

Biden Precipitates America's Decline

▶ Page 3

Report

Wasting taxpayers' money on Iron Dumb

TEHRAN — Teetering on its feet like a drunk man due to the unprecedented inflation rate, why does the U.S. want to fund Israeli defense program?

How many times have we heard the sentence "the U.S. government is on the verge of shutdown?" Tons of times, we dare say

From the 2008 economic crisis in Obama's tenure –which was entirely George W. Bush's fault!– to a wobbling Joe Biden who shakes hands with air after his speeches.

The annual inflation rate in the United States increased to 8.5 percent in March 2022, the highest since December 1981, up from 7.9 percent in February and exceeding market expectations of 8.4 percent. As a result of the Russia-Ukraine war, energy costs jumped by 32%, with gasoline (48%) and fuel oil (70.1%) rising the most. In addition, food prices increased 8.8 percent, the largest since May 1981. Inflation also increased for housing (5 percent compared 4.7 percent in February) and new automobiles (12.5% vs. 12.4%), but decreased for used cars and trucks (35.3 percent vs 41.2 percent).

The young generation of the United States are struggling with the highest inflation rate they have ever witnessed, yet, the United States continues to spend millions of dollars of taxpayers' money on funding the Israeli regime's military programs.

U.S. funding Israeli defense programs is not new to the people of the United States, but this time, with an unstable president in office, and a group of nitwits in Congress, things are getting much more convoluted.

The Tehran Times has learned that the U.S. Congress will be approving a \$500 million bill to further invest in Israel's Missile Defense Program. ▶ Page 2

Report

Iran interested in playing friendly with Senegal

TEHRAN – President of Senegalese football federation Augustin Senghor has revealed that the Iranian team have shown interest in playing a friendly match with the Lions of Teranga.

Iran technical director Hamid Estili has previously said Iran will play four friendly matches in their training camp in Doha, Qatar in June.

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with England, the U.S. and the winners of the European play-offs between Scotland, Ukraine and Wales in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The football federation secretary general Hassan Kamranifar has said that Iran will play New Zealand behind closed doors.

"Argentina and Brazil will play a friendly in Doha and they will most likely play Iran. We are also going to arrange a friendly match with Canada," he said.

New Zealand are scheduled to play Costa Rica in the inter-continental playoff on June 14.

Now, a Senegalese site has reported that Iran has shown interest in playing a friendly match with the African powerhouse.

"At least 10 teams have approached Senegalese football federation so far and have expressed their desire to play friendly matches with the Lions", Senghor told wiwsport.com.

According to him, Iran and Uruguay are among the teams who are interested in playing friendlies with Senegal.

Senegal, headed by Aliou Cissé, are pitted against Qatar, Ecuador, and the Netherlands in Group A of the 2022 World Cup.

How American children fell into poverty again?



© File photo

Last year, the U.S. federal government signed into law a policy to lift millions of American children out of poverty by expanding the Child Tax Credit.

The measure was part of the stimulus package dubbed the "American Rescue Plan" on the

backdrop of the pandemic that strongly affected lower-income households and saw a record number of workers being laid off.

Rather than giving parents their own money back at the annual tax time, the federal government issued advance payments

for half the credit.

That meant each month, The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) deposited payments of up to \$250 per child between the ages of six and 17, and up to \$300 for kids under six, into the bank accounts of more than 61 million families. ▶ Page 5

Over 47m vehicle tires produced in a year

TEHRAN- Iranian tire manufacturers produced 47,624,426 vehicle tires in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was one percent more than the figure of its preceding year.

This number of produced tires weighed over 288,149 tons, with a four-percent drop year on year.

As reported, 24,179,708 car tires weighing 259,096 tons were produced in the past year, with four percent drop in number, and five percent fall in weight as compared to its preceding year.

In the previous year, 152,251 tons of passenger car tires were produced, showing a five-percent fall year on year.

Passenger cars accounted for 58.7 percent of the total tires produced in 1400.

Van tires output rose six percent to stand at 27,360 tons, while truck and bus tires output fell six percent to stand at 54,928 tons.

Production of the tires of light agricultural vehicles experienced a decline of ▶ Page 4

GHS Index: Iran ranks 90th in dealing with pandemics

TEHRAN – The 2021 Global Health Security Index, which measures the capacities of 195 countries to prepare for epidemics and pandemics, has ranked Iran 90th in the world.

The GHS Index is the first comprehensive assessment and benchmarking of health security and related capabilities across the 195 countries across six categories and 37 indicators.

The Index is a project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and was developed with Economist Impact, which aims to spur measurable changes in national health security and improve the international capability to address one of the world's most omnipresent risks: infectious disease outbreaks that can lead to international epidemics and pandemic ▶ Page 7

Discovery of millennia-old fossils may lead to a biodiversity hotbed in Iran

TEHRAN – A team of paleontologists from the University of Tehran has discovered traces of fossilized crabs in the Iranian heartland which may hint at a hotbed of biodiversity dating from 15 million years or so.

"A new species of Galene de Haan from the Mid Miocene (Langhian) strata of the Mishan Formation has been exposed at two localities in Hormozgan province, Zagros Mountains, Iran," according to a new study conducted by Erfan Khosravi, Alireza Sari, Majid Mirziazee-Ataabad, Hossein Ghol-

malian, Mat Hyn, Reza Naderloo.

The Galene species, ("named as Galene dasht-bani"), is considered the oldest representative of the genus and simultaneously the westernmost occurrence of all fossil and extant congeners known to date.

As mentioned by the researchers, the genus is currently limited to the Indo-West Pacific region. The present fossil occurrence of the genus suggests a Tethyan origin and subsequent migration eastward.

The paleontologists have discovered fossils of a species of crab in different parts of the country that suggests the Zagros Mountains were once sea waterways through which the Indian and Atlantic Oceans intersect some 10 to 15 million years ago, and Iran has been one of the hotspots of biodiversity on Earth, ISNA reported on Sunday.

"The finding raises new debates about the importance and role of biodiversity hotspots and the importance of their conservation. In addition, it doubles the importance of ▶ Page 6

From Inside

- Expert: Foreign intelligence services seek to create rift between Iran, Afghanistan **P2**
- Iran FM decries Israeli attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque **P2**
- Iran strongly condemns sacrilege against Quran in Sweden **P3**
- We respond to every threat with the highest level of power: Army chief **P3**
- Transport, agriculture ministries ink co-op MOU to facilitate basic goods import **P4**
- About 980,000 land lots allocated to constructing National Housing Movement units **P4**
- Over 2m tons of commodities traded at IME in a week **P4**
- Experts to examine impact of World Heritage on sustainable development **P6**
- Qom hosting astronomy tours during Ramadan **P6**
- Benefactors donate \$130m to build schools **P7**
- Dam reservoirs drop by 12% **P7**
- Kamancheh virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor back on tour after COVID online gigs **P8**
- Persian edition of "The Great Gatsby" still bestseller **P8**

Interview

U.S. was said to be annoyed with Khan's 'independent foreign policy': professor

By Zahra Samimi

TEHRAN – Syed Qandil Abbas, assistant professor at School of Politics and International Relations in Quaid-i-Azam University, says that Washington is said to be unhappy with Imran Khan's policies, especially his visit to Moscow.

"The U.S. was said to be annoyed with Imran Khan over his 'independent foreign policy' and visit to Moscow," Qandil Abbas tells the Tehran Times.

Khan, 69, who led the South Asian country of 220 million people for three and half years, accuses Washington of backing his removal from office because he had visited Moscow against U.S. advice. Washington has denied the charge.

Khan met Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 24, the day Russian forces invaded neighboring Ukraine.

"His allegation was based on a diplomatic cable received from Pakistan embassy in Washington in which it was reported about a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Affairs Donald Lu," Qandil Abbas notes.

"This cable had reportedly said that Donald Lu warned that Imran Khan's continuation in office would have repercussions for bilateral relations. Khan alleged the opposition, colluded with the United States to unseat him, and declared the new setup as 'Imported Government,'" the Pakistani professor adds. ▶ Page 5

Iranian film institute announces Spain joint venture

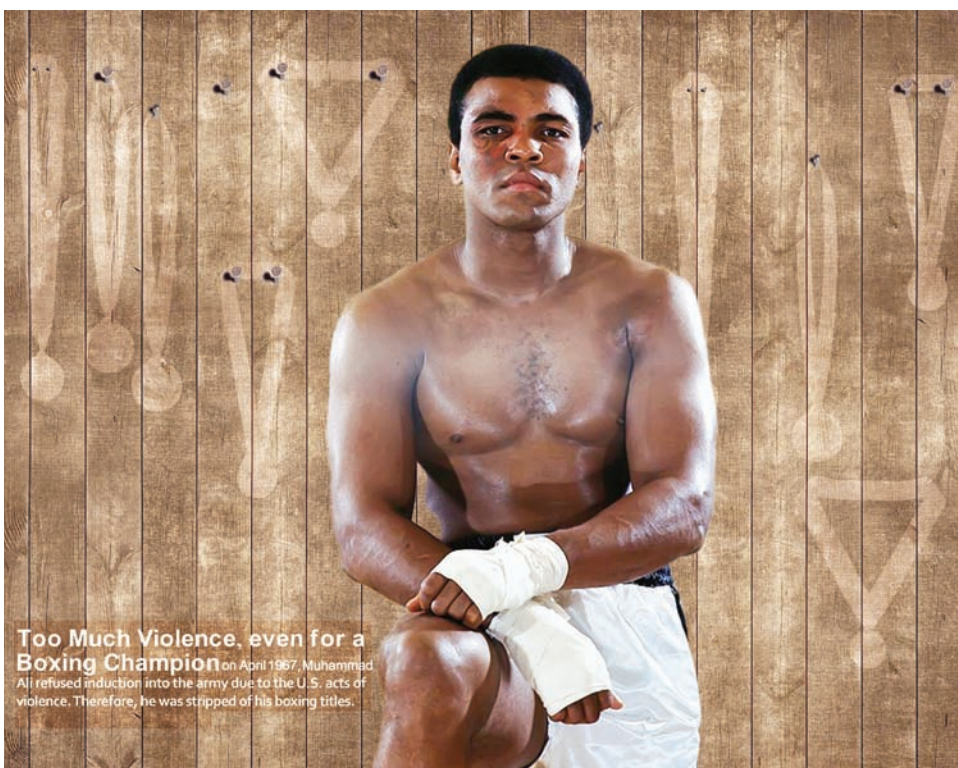
TEHRAN – Negar Film Tebyan, an Iranian institute affiliated with the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, announced on Sunday a joint film venture with Spanish cineastes targeting the market in the Spanish-speaking countries.

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA, the managing director of the institute, Hamed Haqiqat, said the film is being made by an Iranian-Spanish crew on location in the southern Iranian city of Bushehr.

He gave no additional information about the Spanish side of the project, which is being directed by Hamed Alizadeh.

The film entitled "Metamorphosis of Narges" follows a Spanish artist who, after surviving a wreck on her Persian Gulf cruise, finds herself on the coast of Bushehr.

"Thereafter, some interesting situations arise attracting her to the rituals and cultural and moral values of our country," Haqiqat said. ▶ Page 8



Too Much Violence, even for a Boxing Champion. In April 1967, Muhammad Ali refused induction into the army due to the U.S. acts of violence. Therefore, he was stripped of his boxing titles.

Muslims' rage against Israel has been re-ignited: Parliament speaker

TEHRAN- The Iranian Parliament's Speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, on Sunday cautioned the Israeli regime that the fire of Muslims' rage has been re-ignited and that the regime will face harsh and crushing punishment.

The comments by Ghalibaf came two days after Israeli forces attacked Palestinian worshipers gathering in al-Aqsa Mosque, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, and stun grenades at them which left over 150 people wounded. Over 400 were also arrested by Israeli forces.

The bravery demonstrated by the Palestinians in al-Aqsa Mosque is heralding the emergence of a new intifada.

Speaking at the open session of the parliament, Ghalibaf said, "Palestine is more vigilant than ever, and the death knell of the aggressors has been rung. Thanks to God, the Muslim youth, especially the Palestinian resistance youth, will avenge [the blood of] their brothers and sisters from the usurper and murderous Zionists."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will support the new intifada of the brave Palestinian people with all its might until it achieves its final goal, and the



Resistance Front around the world will thwart the plans of the Zionist enemy," he added.

Speaking to the rulers of Islamic countries, the parliament speaker went on to say "the governments of Muslim countries during the holy month of Ramadan must unanimously condemn the crimes of the occupier Zionist regime with their awake and zealous nations. Undoubtedly, the governments that remained silent about the killing of the Palestinians are considered by Muslims as accomplices of the criminals."

"Anyone who does not support the Palestinian people in practice today and does not take action to stop the Zionist crimes has risen to war against God, even if he fasts and prays," Ghalibaf pointed out.

Expert: Foreign intelligence services seek to create rift between Iran, Afghanistan



TEHRAN — An international affairs expert is of the opinion that there are regional and extra-regional intelligence services behind the theory of creating divisions between the two nations of Iran and Afghanistan.

Explaining the events in Afghanistan, Mojtaba Norouzi, told the Mehr news agency on Sunday that undoubtedly this is an externally guided project.

"In fact, by withdrawing from Afghanistan, the United States seeks to develop insecurity and impose security costs on three rival countries, which in fact are its enemies around Afghanistan, namely Iran, China and Russia," he commented.

The expert added that naturally the type of dealing and interaction with each of these countries and creating security costs for them are different projects that may not be directly related to each other.

"The strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran's presence in Afghanistan is cultural and people-to-people relations based on deep historical roots, which have been strengthened over the last 40 years following the Islamic Republic

of Iran's extensive hosting of Afghan refugees, and has found a new depth," Norouzi emphasized.

He added that the enemies relied on this strength to strike and impose costs, and an attempt was made to create a media hype and a negative and inflamed atmosphere between the two nations, which, of course, was mostly controlled by the serious involvement of cultural figures.

"In the past, we have witnessed movements and mercenaries leading directly from the U.S. embassy in Kabul to create a media atmosphere against the Islamic Republic of Iran in Afghanistan," he remarked.

The expert cited the Doha agreement as an example, saying, "For example, when the Doha agreement was being signed and the fate of Afghanistan between the United States and Iran was somehow being decided, you witnessed the events in Harirod, which was a very suspicious issue and a media hype was created to intensify it."

He then continued by saying that for a month, the headlines in the media were about the events of Harirod, and all the attentions were turned to it so that the United States could sign the necessary agreements between itself and the Taliban in tranquility.

Norouzi said, "These movements also maintained their relations with the United States. Also, some of these movements had suspicious connections with some Eastern European countries, specifically Albania."

Raisi felicitates Syrian president on National Day

TEHRAN — Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has congratulated his counterpart President Bashar al-Assad on National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In his congratulatory message, Raisi said he is confident that peace will prevail and the region will see stability and progress by using the great capacities of the two countries.

"We can take valuable steps for laying the ground for regional cooperation and development of relations between



the two countries," the president said in his message.

Wasting taxpayers' money on Iron Dumb

From page 1 ► According to Tehran Times' well-informed sources, the 500-million-dollar aid will be spent in two phases. Phase one will be the procurement of various system components for Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow Weapon, and phase two will be the Research and Development, Testing, and Evaluation. A good 300 million dollars is allocated to this part alone.

Over the past decade, the U.S. Congress has allocated 2 billion dollars to the development of Israel's defense program. The taxpayers' money that could have made their life all

the more easier. However, earlier this year, the Congress decided to go down the drain and approved an additional \$1 billion to replenish Iron Dome after the May Gaza war.

American politicians are on the false belief that the U.S.-Israeli military cooperation is a critical investment that can provide security and stability in the West Asian region. The belief is widely misled from the reality, for two main reasons. One, with the heavy – and we mean truly "heavy" – investments of the U.S. in Israeli military program so far, the so-called Iron Dome has turned into an Iron Dumb, full of holes! Hamas has been able



to penetrate into the defense system so many times that it is barely a defense system anymore.

Two, splashing money like this on garbage like Iron Dome will increase discontent among the American public opinion, already teetering with the worst economic situation in their lives.

According to a CNBC report, quoting Bankrate, conducted in December 2021, 26% of the Americans believe their financial situation will get worse in 2022 and 42% believe it will stay about the same.

Inflation is cited as the most significant impediment

to improving financial situations by 70% of those who expect their financial status to worsen, and by 44% of those who feel their financial situation will remain the same.

According to the CNBC + Acorns Invest in You study, sponsored by Momentive, if price pressure remains, more than half of respondents say they will cut back on dining out expenditure and may consider further reductions. The study of roughly 4,000 adults was conducted online on March 23-24.

Extend your helping hand to your people, not your fake friends!

Iran FM decries Israeli attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque

TEHRAN - Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's foreign minister, has condemned Israel's attack on al-Aqsa Mosque in al-Quds (Jerusalem), stating that resistance is alive while the Zionists are desperate.

In a Friday phone call with Ismail Haniyeh, head of the political bureau of the Hamas resistance movement, Amir Abdollahian said, "Undoubtedly, the Zionist regime has become too weak to withstand the uprising of the Palestinian people and the resistance that created the epic of Operation al-Quds Sword."

"Today, resistance is at its best situation while the Zionist terrorist regime is at its weakest position," he added.

Amir Abdollahian said Israel's heinous act against worshipers in al-Aqsa Mosque was the result of certain Arab and Muslim countries' betrayal of the Palestinian cause by normalizing relations with Israel.

Early on Friday, Israeli soldiers attacked the holy mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds, injuring more than 150 Palestinian worshipers.

The occupation soldiers invaded the mosque through the Moroccan Gate, also known as the Mughrabi Gate, firing sound bombs and rubber bullets at worshipers, according to the Palestinian news agency Ma'an.

Videos showed that the Israeli forces also targeted ambulances and news teams, chasing them through the mosque's courtyards and beating a number of people.

The Islamic Republic's senior diplomat reaffirmed Iran's support for an independent Palestine throughout all native Palestinian lands with al-Quds as its capital. Amir Abdollahian stated that



he will continue diplomatic talks with his Muslim counterparts in order to put an end to Israeli crimes against Palestinians.

For his part, Haniyeh expressed gratitude for Iran's support for the Palestinian cause.

He urged Muslim countries, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the United Nations Security Council to step up diplomatic efforts to halt Israel.

On Friday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, underscored that the Israeli regime is brazenly breaching human rights norms and international law by committing crimes at al-Aqsa Mosque. He also condemned the Zionists' "shameless" acts of violence against sacred places in Palestine and against fasting people and worshipers at mosques.

The Iranian official further stated that the apartheid Zionist regime will never change its attitude toward Palestinians and will continue to perpetrate atrocities against the oppressed people.

"We are now witnessing the unbridled violence of this apartheid and racist regime."

"Crimes of the Zionists against the

oppressed Palestinian people show the deepening weakness of this occupying regime, which is only resorting to assaults on the defenseless worshipers to cover up its hollow power," Khatibzadeh pointed out.

Following the signing of peace accords in 1979 and 1994, Egypt and Jordan respectively established full diplomatic relations with the occupation regime. In 2020, when Donald Trump was in office, four Arab countries — namely the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco – decided to normalize ties with Israel via U.S.-brokered agreements.

The initiative, spearheaded by the UAE, has drawn significant condemnation from Palestinians, as well as nations and human rights advocates throughout the world, including among Muslims.

Khatibzadeh also called on Muslim countries to take stance toward Israeli acts in al-Aqsa Mosque. He said that the Israeli regime along with its regional and international allies should be held accountable for any possible fallout in al-Quds and Palestine.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official called on the OIC to openly back the Palestinians.

The Tel Aviv regime has ramped up its acts of violence across the Palestinian territory since the beginning of Ramadan, prompting Palestinians to mount a greater response.

Since March 22, over two dozen Palestinians have been targeted by the regime. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has already granted Israeli soldiers carte blanche in the occupied West Bank to "defeat" what he calls "terror."

Deputy FM: Foreign policy and defense policy are complementary

TEHRAN — Iran's deputy foreign minister believes that foreign policy and defense policy complete each other.

Speaking on the eve of the Army Day which falls on April 18 this year, Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's deputy foreign minister stressed that foreign policy and defense policy are "complementary", saying, "We thwarted the enemy's trick in creating a gap between foreign policy and defense policy with resistance based on leadership tact and intelligence."

Bagheri Kani stated that the resistance is not just a defense mechanism against the aggressors invading the territorial integrity of countries and violating their independence.

He said dynamic and lasting security of a region depends on explicit, transparent and unconditional denial of aggression and occupation.

The deputy foreign minister, who is also Iran's top negotiator in the Vienna talks, added, "If the Western powers sent bloodthirsty terrorists to the war of human culture and civilization with the 'logic of weapons' and created al-Qaeda and Daesh in the region, the resistance with the 'weapon of logic' and taking a step towards identifying human beings and the civilization of nations proved its superiority in the realization of progress in the shadow of security in practice."

Referring to the attempts of some simple-minded people to introduce the resistance as an irregular movement or promoter of disorder, Bagheri Kani said, in practice, resistance has proven to be a comprehensive doctrine for "effective governance of society, free-spirited human elevation and identification of independent nations."



"During the imposed war (Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s known as the Sacred Defense), some powers tried to portray Iran as a cause of tension and disorder and place Saddam as the axis of stability and peace, but history has shown that aggression and occupation will not provide stability and peace," he added, noting that even today Iran believes that the nature of the Israeli regime's aggression and occupation are not only destabilizing and source of tension, but also cause of disorder.

Biden precipitates America’s decline

TEHRAN – Joe Biden is politically in trouble. His domestic and foreign allies are equally directing their anger and wrath at a White House increasingly coming up short of solutions.

Biden is facing fire from almost every direction. Liberals, leftists, rightists, conservatives, energy firms, environmentalists, foreign allies, and immigrants all seem to be disappointed by a president under growing pressure to take a cognitive test in the way his predecessor did.

Over the last few days, a number of news headlines highlighted the dire situation Bide is grappling with. The first blow came from Saudi Arabia whose state television aired a sketch lampooning Biden's cognitive health. The skit, aired by the Saudi-owned entertainment television MBC, features a press conference at which Biden confuses national security issues with each other and falls asleep in the middle of the speech. The sketch went viral on social media platforms in the U.S. and racked up more than 6 million views.

Many analysts believe that the Saudi move reflects broader unhappiness with the United States and more specifically with the Biden administration.

But the Biden administration's woes are not limited to foreign policy. They are even bigger back home. Biden assumed the presidency at a time when America



was strictly divided along party lines. So, it goes without saying that Biden is unpopular with the more than seventy million voters who voted for Trump. But Biden's popularity with the independents and even leftists is on the decline by virtue of mismanagement or policies that went against his campaign promises.

According to a recent survey conducted by CNBC, Biden's approval hit a new low amid economic pessimism and inflation woes.

Biden's approval rating slid to a new low of 38%, according to CNBC's All-America Survey. His approval rating on the economy dropped for a fourth consecutive survey.

According to the survey, 47% of

the respondents said the economy is “poor,” the highest number in that category since 2012.

Americans harbor some of the most downbeat views on the economy since the recovery from the Great Recession, and some of their attitudes are in line with those seen only during recessions, according to the latest CNBC All-America Economic Survey.

And Biden keeps alienating even his constituency base. An announcement by the Department of the Interior (DOI) on Friday showed that Biden could be chipping away at the very constituency that made him president.

The Department announced that it was resuming fossil fuel lease sales for the first time since President Biden took office, a move

that stood in stark contrast to Biden's agenda on climate change.

The announcement elicited strong criticism from the energy industry and climate groups alike. The energy industry opposed the move because the new leases on public lands for oil and natural gas drilling came at a higher cost to producers. And climate groups inveighed against Biden because he had once pledged to curb oil and natural gas drilling in order to reduce global warming.

Biden reneging on his climate change frustrated environmental activists within his own party and crushed his carefully-built image of being an environmental-minded president.

News organizations close to the Biden administration sought to justify the anti-climate move with the war in Ukraine that pushed gas prices high and cost Americans more bucks at the pump. But that didn't produce the desired results as some climate advocates continued to question the efficacy of the move.

“Allowing drilling on public lands won't solve price gouging by oil companies. So why is @JoeBiden going back on his word?” tweeted Sunrise Movement, a political action group that advocates on climate change issues. “To stop the climate crisis, we need to move towards 100% renewable energy, not deepening our dependence on fossil fuels.”

We respond to every threat with the highest level of power: Army chief

“Fighting methods of the army are compatible with modern wars”

TEHRAN – The commander of the Iranian Army has warned the enemies that his country will respond in full force to any military adventure against the Islamic Republic.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi affirmed that the army, in light of the valuable experiences gained in the past, has learned and experienced real war in any geographical conditions and will respond with the highest level of capability to any move.

The warning came in a statement as Iran is set to mark Army and Land Force Day on Monday, April 18.

“The people in the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the leadership of the Imams of the Revolution, have built a strong army at the level of the revolutionary, loyal and popular army around the axis of moral values and have preserved border security with the pure blood of the fighters and the generous sacrifices of their families, and they have always made the provision of security and peace of mind to the proud people on their agenda,” General Mousavi said in the statement said, according to Al Alam.

He added, “Wherever it was necessary to



be present and support the dear people in hardships and natural accidents, the army was in the front line and came to extend a helping

“Strategic depth of the enemy is within the reach of the equipment and the upper hand of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

hand to the people at the right time, and proved that it is not just an army and a military force, but proved in the true sense of the word the slogan ‘the army is a redemption for the people’ and became, with all its existence, in the service of the noble and steadfast people.”

Major General Mousavi went on to say that the Iranian army is the only one in the world sticking to moral values.

Mousavi also praised the military prowess of the forces under his command.

“The strengthening of the army's military capabilities, the modernization of fighting methods that are compatible with modern wars, and its readiness to confront any threat, have transformed the army and the capable armed forces group into a strong supporter of the Islamic Republic and made the country a port of stability in the region.”

The Army chief noted, “Let the crazy and arrogant devil know that the strategic depth of the enemy is within the reach of the equipment and the upper hand of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that any step against Iran will cost them a heavy price.”

Raisi says he created synergy between government, revolutionary institutions

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said late on Saturday that his administration has succeeded in fostering cooperation between government and revolutionary institutions.

Speaking in a meeting with a group of clerics, Ayatollah Raisi said that he personally considers communication with clerics a precious opportunity for the government, adding, “The government has tried to communicate with the clergy at various levels, and take advantage of their opinions.”

Noting that today there is a positive hope and expectation from the government, the president added, “Promoting this hope means turning it into participation, vitality and social capital,” according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Raisi said turning hope into social capital depends on the correct narration of the actions taken. “Today is a war of narratives and the enemy is trying to leave its distorted narrative of the 40-year path of revolution in people's minds, but the best and fairest

narrative is available in the Declaration of the Second Step of the Islamic Revolution.”

Pointing out that the discourse of his government is the same as the discourse of the late Imam Khomeini and the Supreme Leader, the president stated, “The government will pursue the administration of justice in all areas and at all levels.”

Referring to the importance of paying attention to culture, Raisi said, “Economic and cultural policies should be pursued both side by side.”

The president added, “Today, all institutions of the Islamic Republic are operating under the supervision of the Supreme Leader and with a single rhythm, and even in the field of foreign policy, the revolutionary institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are fully coordinated.”

Raisi cited full realization of the national information network, creating a comprehensive trade system, and reforming tax system as part of the government's activities over the past seven months.

Raisi took over as president in August 2021. He has named his administration “popular government”.

“The government has also tried to activate the neglected sectors... For example, the construction sector in the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, the youth sector in the Ministry of Sports and Youth, and the plan sector in the Budget and Planning Organization have received more attention as they deserve.”

The president called increase in production the most central approach of the government, saying overcoming the problems in various areas, including in the banking sector, rise in liquidity and creating jobs entails proper planning.

Noting that the government has tried to address the concerns of the people, elites and the Leader in various areas of finance and banking, exports and imports, taxes and the like.

He emphasized, “Despite all the existing problems and obstacles, I see a brighter and more hopeful future as we move forward.”

Iran strongly condemns sacrilege against Quran in Sweden

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has made comments in reaction to the sacrilege of the Holy Quran in one of Sweden's cities.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns setting the Holy Quran on fire in the Swedish city of Linköping by a Danish racist and extremist element, which took place under the pretext of freedom of expression with the support of Sweden's police,” he said on Sunday, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the intentional repetition of this insulting move in the holy month of Ramadan hurts the feelings of Muslims in Sweden and across the world.

“This act of disrespect is a clear instance of hatemongering and

is in violation of freedom of speech and must be condemned by all those who believe in coexistence and dialogue among religions,” he added. “While we hold the Swedish government accountable, we are waiting for the immediate, strong and clear reaction of this country against the perpetrators of this insulting act and transparent and practical steps to prevent such moves from being repeated.”

“The move by the insulting person and his supporters makes unity of Muslims and Islamic countries against plots by enemies of Islam ever more necessary,” the spokesman added. The Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned Sweden's charge d'affaires to voice Tehran's strong protest to the move. The charge d'affaires was summoned in absence of the Swedish ambassador to Iran.

Iran futsal player Esmailpour announces retirement

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team right winger Ahmad Esmailpour announced his retirement from national duty.

The 33-year-old player currently plays for Chinese futsal club Shenzhen Nanling.

Esmailpour was a member of Iran national futsal team who won a bronze medal in the FIFA Futsal World Cup in 2016.

He also won the title with Iran in the 2018 AFC Futsal Championship.

“It was a tough decision to make. I wore Iran national team jersey 13 years ago and I never forget that great moment. I've retired from the National Team to give the young players more chance to play,” Esmailpour wrote on his Instagram account.

Jahanbakhsh feels no regret for leaving Brighton

TEHRAN – Former Brighton forward Alireza Jahanbakhsh has no regrets about leaving the English club for Feyenoord.

The Iranian international played 61 times for the Seagulls between 2018 and 2021, after signing from AZ Alkmaar. But it never quite worked out for the 28-year-old as he struggled to tie down a regular starting spot at Albion.

“I did not have to think for a moment when Arne Slot (Feyenoord coach) called. I already knew Arne, of course. And I had already played against Feyenoord with AZ.

“De Kuip is, for me, the most beautiful stadium in the Netherlands,” he told Hand in Hand Magazine.

“It was a good step for me, and I feel good here. The city is really nice. Although I don't go out that much – I'm at home a lot – I can really enjoy the city. Rotterdam is really beautiful,” Jahanbakhsh added.

Taremi nets hat trick against Portimonense

TEHRAN – Porto football team striker Mehdi Taremi stole the show in the match against Portimonense in Liga Portugal Saturday night.

Porto took another step towards becoming Portuguese champions with a thumping 7-0 home victory over Algarve outfit Portimonense.

Porto's strike partnership filled its boots with Iranian center-forward Taremi helping himself to a hat-trick and Brazilian partner Evanilson bagging a brace. Marko Grujic and captain Pepe scored the other goals.

With four weeks left, Porto sit top of the table with 82 points, nine points above sporting who have one game in hands.

Oladhobad reaches agreement to join Spain’s Palma Futsal

TEHRAN – Iranian futsal player Moslem Oladhobad will join Spanish team Palma Futsal.

Oladhobad joined Palma Futsal from Iranian team Crop Alvand.

He has penned a three-year deal with the Spanish futsal team.

Oladhobad is the second Iranian futsal player to play in a Spanish futsal team.

Behrouz Jafari has already played for Burela Pescados Rubén.

Hull City coach Arveladze praises Sayyadmanesh

TEHRAN – Hull City coach Shota Arveladze has heaped praise on Allahyar Sayyadmanesh after his first goal for the club.

The Iranian winger found the back of the Middlesbrough's net in the English Championship League.

It was Sayyadmanesh's first goal in the league.

“It's always great (when a player scores his first goal). The striker shows up, plays his first game at home (from the start), makes a goal – it's for him, for his family, for his friends, for us,” the Georgian said.

“Still different culture, still different style of game but I think he looks quite solid. I think it looks like he's played already two, three seasons here, which is also very big credit to the players around him.

“He's a strong boy, his timing is good, he can hold the play, he can read the game. The goal he scored – he read it well, being quick, sharp. It looks easy but it's not easy to be between the central defenders and goalkeeper, get a good touch first one and then it looks easy, of course,” Arveladze added.



Agricultural Support Services Company

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Second Announcement

55/1/1308

04/18/2022

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×40000±5% MTS of Granular Di Ammonium Phosphate (GDAP) through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Monday** dated **18/4/2022** until **Wednesday** dated **27/4/2022** (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran). The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rial 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 35803978226350065000000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated **28/5/2022** (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Sunday** dated **29/5/2022** at 15:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- The bid bond value should be at **€ 666194** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on Telegraphic Transfer rate in Sana rate website, www.sanarate.ir. It should be noted that this site lists the Currency Transactions, executed in Integrate Currency Transactions System [Nima website] on 10/4/2022 for each lot of 40000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.

– The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 40000 MTS ± 5% will be **IR 178657000000** which must be only submitted by the bidders.

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

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

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

226
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Over 47m vehicle tires produced in a year

From page 1 ► 24 percent to stand at 3,256 tons, while that of the heavy ones also declined eight percent to stand at 16,620 tons.

Production of the tires of road building and industrial vehicles also fell 28 percent to 4,681 tons in the period under review.

In the past year, 18,746 tons of bicycle and motorcycle tires were produced, showing 13 percent growth.

Production of tubes rose one percent to stand at 10,307 tons.

The tire industry has a 60-year history in Iran. Currently, 11 tire manufacturing companies are active across the country that produce tires for passenger cars, trucks, buses, vans, road construction, and agriculture machinery, as well as bicycles and motorcycles in addition to other types of tubes.

Some 15,000 people are directly employed in this industry and more than 250,000 people are indirectly involved in the value chain of this industry.

The Iranian tire industry, despite the continuation of sanctions and the



coronavirus pandemic conditions, as well as some domestic restrictions, has been following a thriving and successful path over the past few years.

In addition to the successes achieved in terms of the output amount, Iranian tire manufacturers have entered new areas including production of the wide-base tires and the tires of SUVs.

Wide base tires, which are a new generation of heavy vehicles' tires, have been produced for the first time in West Asia by Iranian producers.

Over 2m tons of commodities traded at IME in a week



TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2.008 million tons of commodities worth more than \$687 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.523 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$380 million.

On this floor, the IME's customers purchased 1,042,886 tons of cement, 217,582 tons of steel, 142,000 tons of iron ore, 88,500 tons of sponge iron, 14,720 tons of zinc, 11,200 tons of copper, 6,325 tons of aluminum, 450 tons of coke, 250 tons of lead, 150 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 24 tons of precious metals concentrate and 22 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw trade 427,496 tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued at more than \$300 million.

The exchange's customers purchased on this floor 124,800 tons of vacuum bottom, 111,910 tons of bitumen, 88,262 tons of polymeric products, 51,000 tons of lube cut, 37,021 tons of chemicals, 10,450 tons of sulfur, 4,139 tons of base oil and 90 tons of argon.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 56,966 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, the value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market trades were registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades, and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Transport, agriculture ministries ink co-op MOU to facilitate basic goods import

TEHRAN- Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry and Agriculture Ministry signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in order to cooperate for facilitation of the imports of basic goods into the country.

The MOU was signed by Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi and Agriculture Minister

Javad Sadatinejad on Sunday in a ceremony at the place of Transport and Urban Development Ministry in the presence of the two ministers' deputies.

Addressing the mentioned ceremony, the minister of transport and urban development underlined the high capacities of the country in the field of transportation, especially in the maritime and rail sectors,



Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi (L) and Agriculture Minister Javad Sadatinejad

and emphasized the need to use them efficiently and effectively to supply basic goods from their countries of origin and distribute them in a balanced way.

Iran imported 30.9 million tons of basic goods in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) told ISNA.

Foroud Asgari, the deputy head of IRICA for customs affairs, said that the imported goods were in 25 commodity groups.

Putting the value of the imported basic commodities at \$19.6 billion in the past year, the official said that the imports show a 60-percent rise in worth and 32-percent growth in weight, as compared to the Iranian calendar year 1399.

About 980,000 land lots allocated to constructing National Housing Movement units

TEHRAN- The deputy transport and urban development minister announced the definite allocation of about 980,000 land lots with residential use in the past six months for the construction of National Housing Movement units.

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh said that 1.4 million land lots have been also identified that their usage should be determined, or they should be added to the area, or be investigated technically by the provincial planning councils and the Supreme Council of Architecture and Urban Planning.

If the final task is determined, the land has been provided for the construction of 2.3 million housing units, he added.

According to the deputy minister, out of the four million units that are to be built in four years, 3.2 million are in urban areas and 800,000 in the rural regions.

The provided lands are the lands of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and so far, no land has been provided from other organizations, the official further stated.

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 had already registered in the government's two major housing

plans (National Housing Action and National Housing Movement).

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.

Annual export from Yazd province increases 33%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Yazd province, in the center of Iran, rose 33 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year, a provincial official announced.

Mohammad-Hossein Salmani, the director-general of the province's customs department, said that 3.122 million tons of commodities worth \$491.466 million were exported from the province in the previous year.

In terms of the weight, the exports also indicate five percent annual growth, he added.

He named ceramics and tiles, steel sections including rebars, steel ingots, nylons and granules, all types of light hydrocarbons,

and molybdenum compounds as the major exported items, which were mainly exported to the neighboring countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uzbekistan, and Oman.

The official further announced that 103,706 tons of products worth \$267.648 million were imported to the province during the past year, showing 40 percent rise in value and 84 percent growth in weight year on year.

He named frozen beef and chicken meat, raw materials for production units, spare parts and machines for production lines and industry, acrylic fibers, and waste paper and cardboard as the main



imported products, and Turkey, China, the UAE, Italy, Brazil, Netherlands, Iraq and Germany as the major sources of imports.

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

Alireza Moqadasi put the

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

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

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

TEDPIX rises 7,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 7,408 points to 1.475 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 10.416 billion securities worth 60.389 trillion rials (about \$223.6 million) were traded in the TSE.

The first market's index rose 585 points, and the second market's index gained 29,861 points.

TEDPIX rose 9,000 points to 1.454 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported, the indices of Iran Khodro Investment Development Company (IKIDO), Social Security Investment Company (SSIC), Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), Saipa Company, and Isfahan Oil Refinery were the mostly followed ones during the past week.

TEDPIX is expected to follow a mild upward trend in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started on March 21), a market analyst told IRNA on April 3.

"The capital market index experienced

a significant decline in [the Iranian calendar year] 1399 (ended on March 21, 2021) and the transactions at this market also undergone some correction in the previous year. Therefore, it seems that given the relative stability of macroeconomic variables, we will see a slight growth in the market index during the current year," Ali Teymouri said.

According to Teymouri, the main risks threatening the capital market in the current year are budget-related issues, as well as government and central bank exchange rate policies following a possible nuclear agreement.

Transparency in the economic policies of the new government, as well as the resolution of issues related to the nuclear deal, can create stable conditions for the country's economy, which can in return ensure a good outlook for the capital market, the analyst added.

In the last few months of last year, the capital market experienced some turbulence due to the ambiguities about the outcomes of the Vienna talks.



Former Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Karbasian believes that the stock market can provide the liquidity required by the country's productive sectors to perform at full capacity, IRNA reported on April 10.

"All around the world, investor liquidity is a major source of capital for production units which is mostly provided by the banking system or the capital market, but in Iran, it [growing liquidity] is considered as an issue," Karbasian said.

Pointing to the important role of the

capital market in removing barriers to production and creating the necessary conditions for the realization of the slogan of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) which is named "Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating" the official added: "There are several factors affecting the production process in the country, each of which should be considered separately."

He underlined investment as the first factor affecting production units in the country and said: "We must accept that the rate of investment in the whole country is very low and even close to zero, such a statistic indicates that investment planning has not been made at the macro level and no alternative has also been provided for this issue; Therefore, the existence of such margins has prevented the country from moving towards the development and productivity."

Considering the issues created by the U.S. sanctions in the way of attracting foreign investment, the capital market

can help the development of production units in terms of providing liquidity, and this market has a special place in this field, Karbasian added.

He pointed to the widespread presence of people in the capital market and said: "In recent years, people have become more willing to participate in the capital market and we have witnessed significant investments in this market."

"Despite the inconveniences created in the stock market over the last two years, it seems that this market has gained a special position among people compared to other investment markets, and considering the support provided by the government, we can see the strengthening of transactions in this market," the official said.

If the government continues to strengthen and support the capital market, it can help the production sectors by providing liquidity, which is the basis for creating economic transparency and helping to achieve the slogan of the year, he added.

U.S. was said to be annoyed with Khan’s ‘independent foreign policy’: professor

“It is a fact that the U.S. administration was not happy with Pakistan under Imran Khan’s leadership.”

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

Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan was ousted from power after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership. What are the main reasons for such a decision?

According to opposition parties, a deepening economic crisis contributed to dissatisfaction with Imran Khan including double-digit inflation. However Imran Khan and his team believe that part of the economic crises was the situation they inherited from the previous government and another part of it was the result of COVID which influenced economies all over the world. Khan’s team is of the view that despite the disastrous COVID phenomenon, Pakistan’s economy has been well managed under Khan’s leadership.

Khan believes that the actual reason behind the collapse of his government is U.S. conspiracy as opposition parties colluded with the United States to unseat him because of his move towards independent foreign policy.

Khan claims that Washington was behind a conspiracy to remove him from power. To what extent is this allegation true?

History of claims about U.S. interference in Pakistan is very long and from first to the last Prime Minister of Pakistan, U.S. conspiracies in Pakistan remained a heated debate. It is also a fact that during the last more than three years the U.S. administration was not happy with Pakistan under Imran Khan’s leadership. Particularly Khan’s antagonism to U.S.’ drones attacks in Pakistan’s tribal areas as well as American defeat in Afghanistan made the U.S. more annoyed to Pakistan. In the end



Khan’s visit to China and soon after that Russia, made the U.S. and its Western allies angrier towards Imran Khan.

Imran Khan had claimed that the move to topple his government was the result of an American conspiracy. His allegation was based on a diplomatic cable received from Pakistan embassy in Washington in which it was reported about a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Affairs Donald Lu. This cable had reportedly said that Donald Lu warned that Imran Khan’s continuation in office would have repercussions for bilateral relations. The U.S. was said to be annoyed with Imran Khan over his ‘independent foreign policy’ and visit to Moscow. Khan alleged the opposition, colluded with the United States to unseat him, and declared the new setup as “Imported Government”.

Apparently the Pakistani army supports close ties with America rather than Russia.

Given the army’s long role in Pakistani politics, do you see any attempt by the army to remove Imran Khan?

Although foreign policy of Pakistan has always been considered as pro-Western and it was more highlighted when Pakistan joined SEATO and CENTO and later on the Afghan War, Pakistan was expecting that by pro-Western policy it can attract Western and American support against India but Pakistan has always been disappointed in this regard. Such disappointment is setting trends of civil and military leadership of Pakistan towards the U.S. However, domestic trends of civil-military relations are quite different because of the unique political culture of Pakistan.

Director General of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar has recently said that the Pakistan Army has nothing to do with politics and martial law will never be imposed in Pakistan. He further added that the United

States never asked for bases in Pakistan. However, if such a request had been made, it would have been rejected.

How do you assess the situation of the post-Imran Khan government?

Imran Khan has declared the new setup as “Imported Government” and announced that his party will not accept it. He and his party members also resigned from membership of the Parliament and they have started street politics. This trend can pose serious challenges to the new government which is already confronting different and sometimes diverse strategies of allied parties. Moreover economic issues are also very critical and the two biggest economic challenges facing Pakistan at the moment are high inflation and fast depleting foreign exchange reserves. Similarly, damage to Pakistan’s foreign policy should also be addressed by the new government.

What do you think about the fate of prime ministers in Pakistan’s history?

No prime minister has finished full constitutional five-year tenure in Pakistan’s 75-year history and now this trend has extended with the removal of Imran Khan, who claimed that there was a U.S.-led conspiracy to remove him because of his refusal to stand with Washington on different issues. On different occasions, prime ministers have been removed under a multiple conditions, including direct military coups, corruption charges and forced resignations due to infighting in governing groups even assassination, etc. I believe till the time Pakistan is economically weak, political instability and foreign intervention cannot be avoided.

How American children fell into poverty again?

From page 1 ► In addition, the tax credit was made fully available to families with little to no income. In the past, 27 million children, about half of whom are Black and Latino received less money because their parents didn’t make enough money, but with the expanded child tax credit, those children were finally eligible.

The reality is there was nothing particularly special about the Federal Government’s policy.

Many wealthy countries provide some form of child welfare support or some form of “universal child benefit” and many wealthy countries provided extra financial relief or other forms of support for families with children during the pandemic.

Nevertheless, the Child Tax Credit saw monthly payments that also cut monthly child poverty by around 30 percent.

By December last year, that equated to roughly 3.7 million American children who saw the standard of their living conditions improve and lifted out of poverty.

The benefit is reported to have reached more than 61 million children in December who either in or out of poverty.

The Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy says “one of the reasons these monthly payments had such a significant impact on child poverty is because the expansion closed a large hole in the child tax credit.”

According to one U.S. Census Bureau data by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities showed when families earning less than \$35,000 a year suddenly had that extra money in their bank accounts each month, they used it to buy food, clothing and school supplies, pay their utility bills, and cover the rent.

Lavern Riddick, a single mother in Philadelphia says “that extra money helps out a lot. We struggle day to day. I’m not going to lie, ever since I stopped working [at a hotel] it’s been a struggle.”

The calamity occurred just at the end of last year when the Child Tax Credit under the stimulus package the “American Rescue Plan” came to an end and until today congress has failed to extend the program or seek an alternative.

Overnight, the millions of American children who fell out of poverty for that limited period of time have gone hungry again and nobody in America really seems to care or mind.

Research by The Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University shows that the child poverty rate rose from 12 percent in December 2021 to 17 percent in February, an approximate 41 percent increase as a result of the program expiration.

So why was quite a successful policy that improved millions of people’s lives simply thrown away by the American Congress?

Every single Republican, the party that publicly advocates about being “pro-life” and talks highly (mostly on the campaign trail) of “family values”, opposed the extension of the program.

Democrats as a whole on the other hand appeared more interested in finding ways to compromise with their colleagues across the aisle on matters that relate to fighting for ordinary Americans.

The bill can simply pass in the Senate with a simple majority vote instead of the usual 60 votes needed to avoid a filibuster.

However, with the Senate split 50/50 between Democrats and Republicans (with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking any ties) and no Republicans want to even look at the bill let alone vote for it, the Democrats can’t afford to lose a single vote if they want to pass the Build Back Better Act.

Democrat Senator Joe Manchin has already voiced his strong opposition, citing the bill’s overall costs, and is worried about sending inflation even higher by pumping more money into the economy at this time. When it comes to



child poverty, suddenly there are concerns and worries about the economy.

What Manchin also claimed, which kind of went under the radar in the mainstream American media is that the policy was discouraging parents from going back to work and that parents would waste the money they were being handed on drugs.

That was simply an argument that helped kill the program, no evidence was provided to back such a delusional idea.

Especially when you take into consideration the research, studies and reports that the money was being used by 91 percent of households making less than \$35,000 a year to pay for food, shelter, clothing and other essential necessities.

Neither was the fact that the extra money had cut monthly child poverty by some 30 percent taken into account.

The mainstream media also played a role with the use of their terminology that expanding the policy was a “radical” program.

The short-lived policy of handing out a bit of extra money from the Child Tax Credit is evidence that it’s far too difficult to solve the real problems and challenges in America such as child poverty.

The program along with the stimulus packages shows American leaders can help the poor if they wanted to. The question is do they want to help the poor? especially amid a massive surge in food prices and other services hitting record levels?

Child poverty is now at its highest since the end of 2020 and America is choosing to let children live in poverty.

The Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University says that the child poverty rate rose from 12 percent in December 2021 to 17 percent in January 2022, that’s around a 41 percent increase.

This comes in addition to the record inflation levels America has never witnessed in 40 years. The record level has increased the price of basic food items and services in addition to the cost of gas for motorists at the gas pump amid the crisis in Ukraine.

This is while during the last 40 years there has been a massive transfer of wealth from the middle class and working families to the very wealthiest people in America.

The top one percent in America now own more wealth than the bottom 92 percent and the 50 wealthiest Americans own more wealth than the bottom half of American society; that’s 165 million people.

While millions of Americans lost their jobs and incomes during the pandemic, 650 billionaires saw their wealth increase by \$1.3tn. The growing gap between the very rich and everyone else is nothing new.

The highest poverty rate by race in America is among Native Americans, Black Americans, and Hispanic Americans. White Americans are not in the highest category.

Did that play any role in Congress cutting Child Tax Credit?

If the American federal government doesn’t care about child poverty in America, then why would it care about child poverty outside America?

In Africa for example or Yemen where for seven years according to the UN, a child under the age of five died as a result of preventable diseases because of a war America backed and supported.

Putin, Saudi crown prince upbeat on OPEC+, Kremlin says of call

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman gave a “positive assessment” to their cooperation on the OPEC+ producers group to stabilize the world oil market, the Kremlin said in statement.

Saturday’s phone conversation, the leaders’ second since Russia’s Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, came at the initiative of Saudi Arabia, the Kremlin said.

The two also discussed the crises in Ukraine and Yemen, the Kremlin said, without providing details. Saudi Arabia said in a brief statement that the Crown Prince “received a phone call” from Putin but didn’t mention OPEC+ or energy cooperation specifically.

“They discussed bilateral relations that bring the two countries together and ways to enhance them in various fields,” according to the Saudi readout, according to finance.yahoo.com.

Bin Salman also “affirmed the Kingdom’s support for efforts that lead to a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine and achieve security and stability.”

Saudi Arabia and other major Persian Gulf oil producers have so far resisted U.S. calls to increase output as prices have surged amid the crisis in Ukraine and concerns about possible sanctions on Russian exports.

Putin’s last publicly announced conversation with the Saudi Crown Prince was on March 3, according to the Kremlin.

Bin Salman on Friday spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping and also discussed Ukraine, according to Chinese state television, which said Beijing is seeking “high-level” cooperation with Saudi Arabia in energy, trade and high technology.

China and Saudi Arabia reaffirm strong energy ties

April 16
China will maintain “high-level cooperation” in energy with Saudi Arabia, President Xi Jinping told Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Friday, as the war in Ukraine continued to push up fuel prices, South China Morning Post reported on Saturday.



In a call between the two leaders, Xi said China “prioritizes developing relations with Saudi Arabia”.

They also exchanged views on Ukraine, and agreed to deepen cooperation in energy, trade, high technology, transport, and infrastructure, according to a statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The two countries would also push to link China’s Belt and Road Initiative with Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, and increase cooperation between China and the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab League, the statement said.

“The overall and strategic importance of the China-Saudi relationship has become greater with the change in the international and regional situations,” Xi was quoted as saying.

Saudi Arabia has long been the biggest oil supplier to China, the world’s largest oil buyer. The Persian Gulf state supplied 17 percent of China’s total crude oil imports last year, followed by Russia with 15.5 percent.

Russia temporarily became the monthly top seller in December, only to be overtaken Saudi Arabia in the next two months.

Western sanctions on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine in late February have made buying Russian oil more difficult but China has insisted that oil and gas cooperation with Russia will continue.

This has raised speculation in the market that China will increase its energy imports from Russia and cut imports from Saudi Arabia.

Yin Gang, a Middle East affairs researcher

with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the main point of Xi’s call with Salman was to ease such speculation.

“There’s a need to guarantee that China’s imports from Saudi Arabia will be stable, the commitment is consistent,” Yin said.

“In fact, Saudi Arabia’s oil exports to China are the most stable among our energy import countries.

“For Russia, the capacity to export energy is limited by the capacity of its pipelines. But Saudi Arabia can increase its capacity and be more flexible because it depends on shipping.”

Jonathan Fulton, international relations professor at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates, said it was likely that both sides had concerns about how the war would affect energy markets.

“With speculation that Beijing will take advantage of Russian vulnerability through sanctions, the Saudis may be concerned that they will lose market share,” he said.

Fulton said the Chinese leaders were probably concerned about energy market instability, especially given the economic difficulties they faced leading up to the Communist Party’s national congress later this year.

“These concerns could be the underlying message of the phone call. At the same time, the wide range of issues discussed shows that the bilateral relationship is more than oil; the two countries have been developing a long-term vision of cooperation,” he said.

During Friday’s call, Salman underlined his country’s “firm support” for China’s policy in Xinjiang and opposition to interference in China’s internal affairs, emphasizing the “rights of each country to choose its own political and human rights path”, the Chinese statement said.

Beijing has been accused of human right abuses in Xinjiang in its treatment of millions of ethnic Uyghurs and other Muslims, an approach that Beijing defends as deradicalization.

Salman also said Saudi Arabia supported the “one-China principle”, the statement said.

Qom hosting astronomy tours during Ramadan

TEHRAN – During the holy month of Ramadan, the central province of Qom is hosting a series of astronomy tours, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A variety of astronomy workshops are being held for various age groups during these tours, CHTN quoted Alireza Arjmandi as saying on Sunday.

Observing the moon and stars as well as holding astronomy training courses at the holy shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) are among the program highlights of the tours, the official added.

The desert of Qom offers good opportunities for observing the night sky and developing astronomical tourism, he mentioned.

Astronomical tourism represents a less-studied segment of sustainable tourism, where a dark night sky is an underlying resource, and this branch of tourism could lead to sustainable development in rural areas.

Illuminated only by the stars and having a clear sky, Iranian deserts are dream places for astronomy enthusiasts and sky lovers to experience dark night observatories.

The country is home to wide deserts in its central lands including UNESCO-tagged Lut Dessert as well as several historical caravanserais hosting astronomical tourists from ancient eras to the present.

Astronomy has a long and rich history among Iranians. Stars have fascinated



humans for ages, while some have worshiped them. Iranians have studied them and there are world-renowned Iranian scientists in this field such as Nasir ad-Din Tusi, who was the founder of Maragheh observatory, an astronomical observatory established in 1259, with a library, which is said at one time to have held over 400,000 volumes of literature related to astronomy and astrology.

Some countries in the world have used their regional potential to develop the tourism industry in this particular field and have been able to introduce themselves as an attractive destination for astronomy tours.

For several years, Chile has been able to become a leader in astronomical tourism by focusing on this type of tourism. Countries such as Canada, Sweden, Russia, India, and China have also been successful in this industry, and many tourists from all over the world travel to these countries every year.

Crafts sales reach \$4.4 million nationwide in Noruz



TEHRAN – During the two-week new year (Noruz) holidays, handicraft sales totaled 1.2 trillion rials (\$4.4 million) across the country, the Iranian deputy minister for handicrafts has announced.

This amount of sales is the result of temporary Noruz handicrafts markets held from March 17 to April 5, CHTN quoted Pouya Mahmoudian as saying on Sunday.

Several handicrafts markets and exhibitions were also held in museums, historical sites, monuments as well as eco-lodge unites and hotels across the country during the mentioned time, the official added.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage,

Tourism, and Handicrafts has launched a social campaign to encourage people to use handicrafts as gifts to celebrate Noruz, which has also been promoted and continued this year, she noted.

A number of other handicrafts activities were organized during Noruz, including giving handicraft gifts to Noruz trippers, holding handicraft competitions in the most touristic areas of various provinces, and awarding handicraft prizes for contests on heritage, sports, etc., she explained.

There were also tours and workshops dedicated to tourists, and craft classes in historical and cultural attractions of various provinces, she mentioned.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Discovery of millennia-old fossils may lead to a biodiversity hotbed in Iran

From page 1 ► paleontological research and shows the extent to which the study of fossils can enhance our understanding of the current living world and the environment," the report says.

Speaking to ISNA, Khosravi considers crab fossils to be much, much rarer than fossils such as oysters and snails, which are very difficult to find.

"Because they are found in much more specific environments than oysters, and because they do not have hard outer parts like shells and snails, their complete preservation in fossils is rare. In addition, it is much more difficult to identify and examine them; Because many crab fossils are just pieces of the crab's armor backplate."

In response to the question that if the crabs found in the study are more or less similar to modern crabs found in rivers, he explained: "During the (recent) years, we found several new species of crabs from different parts of Iran, all of which species lived in the sea. Fossils of river crabs are very rare, even when

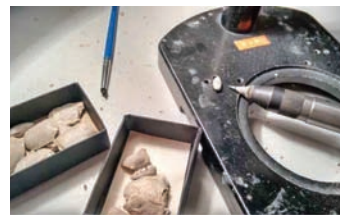
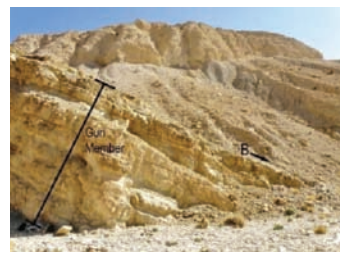
they are no longer available in some parts of the world."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the paleontologist noted they discovered fossils of sea crabs from different regions of the country including Shahrud, Garmsar, Isfahan, Kurdistan, Bandar Abbas, and Kazerun.

"A few years ago, as I was trying to identify some new fossils, I noticed that one of these fossils did not look like any I had seen before. Many fossils are more or less the same species still found in the Persian Gulf today, but this new species of crab was one of the species that, although recorded once or twice in the Persian Gulf, is mostly found in Southeast Asia around countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Australia."

In addition to its living representatives, fossils of this crab have been reported only from the same region of Southeast Asia, and those fossils are at most one to two million years old, he said.

"Significantly, this [fossilized] crab is at least 10 million years



older than all other similar specimens found in Southeast Asia."

These crabs and a few other specimens that have been discovered in previous studies on Iran's Zagros, as well as similar sediments from the Tethys in Austria, all of which have newer and more modern similarities in Southeast Asia, lead us to the hypothesis that from the current habitat, the hotspot of biodiversity in Southeast Asia has been here in the Tethys Sea deposits.



"We have discovered more than a thousand specimens of crab fossils from all over Iran, and gradually the information extracted from these fossils will be published in the form of articles."

Because studies show that there are several dozen new species among these fossils and some rare species that have been described by paleontologists from other regions but are discovered for the first time in Iran.

Experts to examine impact of World Heritage on sustainable development

TEHRAN – Several cultural heritage experts and academia will examine strategies needed for the proper protection of Tchogha Zanbil and its impact on sustainable development around the UNESCO-registered site in southwestern Iran.

"The protection of Tchogha Zanbil and its impact on the sustainable development of the region is the main topic that will be discussed in the meeting," CHTN quoted the director of the World Heritage site as saying on Sunday.

Titled "Sustainable Climate, Lasting Heritage", the professional meeting will be held at Haft-Tappeh museum on Monday evening, Atefeh Rashnoei added.

"The role of protection from the cultural perspective of Choghaznabil World Heritage in the sustainable development of the region.

"Moreover, the meeting is aimed to pave the way for achieving [regional] goals defined by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)," she stated.



Furthermore, Rashnoei expressed hope that the outcomes of the event will be leading to more effective conservation of historical sites across Khuzestan province.

It is hoped such brainstorming sessions will help develop cultural tourism and its proper etiquette as well, the official explained.

A topmost tourist destination in Khuzestan province, the magnificent ruins of Tchogha Zanbil (Choghazanbil) are considered by many the finest surviving example of Elamite architecture on the globe. It was made a UNESCO site in 1979. Its construction started in c. 1250 BC upon the

order of the Elamite king Untash-Napirisha (1275-1240 BC) as the religious center of Elam dedicated to the Elamite divinities Inshushinak and Napirisha.

UNESCO says that Tchogha Zanbil is the largest ziggurat outside of Mesopotamia and the best preserved of this type of stepped pyramidal monument. Tchogha Zanbil was excavated in six seasons between 1951 and 1961 by Roman Ghirshman, a Russian-born French archeologist who specialized in ancient Iran.

In addition, Haft-Tappeh (literary meaning "Seven Mounds") is located 15 kilometers to the south of the ancient city of Susa, itself a highly significant archeological site in southwest Iran. Early excavations in Haft-Tappeh conducted by the late Iranian archaeologist Dr. Ezzatollah Negahban yielded a large number of petroglyphs bearing cuneiform inscriptions in Akkadian, belonging to Elamite kings. The petroglyphs contain information on the religious beliefs, trading methods, and the political, cultural, and social relations of the time.

11 properties in Qazvin made national heritage

TEHRAN – A selection of 11 historical buildings and aging sites, scattered across Qazvin province, has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Sunday in separate letters to the governor-general of the northwestern province, CHTN reported.

Mortazavi and Tuti mansions,

Arasanj and Fazlali Khan qanats (ancient subterranean aqueducts), and Sardar Yar Afshar tower are among the properties added to the prestigious list.

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers,

Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070-1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya

Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins".

Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais in the country, Sa'd-al Saltaneh caravanserai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it's a place for discovering tens of Hojreh or shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. It's a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, cuisine, and hospitality of Iran.

South Khorasan to boost tourism infrastructure

TEHRAN – South Khorasan is planning to develop the province's tourism infrastructure.

A budget of 600 billion rials (\$2.1 million) has been allocated for the tourism development of the eastern province, the province's governor has said.

"The province ranked 11th in terms of Noruz travelers this year, eighth in terms of provincial traffic, and fifth in terms of passenger retention," Javad Qena'at explained on Sunday.

In addition, South Khorasan ranks among the top 10 provinces in terms of visiting tourist attractions and selling handicrafts, the official added.

In November 2020, provincial tourism chief Hassan Ramezani said that the outbreak of coronavirus provided an opportunity to boost tourism infrastructure in the

eastern province.

"Although the coronavirus pandemic has put tourism to a halt and caused lots of problems, it has provided an opportunity to improve tourism infrastructure, as there are no visitors to the province's historical sites," he added.

It is expected that the tourism sites will be in a more favorable condition for travelers and tourists after the current crisis ends, the official explained.

He also noted that there are 30 tourism projects underway in accommodation centers, hotels, and caravanseraes for improving the water and electricity networks of the tourist sites.

Creating the tourist village complex of Birjand in collaboration with the private sector is one of the main projects,



South Khorasan province is home to many well-preserved ancient windmills

he mentioned.

South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel,

and Polond Desert. It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.



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Dam reservoirs drop by 12%

TEHRAN – The total volume of water in dam reservoirs is estimated at about 26.1 billion cubic meters since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2021), showing a 12 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

Iran is located in an arid and semi-arid area and its average rainfall is 250 mm, which is about one-third of the global average.

In terms of the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall in the country, favorable conditions are not provided to strengthen water resources and proper access to water resources in the country, so the amount of rainfall in desert areas is about 46 mm, which is more than 1,400 mm in the northern provinces. In terms of time, 5 percent of the country's rainfall occurs in summer, which does not help much in supplying water to summer and permanent crops.

On the other hand, the average rainfall is decreasing over time, as it was estimated at 250 mm for about 53 years, while over the past 13 years it has decreased to 232 mm.

The latest report of the Ministry of Energy indicates a 12 percent reduction in the volume of reservoirs in the country's dams.

The total volume of water input



to the country's dams since the beginning of the current water year is equal to 20.7 billion cubic meters, which shows a decrease of 3 percent compared to the same period last year.

Out of a total of 183 currently operational dams across Iran, 52 are related to the Caspian Sea catchment area, 12 are based in the Urmia basin, 68 dams are located in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman watersheds, 34 dams are in the Central Plateau, 11 dams are in Sarakhs catchment basin, and another six dams are located across the eastern boundary basin (Hamoun).

Renewable water resources have decreased by 30 percent over the last four decades, while Iran's population has increased by about 2.5 times, Qasem Taqizadeh, deputy minister of energy, has said.

Groundwater resources declining

A recent report by Nature Scientific Journal on Iran's water crisis indicates that from 2002 to 2015, over 74 billion cubic meters have been extracted from aquifers, which is unprecedented and its revival takes thousands of years along with urgent action.

Three Iranian scientists studied 30 basins in the country and re-

alized that the rate of aquifer depletion over a 14-year period has been about 74 billion cubic meters, which is recently published in Nature Scientific Journal.

Also, over-harvesting in 77 percent of Iran has led to more land subsidence and soil salinity. Research and statistics show that the average overdraft from the country's aquifers was about 5.2 billion cubic meters per year.

Mohammad Darvish, head of the environment group in the UNESCO Chair on Social Health that the situation of groundwater resources is worrisome.

The report notes that Iran's water consumption has increased due to a significant increase in legal and illegal wells, the expansion of agricultural land, and increasing livelihood dependence on water and soil resources in agriculture, livestock, and poultry, which are mainly caused by human factors, Darvish noted.

The statistic is unprecedented, as the total reservoirs of all dams in the country have a capacity of about 50 billion cubic meters; In other words, in the last 14 years, 22 billion cubic meters more than the capacity of all dams have been extracted from the country's underground sources, he explained.

Textbooks to be enriched with environmental subjects

TEHRAN – Lessons with environmental contents will be included in twelve textbooks with the aim of increasing awareness among students regarding the issue of environment protection, an official with the Ministry of Education has said.

"We intend to promote the culture of environment protection among students in order to enable them to protect nature while benefiting from a healthy environment in the future," IRNA quoted Sadeq Sattari as saying.

The Ministry of Education will implement a plan called "supporters of the environment" in the next school year (starting September 23), highlighting the environment's significance in a healthy life, Sattari said earlier this month.

Preserving vital natural resources, institutionalizing the culture of environmental protection, expanding the society's knowledge about the environment, and boosting the participation of students in environmental protection activities are among the main objectives of the plan, he explained.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has emphasized the need to develop non-fossil sources of energy, including



renewables, and expand activities to protect the environment.

The destruction of forests and the environment and vegetation is equivalent to the degradation of national interests, and the depletion of part of the forests for construction, except in emergencies, is definitely to the detriment of the nation, he explained.

"One of the serious tasks toward protecting the environment is to preserve the two natural assets and vital reserves, namely water and soil, and to avoid taking them for granted. In this line, authorities must pay attention to expert points of view."

The Leader further called on people to plant and protect trees, saying that doing such

important works requires national support. Tree planting is among the activities that can prevent the disappearance of forests around and inside cities through expanding vegetation cover.

On the occasion of Clean Air Week, nine training packages on environmental literacy as well as procedures for activities and jobs were unveiled on January 22.

These works are entitled climate change, biodiversity, waste, ecotourism, sports and environment, sports and civic activities with the aim of enlightening, educating, and promoting environmental culture with special priority on empowering educators, and facilitators to provide appropriate environmental education to members of the community as well as public participation in environmental protection.

Every year, January 19, is the National Clean Air Day in Iran in order to remind and highlight the main factors in maintaining air quality, as well as promoting a sense of responsibility and citizen participation in protecting the urban environment and fulfilling social responsibility for the environment.

Govt. donates \$26,000 to free inmates of involuntary crimes

TEHRAN – Heads of the three branches of the government have donated 7 billion rials (nearly \$26,000) to help release prisoners who had committed unintentional crimes.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes concurrent with the holy month of Ramadan, which started on April 3 this year.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prison-

ers leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

President Ebrahim Raisi, Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, and Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei made a total of 7 billion rials (nearly \$26,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes, ISNA reported.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei

also donated 10 billion rials (about \$40,000) to help free prisoners on April 9.

A total of 7,956 prisoners of unintentional crimes have been released over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), according to the head of the Blood Money Organization.

Of the total released prisoners, 345 were female convicts and the rest were male debtors who were incarcerated due to inability to pay financial debts or inability to pay dues (workshop accidents and traffic accidents), Asadollah

Joulaei said.

The prisoners had a sum of 34 trillion rials (nearly \$130 million) in debt, and 45 percent of this amount has been forgiven by the plaintiffs, he said.

Isfahan's benefactors released the highest number of inmates amounting to 725 convicts.

Since 1990, more than 150,000 unintentional crime doers who had debts have been freed. Currently, there are 10,680 prisoners of unintentional crimes in the country, of whom 4,673 are eligible for assistance.

SOCIETY

APRIL 18, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

GHS Index: Iran ranks 90th in dealing with pandemics

From page 1 ► Although many countries were able to quickly develop capacities to address COVID-19, all countries remain dangerously unprepared for meeting future epidemic and pandemic threats, potentially more devastating than COVID-19.

The results of the 2021 Index show that even as many countries proved they could ramp up new capacities during the emergency—including setting up labs and creating cohorts of contact tracers to follow the spread of COVID-19—some responses were crippled by long-unaddressed weaknesses, such as lack of healthcare surge capacity and critical medical supplies.

Iran ranks 90th out of 195 countries with a score of 36.5 out of 100.

In this report, there are data and research based on 6 categories of prevention, diagnosis, and reporting rapid response, health systems, commitments to improve financial capacity and global norms, and high-risk and risky environment.

In the "Prevention" index, Iran ranks 46th with a score of 28.4 out of 100 on the global average.

In the "Health Systems" index, the country gained a score of 39.4 and is ranked 70th among countries in the world with a score of 31.5.

In the "Commitments to Improve Financial Capacity and Global Norms" index, Iran is ranked 185 with a global average score of 47.8 and an overall score of 27.1.

In general, the first country in this index is the United States and the last is Somalia.

A peek into veterinary medicine in Iran

Part 4

Contemporary Iranian veterinarians were well informed about diseases of particular organs in animals, for example, the eyes, nose, digestive system, and genitalia, and also about wounds of all kinds, as well as sores on the foot, leg, and skin.

The methods of treatment were traditional, including drugs concocted from mineral, vegetable, and animal substances and ancient surgical procedures.

The crown prince Abbas Mirza was the first Iranian official to attempt to import modern veterinary knowledge into the country. He arranged with the French military mission from Napoleon, led by General Claude Gardane, for the appointment of several French veterinary officers to work in Iran, but with the failure of the French mission this plan came to nothing.

Under Mohammad-Ali Shah (1907-09) two Russian veterinary officers were employed in the Cossack Brigade, and it was they who organized the first formal courses in veterinary science in Iran.

In 1914, two veterinarians and an expert farrier from Sweden came to Iran and opened the first veterinary school, offering a two-year course; apparently four of these courses were completed, but in 1924 the school was closed. During the same period the veterinary services of the army were placed on a firm footing, and most of the graduates of the veterinary school found work with the army.

The Pasteur institute of Iran was established in 1921 with the help of the Institut Pasteur of Paris; Joseph Mesnard was appointed its first director. It included departments of human, animal, vegetable, and industrial bacteriology.

The department of animal bacteriology produced an anthrax vaccine, which was distributed to the veterinarians then working in the country.

In 1927 the International Health Office issued a resolution stressing the need to establish regular veterinary services in all countries.

After some delay, in 1933 the Iranian government responded by establishing a veterinary section in the Ministry of agriculture.

The idea of founding a faculty of veterinary medicine had come up in 1927, but nothing was done until 1932.

In that year a veterinary college was opened under the supervision of the department.

The functioning of the veterinary college, the civil and military veterinary departments, the Razi institute, and similar bodies in the provinces made it possible to control infectious diseases of animals in Iran. Since the 1930s Iranian veterinarians have continued this work and have conducted basic research. During the 1970s veterinary faculties were established at the universities of Shiraz, Ahvaz, and Urmia.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Concluded

Benefactors donate \$130m to build schools

TEHRAN – School building benefactors have allotted a total of 34 trillion rials (nearly \$130 million) to construct educational spaces across the country over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021- March 2022), ISNA reported.

Due to the promotion of the culture of participation in school construction, school-building donors allotted trillion rials (nearly \$130 million) last year, which was 170 billion rials (around \$650) in 1998 when the Association of School-Building Donors was established, Education Minister Yousef Nouri said on Sunday.

According to Nasser Ghofli, the director of the Association, 400 school-building charities have been registered in the country so far.

Iran has many school-building benefactors amounting to 650,000 people inside and 1,000 people outside the country.

Benefactors have proposed 28 trillion rials (nearly \$102 million) to be included in the budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022-March 2023) for building and renovating schools, Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr, director of the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipping Schools, said.

School-building donors allocated more than 30 trillion rials (nearly \$111 million) to construct educational places nationwide in the [Iranian calendar] year which ended in March 2021.

Since 2017, the government has contributed more than 60 trillion rials (nearly \$218 million) to school-building donors, he added.

"Brick-by-brick" national plan started in the year 1399 (March 2020 – March 2021), aiming to attract public participation for school construction in deprived areas even by buying a brick.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON APRIL 17

New cases	1,895
New deaths	29
Total cases	7,206,959
Total deaths	140,829
New hospitalized patients	257
Patients in critical condition	1,361
Total recovered patients	6,945,844
Diagnostic tests conducted	50,425,665
Doses of vaccine injected	148,289,629

ENGLISH IN USE

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Army to set up five field hospitals nationwide

TEHRAN – The Iranian Army will set up five field hospitals in the country to offer services to COVID-19 patients, IRIB reported on Thursday.

A 120-bed field hospital built by the Army, equipped with advanced medical devices to provide services to the people and medical staff, was inaugurated on April 24 in Isfahan province.

This field hospital is equipped with an ICU ward, ventilators, cardiac monitoring systems, oxygen generators, and resuscitation rooms, which offer services to coronavirus patients.

The Army, as it is present in various fields, can provide significant services to those infected with the pandemic with all its might, Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander-in-Chief of the Army said.

اعلام ساخت پنج بیمارستان صحرایی ارتش در کشور

فرمانده کل ارتش جمهوری اسلامی ایران دستور ساخت پنج بیمارستان صحرایی ارتش در کشور را صادر کرد.

به گزارش خبرگزاری صدا و سیما، امیر سرلشکر عبدالرحیم موسوی تاکید کرد: ارتش همان گونه که در زمینه‌های مختلف حضور داشته می‌تواند با تمام توان خود خدمات قابل توجهی به بیماران کرونایی ارائه دهد.

بیمارستان صحرایی ۱۲۰ تختخوابی ارتش مجهز به دستگاه‌های پیشرفته پزشکی برای ارائه خدمات به مردم و کادر پزشکی، چهارم اردبیشهرت در اصفهان راه اندازی شد.

این بیمارستان صحرایی با تمام نیازمندی‌ها از جمله «آی. سی. یو»، ونتیلاتور، مونیتورینگ قلبی، دستگاه اکسیژن ساز، و اتاق احیا به بیماران کرونایی خدمات ارائه می‌دهد.

