parts of the hill that resulted in the discovery of three cultural layers with architectural

structures."

The trenches were carved to help safeguard the hill which was damaged as the result of a gas pipeline project between Dashtak and Zabol in Sistan-Baluchestan province, Moradi said. ▶ Page 6

From Inside

- Iran urges coordinated effort to find diplomatic solution to Ukraine war **P2**
- MP: Negotiating team to submit Vienna agreement draft whenever ready **P2**
- Raisi wraps up 19th provincial visit **P3**
- Iran, Iraq FMs hold phone conversation **P3**
- Moscow hosts grand Iran-Russia business forum **P4**
- Iran's 1st inland port to be inaugurated soon **P4**
- Constructing 100,000 National Housing Movement units to be started in new towns **P4**
- Relics repatriated from France on show at Tehran museum **P6**
- Tours to recall memory of national hero in northern Iran **P6**
- Health identity cards to be issued for students **P7**
- Foreign elites benefit from knowledge-based support **P7**
- "Gando" producer Mojtaba Amini named president of Fajr Film Festival **P8**
- New Persian translation of "Ties" comes to Iranian bookstores **P8**

Interview

Hollywood has painted itself into a hypocritical corner: researcher

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A cinema researcher, who explores racism, class politics, internationalism in world literature, architecture, music, and global cinema, says that Hollywood with its violent history is suffering hypocrisy.

"Hollywood and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have painted itself into a hypocritical corner," Anthony Ballas tells the Tehran Times.

"I'd argue that blackface, redface, and these other examples are violent, even if they're not 'violent' in the sense we typically define the word: there is systemic and ideological violence wrapped up in these kinds of depictions," notes Ballas, who teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Ballas believes that Hollywood has an incredibly violent history itself, and not only with regard to the contents of their films.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you see the repercussions of Will Smith Oscars slap on American public opinion?

A: Let me preface my answer by first saying that I neither personally have an opinion about this event, nor do I think we need to float yet another opinion out there in order to try and "uncover" the truth or get to the bottom of this or speculate on the consequences of this thing. It's probably a waste of time to have an opinion on a feud between two individual actors. (I should also admit that I don't watch the Oscars, so I received this "news" secondhand). ▶ Page 5

8th Intl. Conference on Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi set for Sept. 29, 30

TEHRAN – The 8th International Conference on Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi will be held on September 29 and 30, the organizers announced on Thursday.

The city council and the municipality of Khoy in West Azarbaijan Province organize the conference every year in the town, which is home to the tomb of Shams, with contributions from the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO and several other organizations.

Khoy Governor Zabihollah Kazemi, Khoy City Council director Sajjad Chehregha and several other officials attended a meeting on Thursday to unveil posters of the event.

Speaking at the meeting, Kazemi called Rumi and Shams literary and mystic legends of the world, and said, "If Rumi and Shams had not presented their teachings in the form of poetry, they would never have achieved such worldwide fame." ▶ Page 8

Iran will seriously deal with Takfiri terrorism, interior minister says of attack on clergymen

From page 1 ► “They have created Daesh and other terrorist groups, and their ideological source is either directly or indirectly the same arrogant movement that acts in the form of Takfiris.”

Vahidi stated that the Takfiri movement carries out “terrorist attacks in a holy place during the holy month of Ramadan and targets innocent people without any reason.”

The interior minister blamed the West for creating the Takfiri movement, stressing, “Undoubtedly, this movement is a branch of the global arrogance that we condemn.”

Vahidi went on to emphasize that this incident shows that the clergy has always been the pioneer in serving the people and also at the forefront of confronting the enemy.

Vahidi continued by saying that the enemy is trying to incite the religious and ethnic differences of friendly nations in the region by creating such terrorist movements, but it will not succeed in achieving its goals.

“The best of the Afghan youth lost their lives in the fight against the Takfiris, and the resilient nation of Afghanistan stood up to the arrogant movements and expelled the United States from the region,” the minister continued.

Vahidi also said that this crime does not harm the position of the Afghan people in the eyes of the Iranian nation.

“The people of Iran and Afghanistan have a common history of civilization and good relations have been established between the two countries,” he noted.

The minister stated that arrogant countries are trying to damage Iran’s relations with its neighbors, including Afghanistan, but certainly they will not succeed.

Vahidi stressed that the terrorist act in the holy shrine of Imam Reza has been condemned by all Afghan officials and Sunni scholars.

“We do not expect Western countries to condemn this crime because they support terrorist events,” he concluded.

In an unprecedented knife attack at the courtyard the Imam Reza shrine on Tuesday, three clerics were seriously injured. One of the clerics died on the same day and another succumbed to his injuries

MP: Negotiating team to submit Vienna agreement draft whenever ready



TEHRAN — A member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the parliament has said no draft agreement has yet been written in line with the Vienna talks intended to revitalize the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

In an interview with IRNA published on Wednesday, Yaghoub Rezazadeh said, “Iran’s negotiating team adheres to the system’s red lines.”

He added that the parliamentary committee is closely monitoring the negotiations and, if necessary, invites the relevant officials to the committee for further explanations.

The MP reiterated that despite reports, no draft has yet been written for the Vienna talks, Rezazadeh, the second secretary of the parliamentary committee. He added that the negotiating team, headed by Ali Bagheri Kani, will continue the nuclear talks



two days later. Reportedly, the third one is in a stable condition.

The assailant was arrested immediately after the attack. The terrorist attack took place on the third day of the fasting month of Ramadan.

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 Wahhabi 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, 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.”

The spokesman for the Taliban condemned the stabbing attack on clergymen, saying the fatal incident had nothing to do with the Afghans and Afghanistan.

In a post on his Twitter account, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the “Islamic Emirate” of Afghanistan condemns the recent attack on clergymen at a pilgrimage site in Iran.

“This has nothing to do with the Afghans and Afghanistan,” he said.

without crossing Iran’s red lines.

He continued by saying that the negotiating team is following all the guidelines and policies set by the Leader of the Revolution and the president, and the parliament has full oversight of the issue.

“Of course, any agreement reached must be reported to the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee,” he reiterated.

Referring to the pause in the negotiations, Rezazadeh said currently the parties have made put forward their demands to reach an agreement, and Iran has made demands such as the lifting of all oppressive sanctions, the return of property and assets of the Iranian people, and so on.

He noted that the parliamentary ratification for the lifting of sanctions is considered Iran’s leading strategy in the negotiations, noting that the other side is aware that the Iranian negotiating team adheres to this law and other laws that have been passed by the parliament.

The world has also come to the conclusion that in order to promote peace and security around the world, especially in West Asia, “the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a key role and they are forced to comply with the demands of the Islamic Republic,” Rezazadeh commented.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has blamed the U.S. indecision for the protraction of the nuclear talks, saying officials at the White House must take tough political decisions.

TEHRAN – In separate phone calls with his Hungarian and Serbian counterparts, Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has insisted on the need to take concerted efforts to find a peaceful solution to the war between Russia and Ukraine, emphasizing Tehran’s opposition to wars and sanctions.

During the talks with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto late on Wednesday, Amir Abdollahian also expressed gratitude to Hungary for helping Iranians studying in Ukraine to return to Iran safely.

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a military campaign against Ukraine to demilitarize what he called “de-Nazification” of the country. As a result, the United States and its European allies have spearheaded unprecedented sanctions against Moscow, making Russia the world’s most sanctioned country.

Also, during the talks with his Serbian counterpart Nikola Selakovic on Thursday, Amir Abdollahian reiterated that diplomacy and the promotion of dialogue are the best ways to end the war in Ukraine, stressing the Islamic Republic’s opposition to violence in any part of the globe.

In addition to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the two foreign minister also discussed bilateral relations as well as the other important international developments.

Iran’s foreign minister also reaffirmed the Islamic Republic’s opposition to war and unilateral sanctions on countries.

The U.S. and its European allies have called the military operation on Ukraine “Putin’s land grab,” slapping unprecedented penalties on Moscow. Russia insists that the operation will be halted immediately if Kyiv accepts Russia’s list of demands, including a commitment that it will never seek a NATO membership.

For his part, Serbia’s foreign minister stated that his country



Iran urges coordinated effort to find diplomatic solution to Ukraine war

respects Ukraine’s territorial integrity and believes in a diplomatic way to achieve peace in the region.

’Iran firm to reach good, strong, and lasting agreement in Vienna’

In continuation of his talk with Foreign Minister Selakovic, Amir Abdollahian talked about the negotiations in Vienna aimed at repairing Iran’s landmark 2015 deal with international powers, stating, “Iran is determined to achieve a good, strong and lasting agreement” through the negotiations.

“Instead of putting forth excessive demands and slowing down the talks, the American side must adopt a realistic approach,” Iran’s top diplomat said.

He went on to say that China, Russia, and the three European partners of the Iran deal, officially called the JCPOA, have been

cooperative.

According to Amir Abdollahian, the European Union, particularly its foreign policy leader, Josep Borrell, and his deputy, Enrique Mora, who also serves as the Vienna negotiations’ organizer, have been seeking to advance the talks.

Selakovic also expressed optimism that the Vienna talks will reach a final conclusion soon.

Iran has recently pinned the blame on Washington’s indecision as the cause for the talks’ protraction, since a number of major issues remain unresolved, ranging from the lifting of all post-JCPOA sanctions to the American side’s offer of guarantees that it would not withdraw the agreement again.

The other participants to the negotiations — Russia, China, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany – have also stated that

the negotiators are nearing a conclusion.

Since last April, negotiations in the Austrian capital have been underway to resurrect the JCPOA, which was abandoned by former U.S. President Donald Trump in May 2018.

With his withdrawal from the accord, Trump launched what he dubbed a “maximum pressure” campaign of “toughest ever sanctions” on the Iranian economy in order to bring Iran to its knees.

To counter the sanctions, Tehran has developed a policy of “maximum resistance,” which involves relying on internal capabilities and coordinating with neighbors and partners.

Amir Abdollahian invited to visit Hungary

The Iranian and Hungarian foreign ministers also talked about bilateral ties and the talks.

Amir Abdollahian congratulated the ruling Fidesz party on its win in the Hungarian legislative elections.

He stated that Tehran is eager to increase its ties with Budapest and put into effect the agreements reached during the two countries’ joint economic commission meeting in December.

For his part, Szijjarto extended an invitation to Amir Abdollahian to visit Hungary.

He emphasized his country’s commitment to strengthen cooperation with Iran, as well as the need to implement the agreements struck between the two nations.

Szijjarto led an economic mission to Tehran last December, when the two sides signed many cooperation agreements.

Szijjarto also expressed optimism that a deal could be reached through a collaborative effort by all parties to revive the JCPOA.

Iran’s positive attitude with the goal of achieving a final agreement is quite valuable, Szijjarto noted.

How to overcome the final obstacle to resurrect nuclear deal: analysis

TEHRAN – In a commentary on April 4, Middle East Eye suggested ways to overcome the final obstacle which is hindering the restoration of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

This is the text of the article:

The European Union’s foreign policy chief announced in mid-March that significant progress had been made in talks to revive the Iran nuclear deal, but a pause was needed. During the last week of March, Enrique Mora, the leader of the EU delegation, travelled to Tehran and Washington to meet with Iranian and American nuclear negotiators in an effort to overcome the remaining dispute.

There were two reasons to pause: Iran’s insistence that the U.S. remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from its list of foreign terrorist organisations, a designation applied during the Trump era; and

Russia was reportedly satisfied on the latter demand after it was agreed that Russian-Iranian cooperation within the framework of the nuclear agreement would not be hindered by U.S. and European sanctions on Moscow.

The remaining obstacle is thus the removal of the foreign terrorist organisation (FTO) designation for the IRGC.

U.S. allies in the region – notably Israel and Saudi Arabia – have opposed removing the FTO designation for the Revolutionary Guards, arguing it could increase regional threats from Iran, and Republicans in the U.S. Congress are also against such a move. But for the Iranian government, this issue is a red line.

U.S. Special Envoy Robert Malley recently reiterated that Washington would maintain sanctions on the IRGC even if the organization is ultimately delisted.

Facilitating dialogue

There are two relevant considerations here. Without the IRGC’s participation, there can be no agreement with Iran on regional crises.

This is an argument for the Biden government to delist the IRGC in order to facilitate bilateral dialogue on regional issues.

General Kenneth McKenzie, the outgoing head of U.S. Central Command and an Iran hawk who carried out the order to kill Quds Force leader Qassem Soleimani in January 2020, recently told the Washington Post that “we need to find an accommodation with Iran going forward”.

Moreover, State Department spokesman Ned Price recently noted that after former U.S. President Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018, “the number of attacks by Iran-backed groups went up 400 percent” between 2019 and 2020. “That was in the aftermath of leaving the [nuclear deal], the FTO designation and killing General Soleimani,” he told reporters.

But the Biden administration would be in a difficult position to defend itself from internal political pressure over a delisting decision after Iran threatened to avenge the killing of its top general. Soleimani’s assassination was a clear violation of international law, for which Iran swiftly retaliated by firing more than a dozen ballistic missiles at two U.S. military bases in Iraq.

To resolve this obstacle, one option is for the Biden administration to apologize to the Iranian government for Trump’s illegal assassination, and for Washington and Tehran to pledge to adhere to the principle of non-interference and non-use of force under the UN Charter.

But the U.S. and its regional allies need Iran to commit to cooperating on de-escalation in the region. Iran has already tacitly agreed to de-escalation, but it cannot link this issue to the nuclear deal, fearing that the anti-Iran campaign in Washington and the region would then blame Tehran for any new incident, and press the U.S. to again abandon the agreement.

Regional cooperation

Qatar’s foreign minister this

week reiterated the importance of reaching a nuclear deal with Iran, citing the need for an agreement on comprehensive security in the region.

Since the end of the Iran-Iraq War in 1988, all governments in Iran, from moderate to conservative, have called for a de-escalation of regional tensions and suggested establishing a regional system for security and collective cooperation in the Persian Gulf, the details of which are described in my book, A New Structure for Security, Peace, and Cooperation in the Persian Gulf.

The way forward is to revive the nuclear deal and to begin a serious dialogue on a regional security architecture that promotes security for all through common norms and principles, such as the sovereign equality of states; refraining from the threat or use of force; and providing for peaceful conflict resolution, inviolability of borders, and non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other states.

The UN Security Council’s Resolution 598 provides a workable framework for resolving the outstanding issues between Iran and its neighbors on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, specifically Saudi Arabia. A collective security arrangement would help with fighting terrorism, sectarianism, organized crime and drug trafficking, among other mutual concerns.

The first step would be to immediately halt hostile rhetoric and propaganda, and then forge a regional dialogue forum to discuss security issues. Negotiations between Iran and neighboring states can succeed if their political objectives are compatible, and they avoid zero-sum calculations.

A comprehensive security and cooperation system would also need confidence-building measures, such as military-to-military visits, pre-notification of military exercises, transparency in arms procurements, reductions in military expenditures, non-aggression pacts, joint task forces on crisis management, and elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Commitment to these principles could address the concerns of all interested parties, including the U.S., Iran and Saudi Arabia.

President Raisi wraps up 19th provincial visit

TEHRAN – In continuation of his provincial visits taking place on weekends, President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi paid a visit to Alborz province on Thursday.

Ayatollah Raisi was welcomed by the representative of the Supreme Leader in the province, the governor-general and a group of local officials upon his arrival in Alborz province on Thursday afternoon.

President Raisi at the beginning of his trip to Alborz province addressed the potentials of the province, calling it "little Iran."

Speaking in a short conversation with reporters at the beginning of his trip to Alborz, Raisi noted, "Alborz province has some advantages due to its proximity to the capital, and at the same time this proximity has created problems for this province".

The president added, "Alborz province has suitable capacities for the development of agriculture and conversion industries, industrial towns and various industries, as well as the development of tourism. The presence of various ethnic groups and dialects from all over the country, which has rightly made this province worthy of the name "Little Iran", is another advantage for Alborz province."

He stated, "Before holding this trip, our colleagues have held several meetings with the governor-general and other managers of the province, and the capacities, needs and problems of Alborz have been counted and solutions have been proposed to solve them," according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Raisi stressed the need for the participation of people and intellectuals to solve the problems and accelerate the progress of the province, noting, "It is natural that my trip during the holy month of Ramadan has caused difficulties for you, but I travel to all the provinces and examine their situation closely, I ask all of you to forgive me for this trouble, and I hope that holding these trips will solve people's problems".

During the visit, Raisi paid a visit to the Karaj commuter rail. During the visit, the president expressed his dissatisfaction with the excessive delay in the construction of the urban rail project in Karaj, and called the spending of 15 years for the



project, which is still incomplete, unacceptable and instructed the project managers to provide accurate timetable for the completion of the remaining parts of the project.

Underlining the need to remove the existing obstacles to financing the completion of the project, the president instructed its managers to submit their proposals, and said, "The government will try to pay its share of financing this project as soon as possible."

The implementation of the Karaj commuter rail project started in 2006, but due to lack of required resources, it has remained practically half-finished.

President Raisi also paid a visit to the 100-bed hospital under construction in Kamalshahr, Karaj. Referring to the 18% progress of the project, he said, "The government's plan is to first complete those projects that have more than 50% physical progress."

"However, considering that this hospital is located in one of the deprived areas of the province, it was decided to complete it and serve the people as soon as possible by allocating the necessary funds and the jihadist action of the relevant officials," he said.

The president stressed the need to facilitate the access of the people of Alborz province to medical services. "Alborz province provides more than 60% of the country's drug needs and it is not acceptable for the people of this province to stand in line for treatment and access to medical services."

President Raisi also held a meeting with different groups of the people of Alborz province. Elites, clerics, martyrs' families, war veterans and people of the province were in attendance.

Raisi said, "In the last 40 years,

many steps have been taken for the development of this region, but there is a longer way to go."

Raisi further stated, "The main strategy of today is the system of creating hope for the future, and whoever moves in this direction, moves in the direction of achieving the goal of the system."

Pointing out that today there is a very heavy responsibility on all officials in the Islamic Republic, the president stated, "Today, we must all realize that although the enemy does not want Iran to progress and become strong, our duty is to redouble our efforts."

Raisi said the main focus of efforts should be to strengthen the components of power of the Islamic Republic, noting, "Today, science, economics and the support and presence of the people are the most important components of power."

One of the most important factors in strengthening the people's trust in the system is to improve the efficiency of the administrative system, the president pointed out.

In another part of his speech, President Raisi said, "The discourse of the 'popular government' is to create change and try to bring the current situation as close as possible to the desired situation."

"It's not a difficult task to describe and explain justice, but it is important that people feel in practice that justice has been done," he said.

"The government will focus on the will of the people in the path of justice, and wherever the will and interests of the people are in conflict with the will of some special group, the public will, will take precedence."

Emphasizing that the people are dissatisfied with corruption and discrimination, and therefore the government should base its

work on eliminating corruption and discrimination in the country's administrative system, the president said, "The government should act according to justice and the people should closely monitor the government's performance."

In another part of his remarks, the president mentioned paying attention to the dignity and improving the quality of teachers' work, providing appropriate education for students and paying attention to the education provided in kindergartens, among other government concerns in the education system.

Raisi went on to describe the government's plan for economic reform, saying, "The day we took over the government, the \$8 billion in the 1400 budget for the payment of the preferred currency was almost gone, but the government did its best to manage the supply of basic goods without shock to the market, in which the Supreme Leader also helped the government a lot."

The president added, "There was no lack of coordination in this regard in different parts of the government and the government's position in this regard was quite clear from the beginning. The economic team of the 13th government is working in high coordination to implement government policies and strengthen national economy."

Raisi also talked about the document of the transformation of the popular government, saying, "16 think tanks and more than 500 experts in various fields gave expert opinions about this document".

The president also clarified about the government's plan to regulate the automobile industry, saying, "During my visit to Iran Khodro, I emphasized that the monopoly of the automobile industry in the country should be reformed as soon as possible."

In the last part of his remarks, Raisi emphasized the need for consensus and participation of all members of society to bring about change in the country.

"We expect the university, as the think tank of the government, to formulate the system of the country's problems and the seminaries to offer a solution to solve the country's problems by relying on dynamic and civilization-building jurisprudence," the president stated.

and proceeded with their punitive measures against Lebanon.

With Lebanon's parliamentary elections slated for May, Saudi Arabia and its allies seem to be seeing an opportunity to undermine Hezbollah, which is bent to throw its weight behind candidates affiliated with the resistance movement in Lebanon.

Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of the Lebanese Hezbollah, has recently described the upcoming elections as a "battle."

"Our battle in the next election is the battle of our allies, and just as we strive for the victory of our candidates, we will strive for the success of our allied candidates," he said.

Saudi Arabia has long been complaining about the influence of Hezbollah. It put pressure almost on all Lebanese prime ministers to undercut the group. But its pressures ended in failure as Hezbollah still wields influence due to its strong bonds with other factions and its own constituencies.

unfolding in Ukraine.

In turn, the Iranian foreign minister emphasized the need to focus on dialog and a diplomatic solution to the crisis in Ukraine and said addressing the root causes of the current crisis was the key to the establishment of peace and lasting stability in the Eurasian region.

The two sides also reviewed the latest measures taken within the framework of bilateral relations and stressed the necessity of facilitating the implementation of all the previously-reached agreements.

To that effect, Amir Abollahian invited his Iraqi opposite number for a visit to Iran. Hussain welcomed the invitation.

SPORTS

Nobody should take Group B lightly, expert says

From Page 1 ► who are the best in the group, the other teams are also strong, and no one are weaker than Iran national team," he said.

When asked about the appropriate tactical approach for Iran in the World Cup, Maziar said: "It depends on the thinking of the national team's head coach, Dragan Skocic.

"First of all, we have to see if Skocic will stay – or will be kept – in the team or not. Then we should define our strategy for the World Cup. We have to think about not conceding against our opponents, then try to score and get points in each match. England are our first rivals, and we have to think about a dream start in the tournament to continue in the best way possible.

"We have an excellent offensive line with Mehdi Taremi and Sardar Azmoun, but who will deliver the ball to them in the midfield? that's an important question. In the game against Lebanon, two long passes were sent from the defensive line to the offensive line, but our midfield line couldn't assist or create opportunities," Maziar concluded.

Iran, No. 21 in the current FIFA world rankings, will kick off thr World Cup campaign in Qatar against fifth-ranked England on Nov. 21 before facing Wales/Scotland/Ukraine on Nov. 25. The Iranians will close out Group B play on Nov. 30 versus the U.S. (No. 15 in FIFA ranking).

First captain of Iran volleyball team Sharifzadeh dies

TEHRAN – First captain of Iran national volleyball team Mohammad Sharifzadeh passed away Thursday night in Tehran.

He captained a team who won a silver medal at the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo, Japan.



Sharifzadeh died at the age of 87 due to the heart attack.

He will be laid to rest on Saturday in Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Sharifzadeh's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

Win over Pakhtakor was very important: Navidkia

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team coach Moharram Navidkia says that victory over Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor in their opening match was very important.

The Iranian football team came back from a 1-0 first half deficit to beat the Uzbek Super League champions 3-1 on Matchday One of Group D in the AFC Champions League 2022 on Thursd

"We had a weak performance in the first half, both technically and tactically," said Navidkia.

"This led to us falling behind by a goal as a result of a quick attack that the opponent took advantage of in an exemplary way. At half time, I talked to the players about the need to focus and move forward to put pressure on the opponent, and not give them space. That's how we got many chances that we were able to take advantage of and score three goals in a row," he added.

"I think this victory is very important and gives the players more confidence in the upcoming matches that will be against strong opponents," Navidkia concluded.

Persepolis, Aluminum match likely to be postponed

TEHRAN – A football match between Persepolis and Aluminum football teams in Iran's Hazfi Cup quarter-final will likely be postponed due to air pollution.

The match is scheduled for Saturday in Tehran's Azadi Stadium but will likely be canceled due to unsuitable weather conditions in the Iranian capital.

The match will be held on Sunday if Iran Football League Organization decides to postpone it.

Nekounam satisfied with Foolad performance against Al Gharafa

TEHRAN – Foolad football team coach Javad Nekounam is satisfied with his team's performance in the opening match of the 2022 AFC Champions League.

Foolad were held to a goalless draw by Al Gharafa of Qatar in Group C on Thursday.

The Iranian team will face Shabab Al-Ahli of the UAE on Sunday.

"We could have won the game with two or three goals but we didn't have enough luck. Al Gharafa have a team with star players but we got them to defend against us. Their focus was on the counter attacks and we managed to defend well," Nekounam said.

"Al Gharafa coach knows us very well because of his experience in Iran. They have resources to learn more about our team. With the chances that we created, I'm upset we did not score but I'm satisfied with my players performance especially in this hot weather," said Nekounam.

With important matches lined-up in the coming days, Nekounam and his team will now shift their attention to the next game against Shabab Al Ahli Dubai on Sunday.

"Our goal now is to focus on the future games. That's our full focus. We can learn a lot from our first match, our goalkeeper didn't have one ball in the net and we controlled the game despite the high humidity," he added.

Persepolis coach Golmohammadi suspended for rest of season

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team head coach Yahya Golmohammadi was suspended for the rest of Iran Professional League (IPL) season by Disciplinary Committee of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI).

He got involved in a controversial moment in Tehran derby three weeks ago at the Azadi Stadium, Tasnim news agency wrote.

The Persepolis coach harshly criticized the referee in the final moments of the match, saying the decision went against his team and pushed the officials several times.

The match ended 1-1 and Persepolis failed to reduce the gap with Esteghlal to three points.

Golmohammadi's was suspended for six matches and it means he has been barred for the rest of the season.

Esteghlal goalkeeping coach Behzad Gholampour was also suspended one match after pushing Persepolis midfielder Mehdi Torabi onto the field.

Iran, Iraq FM's hold phone conversation

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Iraqi counterpart, Fuad Hussein, held a phone conversation to discuss some issues of mutual interest, including bilateral ties, regional developments and the Vienna talks.

The two sides also exchanged congratulations on the arrival of Nowruz or the Persian New Year as well as the holy fasting month of Ramadan, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The top Iraqi diplomat briefed Amir Abdollahian on the latest developments in Iraq and discussed his recent visit to Moscow, his talks with the Russian foreign minister and the developments



Can barter trade realize Iran-Pakistan \$5b trade target?



From page 1 ► Considering the significantly low level of trade between Iran and Pakistan, the two nations are going to use barter mechanisms as a solution that can remove some of the current barriers to trade and hopefully allow them to fully benefit from their mutual economic capacities.

Regulatory barriers

According to Pakistani Expert and Member of the Digital Economy Task Force in United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Muhammad Anwar, although signing the barter trade agreement is a big step toward removing the barriers in the way of trade between the two countries, it is not enough for realizing the \$5 billion annual trade target.

In order for the barter trade agreement to be implemented effectively, the two countries should make several regulatory adjustments as well, Anwar stressed.

"There are regulatory matters [that should be resolved as well]. [for instance] Iran charges Pakistani trucks \$1 for each three kilometers distance in terms of the fuel price difference, despite (the fact) that they need to buy fuel on open market rate in Iran," Anwar said.

Iranian trucks carrying cargoes from Pakistan and going inside Pakistan don't need to pay any tax as per Pakistan government policy, he added.

Trading in national currencies

Anwar believes that another step that would help the two countries realize their economic

potential is to use their national currencies for trade along with the barter trade mechanism.

"Current trade balance is in favor of Iran. Due to banking restrictions exports of Pakistan to Iran are less," the official said.

Trading in national currencies will make the two sides able to diversify the variety of the exchange commodities and this way the trade between the two sides will be more balanced, Anwar stated.

Asked about the major items exchanged between Iran and Pakistan, he said: "From Pakistan mostly foodstuff like rice, sesame seed, fresh fruits, minerals are being exported whereas from Iran side LPG, petrochemicals, consumer goods, etc."

According to the expert, Pakistan's affordable agricultural products can offset the growing demand in Iran.

Developing Transit

Anwar, who is also the CEO of a transportation company called North South Transport Network (NSTN), further mentioned the transit capacities of the two countries as a perfect opportunity for the two sides to increase their trade balance.

Iran and Pakistan which are both members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), can also cooperate to improve transit trade corridors in Central Asia, he said.

"Pakistan and Iran are in the center of east and west. Pakistan is bordering with India and China the two largest populated countries in the world whereas Iran connects Turkey and CIS and beyond Turkey, Europe which are great consumer markets for Asian products," the official explained, adding: "Therefore, Iran and Pakistan can play a great role in connecting east with west."

Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul block train is an example of the works that can be done to fully realize the connectivity and capacity in this regard, the official mentioned.



He has also served as the chairman of the board of directors of Mobarakeh Steel Company, secretary of the Industry Ministry's Finance Working Group, and the director of the Energy Program of the mentioned ministry.

IDRO's new head appointed

TEHRAN – Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin has appointed Ali Nabavi as the 21st head of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), IRIB reported.

Fatemi Amin, who is the Chairman of IDRO's General Assembly, appointed Nabavi to the position according to a resolution approved during the extraordinary general assembly meeting of the organization which was attended by the ministers of economy, defense, energy, science, and labor as well as the vice president and chairman of the Planning and Budget Organization.

Nabavi, who has been also a board member at IDRO, was previously the industry minister's special assistant for corporate affairs.

Loading, unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port rises 17% in a year

TEHRAN – Loading and unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year, a provincial official announced.

Adel Deris, the director-general of Khuzestan's Ports and Maritime Department, said that 45,976 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in this port during the past year.

The official also said that the annual loading and unloading of non-oil goods in Imam Khomeini port increased 11 percent to stand at 29 million tons.

He further announced that 16,665 million tons of oil products were loaded and unloaded in the port during the previous year, with four million tons growth from its preceding year.

Based on the data released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, loading

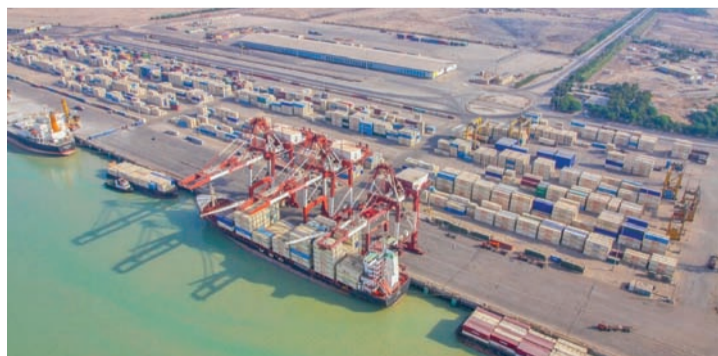
and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the past year.

The ministry's data show that loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the petroleum sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the



U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

Moscow hosts grand Iran-Russia business forum

TEHRAN – Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation hosted an Iran-Russia business forum in Moscow on Thursday, IRNA reported.

The trade convention was attended by senior officials from the two sides including Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak, and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation Sergei Katyrin.

Representatives of 70 Iranian companies along with envoys from 300 Russian firms active in various sectors, including industry, technology, petrochemicals, medicine, and food industry, were also present at this gathering and held B2B meetings on trade issues.

A 70-member Iranian delegation arrived in Russia on Monday to attend this business forum and to hold talks with Russian counterparts.

This was considered the biggest Iranian business delegation ever to visit Russia while most of the attendees were representatives of Iran's private sector.



Iran to export dairy products to Russia, EAEU

On the sidelines of the forum, Iranian officials also met with Head of Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Sergey Dankvert and discussed ways of expanding ties in this area.

During this meeting, the two sides agreed to prepare the ground for the exports of some dairy products from Iran to Russia and the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

They also discussed the

development of cooperation in supervision of standards in the production and trade of dairy products, aquaculture, plants, livestock and poultry.

Iran and Russia have been taking serious steps for boosting their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi had said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

"We agreed to remove trade barriers and boost the economic

exchanges between the two countries. Currently, the level of mutual trade is not acceptable, so the two countries agreed to increase trade to \$10 billion a year," Raisi said on January 21, upon arrival to Tehran after a two-day visit to Moscow.

The president also noted that the two sides had also discussed monetary and banking issues during his talks with Russian officials.

"The two countries can take steps to break the dominance of the dollar over monetary and banking relations and trade with the national currency," Raisi stressed.

The two countries also agreed to identify mutual agricultural capacities as well as suitable areas for the exchange of agricultural products in order to increase the level of trade in the agricultural sector, according to the official.

He went on to say that the Islamic Republic of Iran has very good capacities in the field of transit and transportation, saying: "During this visit, it was agreed to activate the north-south corridor. This transit route will make the time and distance of transiting goods from Russia and different northern countries to the southern regions much shorter."

Constructing 100,000 National Housing Movement units to be started in new towns

TEHRAN- The deputy transport and urban development minister announced that the construction operation of 100,000 units of National Housing Movement will be started in new towns by the end of the current Iranian calendar month (April 20).

Alireza Jafari, who is also the managing director of New Towns Development Company, made the remarks in a virtual meeting with the related directors, on the latest status of conducting National Housing Movement in the new towns.

"He said that 608,000 units of National Housing Movement have been planned to be constructed in the new towns, which besides 100,000 units of National Housing Action, our commitment in this due is the construction of about 700,000 units", he added.

Back in late March, Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi said that over 800,000 units of National Housing Movement are already under construction across the country.

Referring to the important steps taken in National Housing Movement, Qasemi said: "Important issues such as banking, land extensions, land use change and the creation of a land bank have been resolved



with the support of National Land and Housing Organization."

He said that according to the information of the land bank, there are 40,000 cases in the field of land, the value of some of which is significant, noting that issues such as the law prohibiting the sale of land, which prevented access to new resources for years, were resolved.

In mid-March, the deputy transport and urban development minister announced that 5.2 million applicants have already registered in the government's two major housing plans (National Housing Action and National Housing Movement).

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh said that

according to the Supreme Housing Council, the two plans of National Housing Movement and National Housing Action were merged so that those who had already registered (in Housing Action) could enjoy the benefits of this plan (Housing Movement).

After monitoring the applicants in these two housing projects, the names will be sent to the departments of the provinces and the relevant organizations to approve the condition, and those who are eligible to go through other steps, the official explained.

As previously reported, the operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of National Housing Movement began in early February.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

After the National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), the National Housing Movement is the government's second major program for providing affordable housing units to low-income classes.

Iran's 1st inland port to be inaugurated soon

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin along with the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) Miad Salehi visited Iran's first dry (inland) port near the capital Tehran on Friday.

As reported by Mehr News Agency, Aprin Dry Port which is located in Islamshahr town in south of Tehran, is going to be officially inaugurated in the near future.

With the mentioned port going operational, central industrial provinces will have easier access to their required goods and the cost of maintaining cargo in ships and warehouses of the country's entry points will also be significantly reduced.

When fully operational, about 60 percent of the country's imported goods are going to be transported to the dry port of Aprin via railway to be cleared through customs and provided to the owners of the goods.

Speaking on the sidelines of the mentioned visit, Salehi said the development of Aprin is a priority of the RAI, and due to the significant investment made in this region, a suitable freight network will also be created to facilitate access to the port.

The first phase of the Aprin port was



supposed to be put into operation in the first half of the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2020), but due to some technical issues related to the establishment of customs at the port, its operation was postponed.

A dry port (also referred to as an inland port) is an inland intermodal terminal directly connected by road or rail to a seaport, operating as a center for the transshipment of sea cargo to inland destinations.

In addition to their role in cargo transshipment, dry ports may also include facilities for storage and consolidation of goods, maintenance for road or rail cargo carriers, and customs clearance services. The location of these facilities at a dry port relieves competition for storage and customs space at the seaport itself.

From page 1 ► I actually think the whole thing is rather boring, even though I'm never really surprised when the public or the media obsess over trivial matters like this. I certainly understand the fascination. People want or may even need tabloids in some sense, and celebrities certainly offer an easy escape from our everyday lives, and so forth. To my mind, there's really nothing abnormal about stuff like this. It's not an aberration.

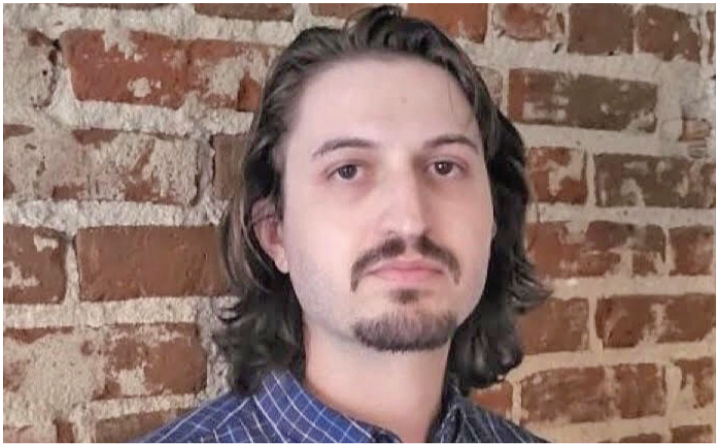
American public opinion seems split, though this is no surprise either. One camp claims that Will Smith was justified, while others firmly believe that Chris Rock didn't deserve it. I've heard opinions ranging from the idea that Rock deserved to be slapped for making light of Jada Pinkett Smith's disability, to Rock deserving it because he should know better than to make a joke about a black woman's hair. On the other side, Smith has been condemned as violent by many, and also for a display of male chauvinism, essentially that Pinkett Smith didn't need a man to defend her honor. Also, we shouldn't forget that many people simply don't care about the whole thing. All of these perspectives exist at once. All this is fine, though I'm sure we all can probably think of some other comedians and actors who deserve to be slapped for other, more pressing reasons — especially those who have been exposed to serious sexual crimes and so forth. Americans, I think, are especially used to what we might call the spectacle of celebrity gossip. It's simply normal at this point, and difficult (if not impossible) to escape from.

Smith's actions may have repercussions, or may not, who's to say? But also, who cares? The better question, I think, is what might this moment expose about popular and institutional opinion on violence? Even the definition of violence seems to be on the table. What does the public consider to be violent? How does Hollywood classify violence? The reactions themselves are far more interesting than the event — and this basic metric may actually apply to much of American popular culture. I think for many, stuff like this marks a way in or a point of access to the political — it's almost a form of populist reason, insofar as everyone is expected to have an opinion and take a side on elite figures like Smith and Rock. My wife observed something rather interesting the day after the slap. We were out at a café, and nearly everyone was discussing it, and some quite passionately. The public gathers around events like this. They're a kind of imagined community.

And of course, it's probably best if we resist the lure of tabloids whenever possible. It is undoubtedly distracting, but not for the typical reasons one might think about. Some have made an extremely unjustifiable comparison between the slap and what's going on in Ukraine right now, suggesting that the slap is a distraction from the war. Anyone who feels the need to openly juxtapose a slap and a military conflict is not to be taken seriously. Such comparisons or juxtapositions are merely convenient. They are only made available because the Ukraine conflict happened to overlap with this year's Academy Awards. Other than that, these things have nothing to do with one another (until, perhaps, someone like Steven Spielberg or whoever else makes a film about Zelenskyy). And furthermore, there's never been a scarcity of pop culture moments that we might think of as potentially distracting, taking our attention from the equally ubiquitous global violence that we have at our disposal to make such comparisons in the first place. These comparisons and juxtapositions are idiotic and don't tell us anything.

I am reminded of a line from one of MC Sole's old raps, "most white rappers sound like they've never been punched in the face." I think the same probably applies to most people in Hollywood. A lot of white pundits took to the news media and social media to express their shock and disgust or whatever, as though they have never seen someone get hit in the face before.

Hollywood has painted itself into a hypocritical corner: researcher



It's easy to be appalled or shocked or entertained by the violence of any sort. Is this violence? Sure, maybe. But Hollywood specializes in this very thing in fact. If the idea is that things like this "slap controversy" distract us from real atrocities around the globe, then I suppose Hollywood should just close up shop altogether. This is especially ironic because most Hollywood narratives follow a similar formula: they often simply amount to one character slapping another one for an hour and a half or so.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization that runs the Oscars, has condemned Will Smith's actions toward comedian Chris Rock at the 94th Academy Awards on Sunday night. However, the academy has given awards to films that promote violence. How can this be justified?

Well, the short answer is of course that this kind of institutional hypocrisy can't and shouldn't be excused or justified for very specific historical reasons. Hollywood has an incredibly violent history itself, and not only with regard to the contents of their films. Sure, there are plenty of award-winning films that have been violent: Hurt Locker, Braveheart, Silence of the Lambs, some of The Godfather films, and Deer Hunter, Unforgiven, and others. Violence abounds in all forms of media, but America has a special relationship with what is called racialized violence; violence perpetrated systemically toward nonwhite people, domestically and abroad. And Hollywood's history is certainly knotted up with American violence in a variety of ways. America's racist and imperial legacy is well known, and so I don't feel I need to recount it here.

However, it's possible that Hollywood's violent legacy is less well known. For instance, the history of blackface in Hollywood: Judy Garland in Babes in Arms, Al Jolson in The Jazz Singer, Fred Astaire in Swing Time, and numerous others donned blackface and performed as black caricatures in Hollywood films. And if you think this is some archaic practice, you're mistaken. C. Thomas Howell, for instance, performed in blackface in the film Soul Man in the 1980s. More recently, clips have been uncovered of Jon Hamm, Jimmy Kimmel, and David Byrne in blackface. Jimmy Fallon actually donned blackface to do an impersonation of Chris Rock incidentally — not once but twice if I'm not mistaken. I highly recommend Spike Lee's Bamboozled, which is an excellent cinematic commentary on the use of blackface in American entertainment.

There are so many award-winning violent and racist films I don't have time to even list them all. Cleopatra, Jezebel, Out of Africa, King Kong, The Green Mile, Gone With the Wind, Green Book, Not to mention sexist, transphobic, and so on. Then there's of course the legacy of indigenous stereotyping in Hollywood cinema: Pocahontas, Nanook of the North, The Searchers, Paleface, Ernest Goes to Camp, and so on. The latter two films feature the actor known as Iron Eyes Cody, who was famous for portraying the so-called "crying Indian" in a public service announcement on environmentalism. It turned out

that Iron Eyes Cody was actually born Espera Oscar de Corti, and was of Sicilian descent, and so he was essentially performing his entire career in "redface," as it's sometimes referred to. Actually, Marlon Brando rather famously rejected his Best Actor Award for his role in The Godfather, using his platform to denounce the treatment of Native Americans in the film industry. In his place, he invited Sacheen Littlefeather to speak and make a statement about the abhorrent treatment of Native Americans in Hollywood, citing Wounded Knee and other exigent issues.

I'd argue that blackface, redface, and these other examples are violent, even if they're not "violent" in the sense we typically define the word: there is systemic and ideological violence wrapped up in these kinds of depictions, and so Hollywood and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has painted itself into a hypocritical corner. It really has no credibility left to speak about itself — it has already shown everything on the screen, so it can't really condemn anything in good faith at this point. If only it would condone good filmmaking, which it seems unwilling to do in most cases.

The idea that a group of elite cinematic gatekeepers like the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences getting together to condemn violence is neither interesting nor truthful. It's just as easy to condemn violence as it is to find an easy justification for it: and Hollywood and the Academy have surely done both, often at the same time. It's more difficult to seek to explain how systemic violence functions, its historical roots, its persistence over time, and how ideology contributes to the attitudes and responses to violence, and as well how Hollywood has always been entangled with and participated in these systems. Any individual like Will Smith or anyone else can be either vilified or lionized — a villain or a hero (and I think he's probably played both on-screen). However, systemic and ideological violence are far more important to tackle I'd say.

To what extent do the Oscars praise films that represent American values instead of global values? Films that show the plights of other countries are usually welcomed at the Oscars.

It's true and also well known that the Academy Awards is a whitewashed institution, and always has been and likely always will be. Western, democratic values were destined to turn up in Hollywood cinema, so long as we acknowledge that those values are racism, sexism, warmongering, coup-mongering, extortion, extraction, dispossession, and white saviorism, to name only a few. And yes, Hollywood loves to portray foreign pain: it's an industry standard. The everyday plights and miseries experienced by people in other regions of the globe, often at the hands of American imperialism and capitalism more generally, make up a bulk of the content of Hollywood cinema, American television, and other media.

American Sniper, which won several Academy Awards, is a great example of this. It's a violent film depicting a sniper deployed during

the Iraq War, and so you can imagine the kinds of violence and atrocities it portrays. The same goes for Kathryn Bigelow's films, Zero Dark Thirty which I think won an award or two, as well as The Hurt Locker, which won Best Picture. These films are essentially American propaganda films, which depict the atrocities committed by the American Military in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are other examples, like Flight 93, which was nominated for an Academy Award or two, and World Trade Center, which is one of the most jingoistic films I think I've ever seen. There are many more examples of course.

Do you think the academy welcomes films that criticize the American establishment and the mainstream (government and the apparatuses that promote the American dream like the film industry)? For example, films that cast doubt on America's foreign policy in Afghanistan, Iraq, or Vietnam.

That's the thing, Hollywood really has its bases covered on this front. There certainly are examples of this: All the President's Men exposing the Watergate scandal, Deer Hunter and Taxi Driver commenting on the trauma of Vietnam, and even the Film Noir genre as a whole in the post-WWII era. Some of these films won awards or were at least nominated for them.

Michael Moore won the Best Picture award for his film Bowling For Columbine, which was critical of the NRA and the American gun lobby, and also the violence in American media, television, film, etc. Moore was booed, however, when he used his platform to denounce Bush's unjustified war in Iraq. However, imagine a Hollywood film about Barack Obama's drone strike campaign winning some kind of award? There'll probably be a film or two about the January 6th coup in the near future, and we might even imagine it winning or at least being nominated for an award. But what about Biden's border policy? It'll likely never happen. I'm not trying to suggest that Hollywood's liberal bias against the right-wing is somehow egregious. Most people would probably agree, and I do, that the American far right is extremely dangerous and absolutely worth exposing and critiquing. But that Hollywood really never touches on the problematic political scandals of the Democratic Party. However, the Academy and Hollywood are pretty selective with what they're willing to fund, nominate, and ultimately grant awards to.

Hollywood does what it is supposed to do, and it does it well. It entertains us while also enabling us to disavow the deep-seated imperialistic core of American democracy and capitalism. But American audiences are not stupid — we know (many of us I hope) that America is rooted in violence, historically as today. We also know that Award ceremonies are bullshit. Hollywood often shows us these things directly, without disguising them. It is willing to fund projects which examine ecological catastrophe, climate change and so forth, but then will turn right around and produce multimillion-dollar films which have an enormous ecological footprint. Hollywood's critical films don't really culminate into anything substantial in my estimation. Hollywood cinema often convicts our wills into the action of nonaction: we feel good for doing our civic duty, becoming more aware of the problems affecting our world, violence, racism, sexism, and so forth, but this is typically the end of the line. Audiences typically aren't going to Blow Up a Pipeline, to borrow the title of Andreas Malm's book, just because they watched Al Gore or Leonardo DiCaprio talk about climate change for 2 hours. We need good, critical viewing practices to intervene in this cycle and make us think differently about film as a medium, what it is capable of, as well as its limitations. But that might be hard to do when Marvel and DC movies are what fascinate audiences the most.

(See full text at www.tehran-times.com)

Major symbolic move in Yemen as former president transfers “power”

From page 1 ► my full powers in accordance with the constitution and the [Persian] Gulf Initiative and its executive mechanism.”

The irony is that from the beginning of the Saudi war on Yemen; Hadi, who has also dismissed his “deputy”, did not have any power in Yemen for him to now be “delegating” power.

It does appear more likely that Saudi Arabia is seeking to try and finally end this war after it welcomed a two-month truce last week.

Riyadh has now realized that Hadi has no influence to advance peace talks for the shaky truce to become permanent.

The new “Presidential Leadership Council” is made up of different Saudi and UAE-backed factions that are on the ground in Yemen and will most likely try and take on the role of negotiating a lasting ceasefire deal with Ansarallah.

Saudi Arabia is sending a message to Ansarallah about it's a commitment to a long-lasting truce while at the same time attempting to save face in a war many say it has lost.

Yemen's Supreme Political Council's Chief Negotiator welcomed the development it “has refuted allegations of the countries that attacked Yemen under the pretext of confronting coup plotters against him.”

Mohammed Abdul-Salam saying added, “the international community and the UN no longer have an excuse to continue using the term ‘internationally recognized Yemeni government’ to massacre the Yemeni nation and enforce a tight siege on the Arab country.”

In Hadi's statement, the new council has the authority to hold talks with the government in Sana'a.

However, Saudi and UAE-backed factions have a history of infighting between themselves with regular heavily armed clashes in Southern Yemen not so long ago.

It remains to be seen if this “council” will hold together and what role it can play effectively to bring peace to Yemen.

At the end of the day, Riyadh pulls the strings here and it hasn't exactly taken the wisest decisions in the past.

The former member of the UN Panel of Experts on Yemen, Gregory Johnsen, believes “this is an attempt, perhaps a last-ditch effort, to reconstitute something resembling unity within the anti-Ansarallah alliance,” but he added, “the problem is that it is unclear how these various individuals, many of whom have diametrically opposing views, can work together.”

In any case, it is a very symbolic move as it exposes a harsh reality for Riyadh and Western propaganda that Hadi was a legitimate President and the war on Yemen was aimed at defending the people.

The people of Yemen have over the past eight years displayed their resilience and increasing military might on the front line.

This while Yemen witnesses huge anti-American and anti-Saudi protests, on a regular basis, filling the streets of the capital Sana'a and other cities across the country with such a high turnout that not even drone footage can capture the mass demonstrations.

The other question is will the new council be seeking peace in Yemen or try to achieve what Saudi Arabia failed to militarily?

Footage has been published on Saudi state media, showing Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's meeting with the eight-member council, led by Rashad Al-Alimi (a former government minister), who has close ties with both Riyadh and the Yemeni Islah party.

The new body also includes several leaders of United Arab Emirates-backed factions, including Aidarous al-Zubaidi of the separatist Southern Transitional Council, which has never trusted Islah and vied with Saudi-backed militants for control of Aden in Yemen's south.

Riyadh has urged the new council to negotiate with Ansarallah who have launched repeated retaliatory attacks on oil installations in Saudi Arabia, including a missile strike on Jeddah last month as the port city was hosting the Formula One Grand Prix.

But what Riyadh also wants is a unified anti-Ansarallah alliance in case the peace talks fail; it's proxies on the ground will continue



battling Yemeni forces with more unity as Riyadh looks for a way out.

The Kingdom has been reluctant to abandon Hadi as it allowed the Saudis to justify their war on Yemen by claiming they were trying to reinstall a Western-backed government.

At the same time his role was problematic for Saudi Arabia, analysts believe, because he was viewed as leading a weak, divided administration outside of Yemen and out of touch with Yemen.

Case in point, when Yemeni forces launched a retaliatory operation in September 2019, when 25 Yemeni made drones were used to attack oil processing facilities at Abqaiq and Khurais deep inside Saudi Arabia.

The operation forced the kingdom to shut down half of its oil production and call for emergency summits in Mecca including an Arab League Summit.

At the Arab League, Hadi, (who Saudi Arabia and the West claim is the President of Yemen) did not speak and could hardly be seen.

This is while, General Borhan of Sudan's controversial military transitional council, who had been in power for about a week, delivered a statement and spoke at length.

So when the Saudi Kingdom says it has welcomed “President” Hadi's decision to transfer power, the reality is it has forced “President” Hadi, who makes few statements and announcements as you would expect from a “President” whose country is at war, to make this decision.

The Saudis do desire a permanent peace deal in Yemen. But not from a change of heart for the hundreds of thousands of Yemenis that have died and millions of others who have starved.

Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen has been a public relations disaster. Even it's allies in the West are increasingly wary and reluctant to support one of their biggest partners in West Asia.

The Saudi military losses, the attacks on Saudi Aramco oil facilities, and the sight of malnourished Yemeni kids being highlighted ever increasingly by UN aid agencies is not something the West wants to be seen as affiliated with.

Labeling Hadi as the “legitimate President of Yemen” justified the quite horrific bombing campaign and the hundreds of billions of dollars Western arms manufacturers made in profit by selling weapons to Riyadh.

But it was more than just manufacturing weapons and making money.

Yemen is a strategic country in West Asia sitting on the Red Sea and with a civilization stretching back to more than 3,000 years.

The popular revolution that began in 2014, demanded free elections in the country, and Hadi, ever loyal to Riyadh, overstayed his term.

Yemen is also Saudi Arabia's southern neighbor so demands of “free elections” sent shockwaves all the way to Riyadh and Washington even Tel Aviv.

Free democratic elections mean change, it means change in policy; both domestic and foreign. Change that can reshape West Asia and change that can end America's hegemonic plots in the region.

The status quo in Saudi Arabia and other monarchies in the Persian Gulf and wider region is something that sits well with America: Kingdoms that listen to instructions from Washington instead of taking orders from its people.

Change from monarchical or dictatorship rule to elections, sovereignty and territorial integrity spell the end of America's presence in West Asia.

This is why the war on Yemen passed its seventh-anniversary last month.

Arrays of prehistorical relics unearthed in southeast Iran

From page 1 ► “Situated some 60 km south of Shahr-e Sukhteh (the Burnt City), the hill was severely damaged by the gas pipeline operation, and its northern parts were tunneled by heavy machinery.”

Shahr-e Sukhteh was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its residents had great skills in weaving, creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting.

“However, the rescue effort was carried out to maximize access to the archaeological information of the hill,” he said.

In addition to clay remains, copper ores, as well as round and hollow clay tokens, were found during the safeguarding project, he stated.

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran

with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

Sistan-Baluchestan possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic transit location, especially Chabahar which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including the World Heritage sites of Shahr-e Sukhteh and Lut desert.

Shahr-e Sukhteh is associated with four rounds of civilization, all burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire. The site is situated in Sistan-Baluchestan province, which was once a junction of Bronze-Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau.

14 properties approved as national heritage

TEHRAN – A selection of 14 historical buildings and aging structures, scattered across Gilan province, has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Thursday in a letter to the governor-general of the northern province, CHTN reported.

Historical Bazaar of Rasht, Sa'adat, Golchin, Malek and Mohtasham caravanserais, Safi Mosque, and Ashkevari Mansion are among the properties added to the prestigious list.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was

once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

Relics repatriated from France on show at Tehran museum

TEHRAN – A collection of smuggled relics recently been returned home from France has been put on show at the National Museum of Iran.

The collection comprises 29 rare relics some of which date 5,000 years, said Saeid Owhadi, a senior official with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by several cultural officials, diplomats, and art experts on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

The repatriated objects date from different historical periods... They include an ancient piece of pottery that goes back to the bronze age, that is nearly 5,000 years ago, the ministry's deputy for development of management and resources added. “Over the past couple of years, good steps have been taken for repatriation of historical objects.”

“We have had 19 important cases that covered 40,000 historical objects, which are part of the Iranian culture and civilization, being returned to the country with follow-ups of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts



and Foreign Ministry as well as the Organization for Islamic Culture and Communications,” the official explained.

Furthermore, the Foreign Ministry's director-general for cultural cooperation and Iranian expatriates' affairs said the 29 historical objects were repatriated after talks between Iran's cultural attaché in Paris and decedents of World War II President of France, Charles de Gaulle.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mohammad-Ali Kiani said Iranian cultural attaches in 65 countries have been tasked with identifying and coordinating the return of Iranian

cultural and historical objects.

Earlier in March, Morteza Adibzadeh, the director-general of Museums and Historical-Cultural Properties, announced: “the Islamic Republic seeks to bring back some 100 relics that have been smuggled into the U.S., France, England, Hungary, and Norway.”

“We are following 13 cases of returning historical objects, including about one hundred specific pieces from the United States, Hungary, France, England, and Norway, which will be returned home in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401.

Adibzadeh made the remarks at the National Museum of Iran

during the opening ceremony of an exhibition of prehistorical glazed bricks recovered from a smuggler in Switzerland.

Chock-full of priceless objects showcasing the juicy history of the nation, the National Museum showcases ceramics, pottery, stone figures, and carvings, mostly taken from excavations at Persepolis, Ismail Abad (near Qazvin), Shush, Rey, and Turang Tappeh to name a few.

Its main building, designed by French architect André Godard and completed in 1928, is one of the more attractive modern buildings in Tehran, blending Sassanian principles such as the grand iwan-style entrance with art deco-style brickwork.

Inside, among the finds from Shush, there's a stone capital of a winged lion, some delightful pitchers and vessels in animal shapes, and colorful glazed bricks decorated with double-winged mythical creatures. A copy of the diorite stele detailing the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, found at Shush in 1901, is also displayed – the original being in Paris.

Tours to recall memory of national hero in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Gilan's tourism authorities are preparing package tours that will tell the story of Mirza Kuchak Khan, a legendary freedom fighter and Iranian national hero of the early twentieth century.

Visitors will be offered to explore the birthplace of this prominent religious and national figure in the city of Rasht, the remnants of the Jangal Movement and the place of Mirza's martyrdom, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Spreading the culture of self-sacrifice, promoting valuable religious cultures, and properly introducing this prominent figure of the

northern province are the goals of the tour, ILNA quoted Vali Jahani as saying on Thursday.

“In the field of religious tourism, Gilan province has a great deal of potential to attract tourists as well as to introduce the rich culture of its people,” the official added.

Born Yunes, Mirza Kuchak Khan (1880-1921), established the movement in the forests of Gilan that became known as the Jangal (Forest) Movement in response to the period of political decay brought about by the advent of World War I and the occupation of Iran by Anglo-Russian and Ottoman troops.

Indigenous dishes, games in southwest Iran added to national list

TEHRAN – A selection of nine indigenous dishes, games, and other cultural elements, which are practiced in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, have recently

been added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Thursday

announced the inscriptions in an official document it submitted to the governor-general of the southwestern province, CHTN reported.

Local games of Tanur and Ostad Kargar as well as the skill of cooking Sepazi and Kufteh Shab were among the elements added to the significant list.

First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IN TWO STEPS)

No. :443651

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
1500 MT LOW & HIGH CARBON SLAB CASTING POWDER
WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

LOW&HIGH CARBON SLAB(steel grade)		
	%C Min	%C Max
Low carbon	0.01	0.07
High carbon	0.15	0.3

Casting speed(m/min)			
Thickness=200mm		Thickness=250mm	
min	max	min	max
0.7	1.1	0.5	0.9

MOLD DIMENSION			
Thickness (mm)		WIDTH (mm)	
min	max	min	max
200	250	800	1250

INTRESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN SET OF DOCUMENTS, CONTAINING THE RELEVANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF:

EUR 50 "FIFTY EURO" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

- ACCOUNT No. **0100013543943** AT "EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ CENTRAL BRANCH"
- ACCOUNT No. **1902-750-4019644-1** AT "EGHTESAD NOVIN BANK- OF IRAN AHVAZ SHARIATI BRANCH" OR

Rials 5,000,000, "FIVE MILION RIALS" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

- ACCOUNT No. **0102513186002** AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"
- ACCOUNT No. **0100304453001** AT "SADERAT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

AND PRESENT THE PAYMENT RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

HEAD OF REFRACTORY DEPARTMENT
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)
KM 10 AHVAZ – BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD
P.O.BOX: 1378
POST CODE: 61397-31398
AHVAZ– IRAN

Note1: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO **13th April, 2022**. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFORESAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE **27th April, 2022**. THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10 AM ON THE **01st May, 2022** IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHVAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

Note 2: FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT WITH FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Tel No. : +98 61 32136159

Fax No. : +98 61 32908115

Mr.M.FARZINEJAD EMAIL : m.farzinejad@ksc.ir OR VISIT: <http://WWW.KSC.IR>

First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER (IN TWO STEPS)

No. :439087

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE
1500 MT MEDIUM CARBON SLAB CASTING POWDER
WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

MEDIUM CARBON SLAB(steel grade)		
	%C Min	%C Max
Carbon	0.08	0.14

Casting speed(m/min)			
Thickness=200mm		Thickness=250mm	
min	max	min	max
0.7	1.1	0.5	0.9

MOLD DIMENSION			
Thickness (mm)		WIDTH (mm)	
min	max	min	max
200	250	800	1250

INTRESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN SET OF DOCUMENTS, CONTAINING THE RELEVANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF:

EUR 50 "FIFTY EURO" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

- ACCOUNT No. **0100013543943** AT "EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ CENTRAL BRANCH"
- ACCOUNT No. **1902-750-4019644-1** AT "EGHTESAD NOVIN BANK- OF IRAN AHVAZ SHARIATI BRANCH" OR

Rials 5,000,000, "FIVE MILION RIALS" TO THE ONE OF BELOW ACCOUNT No.:

- ACCOUNT No. **0102513186002** AT "MELLI BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"
- ACCOUNT No. **0100304453001** AT "SADERAT BANK OF IRAN AHVAZ KSC BRANCH"

AND PRESENT THE PAYMENT RECEIPT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

HEAD OF REFRACTORY DEPARTMENT
KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)
KM 10 AHVAZ – BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD
P.O.BOX: 1378
POST CODE: 61397-31398
AHVAZ– IRAN

Note1: ALL BIDS MUST BE INFORMED US WHICH PARTICIPATE IN OUR TENDER UP TO **13th April, 2022**. WHEN YOUR COMPANY IS CONFIRMED AND THE TENDER DOCUMENT IS SENT TO YOU, YOU MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE AFORESAID ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE **27th April, 2022**. THE OPENING DATE OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AT 10 AM ON THE **01st May, 2022** IN THE BUYER'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF KSC AHVAZ-IRAN AND THE BIDDERS OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES CAN ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE TENDER.

Note 2: FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT WITH FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Tel No. : +98 61 32136159

Fax No. : +98 61 32908115

Mr.M.FARZINEJAD EMAIL : m.farzinejad@ksc.ir OR VISIT: <http://WWW.KSC.IR>

Foreign elites benefit from knowledge-based support

TEHRAN – Foreign elites interested in starting technological businesses in Iran, in addition to residency support, benefit from the support of knowledge-based companies, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, has said.

Idea owners, investors, and experts who are interested in creating new businesses in Iran are supported, IRNA quoted Mehdi Ghaleh-Noei as saying on Friday.

“In this regard, an agreement has recently been signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labor.

According to this cooperation agreement, Iranian science and technology visas will be granted to idea owners and technologists who can enter Iran for three to six months, and then on the basis of the existing accommodation system for foreign specialists and non-Iranian elites, residence permits will be obtained.

So far, the ideas and conditions of 25 people have been evaluated and efforts are being made to receive a residence permit,” he explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he stated that the main goal is to connect 6,000 knowledge-based companies and capable Iranian creative companies to international markets to develop a sales market.

Due to the special situation of Iran in the international arena, we use special and different methods to develop the market of these companies, including the establishment of an innovation house abroad, through which we have been able to



provide a market for Iranian knowledge-based products.

“In another program, we try to make foreign elites interested in the Iranian business environment and, in other words, with small investments and ideas, they are attracted to create jobs and start a business in the country,” he noted.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, by implementing a program of cooperation with international experts and entrepreneurs, provided special support for non-Iranian specialists. The program defined a set of services and facilities for elite immigrants and entrepreneurs, one of which is the provision of a special residence permit for three to five years.

They can have a special residence card, except for the right to vote to enjoy all citizenship rights in Iran, he added.

To date, more than 450 international professionals and en-

trepreneurs have been identified through this program, and over 200 applicants have been able to benefit from the “Special Residence” card, he added.

The primary objective of this plan is to establish an effective interaction between experts and top science and technology centers of the country in the form of supporting research and technology projects, such as post-doctoral, sabbaticals, visiting and selected professors, creating technological businesses and occupations in knowledge-based companies and holding specialized workshops and lectures.

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

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the Iranian New Year (1401) as “The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating”.

Strengthening knowledge-based companies is on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

The Leader has called on all Iranians, including citizens and government officials, to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

Iranian elites return

Iran has also implemented a plan to return elites from the top 100 universities in the world. Through a national model, the facilities are provided for their return by creating technology parks, innovation centers, and factories.

The plan was able to bring back 2,510 Iranian specialists and graduates from 720 prestigious and top universities in the world.

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.

Health tips for Ramadan

Part 6

Fasting during the holy month of Ramadan is seen as a way to purify spiritually as well as physically – a time to detach from material pleasures and be closer to God. The act of fasting is also believed to increase Muslims’ piety, reminding them that others are less fortunate than themselves.

Fasting involves abstaining from all food, drink from sunrise to sunset. Muslims will wake up before sunrise for Morning Prayer and to eat before the day’s fast begins. Most will break their fast alongside their families in the evening with a communal “Iftar” meal, typically often started with dates.

Children and elderly people are exempt. Pregnant or breastfeeding women, anyone who is sick and anyone travelling on a journey are also exempt.

Nonetheless fit and able adults are expected to fast which could be pretty beneficial to the body.

The Iranian traditional medicine has provided the Muslims with some dietary recommendation to avoid illnesses and discomfort after long fasting days.

Here are some tips:

Eat less sweets

It is better to cut back on sweets such as halve (a dessert made with flour, rose-water and oil), Sholezard (an Iranian traditional saffron rice pudding dessert), or Zulia and Bamiyeh (traditional deep fried sweets) as they are rich in sugar and fat and consuming them in large quantities might work up thirst, cause poor digestion, spoil appetite and increases risks for obesity.

It is better to eat them in very small quantities and two hours after Iftar.

How to avoid sever thirst

Smelling apple, cucumber, lemon, and rosewater, washing or spraying face and neck with cold water and rosewater, avoid spending long hours outside and not involving in mental and physical activities especially in hot places, wearing light colored clothes to keep cool, rubbing violet or almond oil on the belly, cheeks, forehead and behind the ears, and taking rests in dark and cool places with cool scents would help to avoid sever thirst.

To be continued

Health identity cards to be issued for students

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Education plans to issue health certificates for students under a scheme called Pak (literally meaning clean), aiming to monitor and control obesity especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

The scheme monitors health changes in students during the school year according to schedule, and in a specific period of time, sports and health credentials are provided for them to control obesity and inactivity rate of each, and to increase their physical activity, the deputy minister Sadegh Sattarifard explained.

Unfortunately, one in three students is now overweight and one in four students is obese. This means that currently, about 34 percent of male students are overweight, and this figure is about 31 percent for girls, he lamented, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic as a factor exacerbating the problem.

Out of a population of 13 million Iranian students, 4,963 are overweight, IRIB reported on Friday.



Obesity is due to a change in diet and consumption of high-energy foods with low nutritional value, snacks high in sugar, salt, and fat, insufficient consumption of fiber-rich foods, and on the other hand, reduced physical activity, and stress.

Adverse effects of obesity in childhood and adolescence include an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver, hypertension, asthma, re-

spiratory problems, and cardiovascular disease.

A study on the non-communicable diseases and their risk factors conducted in the Iranian calendar year of 1395 (March 2016-March 2017), shows that 11.9 percent of the population suffers from diabetes, 27.9 percent have high triglycerides and the prevalence of hypertension in Iran is 26.4 percent that is caused by high salt intake, Shahram Rafiei-Far, head of education and promotion affairs at the Ministry of Health said in October 2019.

Some 10.4 percent of Iranians consume a high amount of salt, which will increase hypertension, and myocardial infarction, he said, adding, by reducing salt intake to less than 5 grams a day, the risk of stroke can be reduced to one third in society, he stated.

Also, the results of the survey showed that 56.3 percent of the people are physically inactive, while 22.7 percent are suffering from obesity, he noted.

10 African countries importing Iranian-made COVID vaccines: health minister

From page 1 ► World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has pledged to expedite the process of evaluating and registering Iranian vaccines to receive an emergency use license, appreciating Iran's efforts to develop vaccines against the global pandemic.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Kazem Gharibabadi, the Judiciary's deputy chief for international affairs and secretary of Iran's Human Rights Headquarters, on the sidelines of the 49th session of the

Human Rights Council in Geneva.

“Iran's high progress in the health system and the expansion of health network coverage throughout the country has increased the rate of vaccination.

The high rate of vaccination in Iran, as well as the inoculation of foreign refugees, are among other good public control measures that have stabilized the country's health condition,” he stated, IRNA reported.

Referring to the impact of U.S. sanc-

tions on drugs and medical equipment, he said that humanitarian items should be exempted from economic sanctions so that we will take the necessary steps in this regard.

He also promised to speed up the process of registering domestically produced vaccines in Iran.

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

On January 28, the process for global registration of the Iranian-made “COVIRAN Barkat” vaccine started by holding a virtual meeting with the World Health Organization officials.

COVIRAN is the first vaccine in West Asia that is in the process of global registration, IRIB reported.

According to a new study, the effectiveness of the COVIRAN vaccine in fighting the coronavirus has been more than foreign rivals, namely Sinopharm, AstraZeneca, and Sputnik.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: Iranian expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, it is possible to detect the new coronavirus in Iran. All British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test, while so far no case has been confirmed in the country, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند.

مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کروموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.

به گفته او، امکان تشخیص ویروس کرونا جهش یافته در ایران وجود دارد. از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «پی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود و تاکنون موردی از این ویروس در ایران تایید نشده است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON APRIL 8

New cases	3,184
New deaths	36
Total cases	7,186,992
Total deaths	140,528
New hospitalized patients	468
Patients in critical condition	1,594
Total recovered patients	6,909,967
Diagnostic tests conducted	49,901,043
Doses of vaccine injected	147,618,887

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

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

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



Tehrantimes79

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

APRIL 9, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:13:06 Evening: 19:51 Dawn: 5:12 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:39 (tomorrow)

Abulqasem Ferdowsi: Life

Part 11

The plates were kept in the Iran-e Bastan Museum until 1973, when the present writer, serving there as the curator of the Classical Department, was ordered by the court to send half of them to what was then the Shahyad Museum.

This was done after the author's departure in 1974. Vladimir Minorsky, the Russian-born Iranologist, came from London. Other distinguished participants included Denison Ross, Jan Rypka, Bedrich Hrozny, Arthur Christensen, Henri Massé, André Godard, Fuat Koprulu, Hadi Hasan, Behramgore Anklesaria, and Jamshedji Unvala.

An important outcome of the Ferdowsi millenary was the publication of a large number of scholarly works on Ferdowsi and the Shahnameh. A year before the millenary, Mohammad Ramazani published the Shahnameh in Tehran in 5 volumes with an introduction by RaShid Yasami.

Sayf Azad edited and published the Shahnameh and illustrated it with pictures of ancient kings inspired by Achaemenid and Sassanid sculptures.

Just in time for the millenary, Masse's Firdausi et l'épopée nationale appeared, which synthesized previous studies in a convenient form.

A collection of articles by Bahar on Ferdowsi's life and works and the chronology of the Shahnameh was published in Isfahan in a special issue of Bakhtar monthly. Another one, containing mainly the papers presented by various Persian scholars to the congress, formed a special issue of Mehr monthly as Ferdowsi-name-ye Mehr.

A third collection by Armenian scholars appeared in Yerevan under the title Firdusi Zolovacus (Ferdowsi celebration), which included two fine articles by Melik Ohanjanyan.

A fourth collection by Soviet scholars was titled Ferdovsi 934-1934. Another collection of articles, Firdausi Celebration, was published in New York, which included a very valuable catalogue of the principle manuscripts of the Shahnameh then known.

The French periodical Journal Asiatique devoted its 1935 volume to Ferdowsi, and Sayf Azad commemorated the millenary in a special issue of his Iran-e Bastan.

During the congress, Jan Rypka had expressed the opinion that the greatest service that the scholarly world could render to the Persian-speaking communities would be the publication of a critical and reliable edition of the Shahnameh.

The Borukhim Publishing Company in Tehran tried to address this desideratum and published the complete text of the Shahnameh, based on Vuller's edition, with page numbers of Macan and Mohl also noted, under the supervision of Mojtaba Minovi, Abbas Eqbal, Solayman Hayyem (Haim), and Saeid Nafisi.

This edition was ornamented by illustrations by Darvish Parvarda-ye Irani, whose novel style combined Persian miniature traditions with Armenian iconography and European realism.

Mohammad Qazvini edited and published the preface to Abu Mansuri's Shahnameh as "Moqaddama-ye qadim-e Shahnameh".

Fritz Wolff made a lasting contribution with the publication of his Glossar zu Ferdosis Schahname, which was presented as a gift to the Persian people by the German ambassador.

Of the papers read by the participants in the congress, thirty-three were printed (together with one sent earlier by Nöldeke, Taqizadeh's articles originally published in Kaveh in 1920-21, and Qazvini's "Moqaddama-ye qadim-e Shahnameh") in Tehran in 1935, but publication was withheld until 1943 due to Reza Shah's displeasure with Taqizadeh under the title Ketab-e hazara-ye Ferdowsi.

Forughi's valuable lectures on Ferdowsi and

8th Intl. Conference on Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi set for Sept. 30 ,29

From Page 1 ▶ “Rumi and Shams are those pious and learned artisans whose teachings are needed by people in the modern world,” he added.

Kazemi referred to the tomb of Shams as having great cultural potential, and urged the cultural organization to increase their efforts to introduce the profound culture of the country through the teachings of Rumi and Shams.

On his part, Chehreghara also praised UNESCO's initiation to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the active life of Shams-i Tabrizi in 2022 and 2023, and said, “International programs to commemorate Rumi and Shams across the world will be focused on the vibrant story of Rumi's first encounter with his mentor Shams.

Khoy will celebrate the occasion by a program entitled “Meeting of Two Seas”, which will be organized under the auspices of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

“The Line of Mysticism” is part of a program designed to be held during the conference to bring together experts on Rumi and Shams from Balkh, Neyshabur, Tabriz, Khoy and Konya to exchange their latest studies



This photo shows a portrait of the Persian poet Rumi and the calligraphy of one of his verses.

on the two luminaries of Persian literature.

Musical ensembles have also been invited to give performances during the conference and additional festivals, which will be organized during October and November.

Rumi undertook one or two journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish Shams.

However, he was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit to Konya on November 30, 1244.

For months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams (The collected Poetry of Shams) is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.

“Gando” producer Mojtaba Amini named president of Fajr Film Festival

TEHRAN – Mojtaba Amini, producer of the controversial TV series “Gando”, has been appointed as president of the Fajr Film Festival.

In an announcement for the appointment published on Thursday, Cinema Organization of Iran director Mohammad Khazaei asked Amini to give consideration to several matters.

“It is expected that the 41st edition of the Fajr Film Festival, which will be organized internationally and nationwide, will provide a great opportunity for the Iranian cinema in the world and nationwide with a great regard to cultural diplomacy, understanding of regional and international considerations, and attracting the participation of the countries with common religious and cultural origins,” he said.

He also asked the new president to keep expenditures economical and avoid any extravagance in organizing the festival.

Amini is the producer of the TV series “Gando”, which reveals the true story of the major espionage case of Jason Rezaian, an Iranian-American journalist who served as Tehran bureau chief for the Washington Post.

Rezaian was arrested in Iran in July 2014 and was convicted of espionage in a trial in 2015. On January 16, 2016, he and three other U.S. citizens were released in exchange for the release of seven Iranians who were accused or convicted of sanctions violations.

The 30-episode docudrama directed by Javad Afshar was aired on IRIB Channel 3 in 2019. The series sparked some criticism from Iran's Foreign Ministry, which was portrayed as an uninformed, neutral and Westernophile organization in the series.

Office of the former president, Hassan Rouhani, also called the story of the TV series the

Producer of “Gando” Mojtaba Amini in an undated photo.

product of its screenwriter's imagination.

The office asked the IRIB to revise its negative attitudes toward the government, while Amini accused the government of intolerance towards the truth.

Amini produced a sequel to “Gando” in 2021.

New Persian translation of “Ties” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A new Persian translation of “Ties”, winner of the Bridge Prize for Best Novel in 2015 by Italian Domenico Starnone, has come to Iranian bookstores.

Cheshmeh is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Amir-Mehdi Haqiqat.

“Ties” is the story of a marriage. Like many marriages, this one has been subject to strain, to attrition, to the burden of routine. Yet it has survived intact. Or so things appear. The rupture in Vanda and Aldo's marriage lies years in the past, but if one looks closely enough, the fissures and fault lines are evident.

Their marriage is a cracked vase that may shatter at the slightest touch. Or perhaps it has already shattered, and nobody is willing to acknowledge the fact.

Starnone's thirteenth work of fiction is a powerful, short novel



Front cover of the Persian translation of Domenico Starnone's novel “Ties”.

Conversations without an expiration date

magazine when Martyr Morteza Avini was still the editor-in-chief of it.

* **Let's begin with how this collection of interviews came to be, and how you checked the archive of the fiction magazine.**

I checked all of them, collected them, and then divided them into three separate books; interviews with well-known contemporary Iranian authors, interviews with non-Iranian authors whose books have been translated into Persian, and interviews with translators who translate well-known books by non-Iranian authors.

* **How did you decide to publish these interviews?**

The magazine was generally well-written and entertaining, and it was more than just a monthly magazine. Many interesting interviews were conducted that have the potential to be republished as a book, especially because the



Publications were no longer available to the general public and hardly anyone had access to their archives; that's why I started collecting conversations and categorizing them as they were presented.

* **Explain the process for selecting the interviews.**

Some of them had expiration dates, and they were only meant to address a temporary issue before becoming outdated on their own. A number of them are of poor quality for various reasons, such as weak questions, the interviewee and interviewer skipping over the topics and not going into depth, or the interviewee's replies not being correct and valuable. Interviews with important persons, with smart questions and responses, are always worth republishing in a variety of formats, including books. And these kinds of books have their own readers, such as students, experts, and researchers.