

Report **“High levels” of U.S. Muslim students bullied at school**

The largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy group in America has highlighted the ongoing problems facing Muslim American students who are not only still facing different types of bullying and intimidation but their problems are getting worse.

Surprisingly, there is no American federal law that directly addresses bullying and as Muslims bear the brunt of the discrimination it reflects a wider American policy.

The White House claims America is a multi-cultural society with people of different races and religions living side by side in co-existence.

When we take a closer look at the research below, it indicates a pattern.

This pattern is not limited to corporate media with most of their pundits on air also having links with arms manufacturing companies.

The narrative America sells through different methods to the American public, in this case, Muslims at schools suffering from bullying is another attempt to justify a pretext that Muslims are the bad guys and therefore America should maintain its military presence, especially in West Asia.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has shed more light on how American Muslim students face bullying, harassment, and other forms of discrimination by not only their fellow students but astonishingly also adults, including their own teachers.

In the case of schools, Washington can easily address the problem with programs aimed at advising students and teachers that Muslims are not the cause of terrorism in America, but the U.S. chooses not to do so despite the pleas from CAIR and other groups. ▶ Page 5

Foreign ministry: Perpetrators of Soleimani assassination will be brought to justice

TEHRAN — Iranian foreign ministry spokesman hesitates to term the atmosphere of the Vienna talks as “negative,” but at the same time he believes there is no agreement within reach, as there is no draft text.

Speaking at his weekly presser on Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh responded to a series of questions.

He began his briefing by congratulating Army Day.

‘We do not have an agreement available today to talk about’

The diplomat then responded to a question about the speculations in social media that the issue of sanctions against the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps had been resolved in the first six round of negotiations in the previous Iranian administration, saying, “The remaining issues in the Vienna talks have been made clear to everyone. In the 11 months leading up to the talks and before the recent break, we said that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed in full. We still do not have an agreement to talk about.”

He then added that EU coordinator Enrique Mora is doing an excellent job in delivering Iran’s messages to the United States, and messages are being exchanged despite the break time.

‘Amir Abdollahian’s letter to the OIC chief’

The spokesman then went on to strongly condemn the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli forces.

“Unfortunately, we witnessed the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque again. The fake, apartheid and racist Zionist regime once again attacked worshipers in Ramadan and injured many. Over the past few weeks, the Palestinian people have sacrificed martyrs for this cause on a daily basis, while we are witnessing the silence of the international community and Islamic countries,” he said. ▶ Page 2

Raisi Starkly Warns Israel

▶ Page 3

STAY UPDATED #IranArmyDay



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Annual exports to ASEAN rise 33%

TEHRAN – The value of Iran’s exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries rose 33 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) compared to the figure for the preceding year, the portal of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported.

According to Secretary of the TPO’s ASEAN Trade Promotion Desk Mohsen Rezaei-Pour, the Islamic Republic’s export to the men-

tioned union reached \$2.371 billion in the mentioned year.

Indonesia was the top export destination for Iranian goods among the ASEAN member states in the previous year, importing \$1101 billion worth of commodities, Reza-Pour noted.

As reported, exports to Indonesia rose 63 percent in terms of value compared to the same period last year.

During the period under review, Thailand

was Iran’s second-largest export destination in this union; the Islamic Republic exported 1.241 million tons of goods worth \$784 million to this country, according to the official.

The exports to Thailand increased by 59 percent in terms of value compared to the preceding year. The top exported items to Thailand include steel ingots, steel sections, zinc, chicken viscera, bitumen, and vaseline, Rezaei-Pour said. ▶ Page 4

National Nanotechnology Competition to be held

TEHRAN – The 11th National Nanotechnology Competition with the theme of “Education, Competition, Business” will be held online on July 20-22.

The National Nanotechnology Competition is the largest scientific competition on the subject of nanoscience and nanotechnology among interested students and university graduates.

The winners will receive special prizes including National Elite Foundation scores, medals, nano-startup entry licenses, nanotechnology teachers network entry licenses, research grants, training grants, and cash prizes.

The first phase of the Competition will be held online on July 20-22, and the top 300 people will enter the second phase, which will be held in person on August 19. The top 30 will advance to the third stage or practical competition camp. The final ranking of the winners of the competition will be announced after the end of the third stage. ▶ Page 7

Iran summons Sweden’s charge d’affaires over desecration of Quran

TEHRAN- Iran’s Foreign Ministry on Sunday summoned Sweden’s chargé d’affaires to express the Islamic Republic’s strong condemnation of a Swedish far-right group’s desecration of the Holy Quran during Ramadan.

The Foreign Ministry expressed Iran’s strong condemnation of the sacrilege of Islam’s holy book by the leader of a far-right group under the protection of Swedish police and under the guise of freedom of expression.

On Saturday, Rasmus Paludan, the Danish head of Sweden’s far-right Stram Kurs party, attempted to burn a copy of Quran outside Muslim community center.

Reportedly, Paludan told news agencies he has burned a copy of Islam’s holy book and wants to do so again.

Paludan, escorted by police, allegedly proceeded to an open public space in the southern Swedish city of Linköping and attempted to set the holy book on

fire despite protestations from bystanders.

A high-ranking official at the Iranian Foreign Ministry urged Sweden to take quick and decisive action to put a stop to the sacrilege of the book and ensure that similar atrocities do not occur again.

Offending the sanctities of more than two billion Muslims and hurting their sentiments is the worst conceivable kind of free expression, the official said. ▶ Page 2

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Interview Group B, the moment of truth

By Morteza Mohases

TEHRAN – Iran have been drawn in Group B of the 2022 FIFA World Cup along with England, the U.S., and the European playoff winners (Wales, Ukraine, Scotland). Skocic’s men will be confident of reaching the knockout phase this time.

Iran are 21st in the FIFA ranking and finished ahead of South Korea in the qualification matches for the World Cup. The team broke new ground, having qualified for the third time in a row. Iran have only missed two tournaments since 1998, and there was never any real doubt that it would qualify for its third consecutive finals.

Dragan Skocic’s side only dropped points to South Korea in the final qualifying round, and it had secured their place in Qatar by the end of January.

The ‘Persian Leopards’ will play England in their first match. In reality, starting is always the most challenging part of any task. Playing against a very balanced England side, Dragan Skocic has a Herculean task ahead of him. Throughout FIFA qualifications, he adopted a flexible 1-4-1-4-1 turn into 1-4-3-3, and against South Korea tested 1-4-4-2 formation, with Sardar Azmoun and Mehdi Taremi as the two front strikers. They were supported by the two midfield screeners, Ahmad Nourollahi and Saeid Ezatolahei. Iran adopted two and sometimes three formations in one match with some degree of success

Against South Korean and Iraqi sides, they tended to play a more defensive-oriented shape, with an aggressive and organized defense, very compact and looked for a counter-attack. ▶ Page 3

Doc spotlights Islamic philosopher Mohammadreza Hakimi’s life story

TEHRAN – Filmmaker Mahmud Asadi has put top Islamic philosopher Mohammadreza Hakimi under the microscope in a documentary, the Documentary, Experimental and Animation Film Center (DEAFC) said on Monday.

Asadi was in company with Hakimi for 30 years and has conducted interviews with dozens of philosophers and experts for his documentary entitled “Cough of Canary and Stroke of Words”.

Hakimi, a top Islamic philosopher who was most famous for his studies on social justice and individual freedom in Islam, died of heart failure on August 22, 2021, at the age of 86.

The documentary covers the entire life story of the philosopher who declined any offer to be interviewed, photographed or filmed except in exceptional cases. ▶ Page 8

Raisi: If Tel Aviv commits slightest mistake, Iran will respond at heart of Israel



TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi warned on Monday that if Israel commits the slightest military adventure against Iran, the Islamic Republic will respond at the heart of the Zionist regime.

Raisi issued the warning as the Iranian Army held an annual military parade.

“If Israel is seeking normalization with certain regional countries, they should know that their least moves will not remain hidden from the eyes of our security forces, and if they commit the slightest mistake our response will be at the core of this regime and our armed forces will not let them live in tranquility,” Raisi asserted.

During the military parade, Iran also unveiled surface-to-surface missiles and air defense systems.

The president said the Iranian Army used the sanctions against the Islamic Republic as the best opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency in defense industry and increase its military power.

“Today, the military industry of our country... are in best condition,” Raisi remarked.

The president also lauded the unity and empathy between the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), calling them the “two powerful arms of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief”.

The cooperation between the Army and the IRGC is “exemplary,” he added.

Constitutionally, Leader of the Islamic Revolution is commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

The president also said the “readiness” of the Iranian army in the face of military threats send a “message of hope” to the lovers of the Islamic Revolution and a “message of deterrence” to the enemies.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president said Iran “will not initiate any war” but it will give a “remorseful and crushing response” to any act of aggression against the country.

He also spoke of the high readiness of

the Iranian military and their intelligence supremacy over regional and international developments.

The president also said the Iranian armed forces are gifted with spirituality, faithfulness and readiness to take risk in the face of enemy.

The Iranian armed forces are skillful, revolutionary, high-spirited who are ready to defend the Islamic Republic system under the command of the Leader, the president added.

He went on to say, “Today, our military capability is famous not only in the region but also in the world.”

Raisi also said “revolutionary people” are the most important components of power in the Islamic Republic.

The president also pointed to the bravery of armed forces during Saddam Hussein’s war against Iran in the 1980s, warning all those who may have formulated an illusion in their mind to face off the Islamic Republic should take lessons from the fate of Saddam Hussein.

He said Saddam failed in the face of Iran’s resistance despite the fact that his army was provided with advanced arms and intelligence about the positions of Iran’s armed forces.

Raisi pointed to the remarks by the White House officials who have openly acknowledge that their maximum pressure against the Islamic Republic have ended in failure.

The Iranian president also lauded the performance of the army in helping the people during the Covid-19 pandemic and their assistance to people in case of natural disasters such as earthquake.

Iran unveils surface-to-surface missiles, air defense systems

During the military parade on Army Day, the surface-to-surface Fath 360 and Labeik missiles as well as the Dezful and Majid air defense systems were also unveiled.

Iran has made great breakthroughs in manufacturing arms such as long-range precision guided ballistic missiles and advanced air defense weapons.

From page 1 ► “This regrettable incident, which was carried out under protection of the Swedish police has marred the image of Sweden among Muslims of the world,” the diplomat noted.

The Swedish envoy expressed remorse for the event, saying that he will soon inform his country’s leaders of Iran’s strong protest.

Earlier in the day, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh condemned the Swedish far-right group’s desecration of the holy book, calling the blasphemous act a clear example of hatemongering and a violation of free expression.

“[Iran] strongly condemns the burning of the Holy Quran by an extremist racist Danish element in the Swedish city of Linköping, which took place under the pretext of freedom of expression and under the auspices of the Swedish police,” Khatibzadeh pointed out.

Violent skirmishes with counter-demonstrators against the desecration of the Quran resumed in Sweden for the third day in a row on Sunday, police reported.

According to police, protestors burned

rubish bins, a bus, and a car in a sequence of events overnight in the southern city of Malmö.

Police spokeswoman Kim Hild stated that no cops were harmed, but a number of members of the public were slightly wounded. Nearly 20 complaints, including vandalism, had been made.

Similar fights have occurred in previous days in response to the blasphemy.

During protests against the move on Saturday, police and protestors clashed violently in a Muslim-dominated district of central Sweden.

Counter-protesters, estimated at roughly 200 individuals by local media, broke into the event and clashed with members of the far-right party and Swedish police as a result of the blasphemy.

In Örebro, central Sweden, nine police officers were hurt in similar conflicts on Friday.

Three police officers were injured during a disturbance in the city of Linköping in eastern Sweden on Thursday. At that rally, two individuals were detained.

Foreign ministry: Perpetrators of Soleimani assassination will be brought to justice

‘Atmosphere in Vienna is not negative, Mora delivers messages’

From page 1 ► Khatibzadeh added that unfortunately, the process of normalizing relations between the leaders of some Arab and Islamic countries with the Israeli regime has made this regime more aggressive to expand its atrocities.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran, while strongly condemning these actions, has pursued its action at the level of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the foreign ministers of Islamic countries and international organizations,” he said, adding that Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian has also sent a letter to the OIC secretary general in this regard.

He also referred to Amir Abdollahian’s telephone conversation with Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas political bureau, and said that the foreign minister continues consultations with other officials, and this process will continue in the coming days.

“We will continue because the Zionist regime, which is extravagant and creates crisis, will stop these actions only with a strong response,” the spokesman reiterated.

‘Unfreezing of Iranian assets has nothing to do with the United States’

Regarding the remarks of U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price on the release of Iran’s blocked assets, Khatibzadeh said that the release of Iranian resources and the return of money from the export of goods and services from Iran to other countries has nothing to do with



any third country.

“The U.S. regime today is trying to intervene on any issue related to Iran, showing how far it is from the claims of Mr. Biden and his government. What we are doing is in the definite interest of the Iranian people. Whatever we export, we try and get the money back, as we have done so far,” he elaborated.

He added that a delegation from a regional country visited Iran and an agreement was reached on the release of part of Iran’s resources.

“This is not related to the United States, nor do we allow the United States to go into details,” he underscored.

‘Ukrainian ambassador better read his foreign minister’s tweet’

In response to the question posed by the Tehran Times correspondent regarding the Ukrainian ambassador in Tehran’s remarks about sending two unanswered letters to the Iranian president and foreign minister, Khatibzadeh said, “Iran’s position on the Ukraine war has been clear and consistent.

Iran says 30 nationals held overseas on suspicion of evading U.S. sanctions

TEHRAN- Kazem Gharibabadi, the deputy chief of the Iranian Judiciary and secretary of High Council for Human Rights, stated on Friday that 30 Iranian citizens are being locked up in foreign jails on allegations of circumventing Washington’s anti-Iran sanctions.

The Judiciary official noted that the Judiciary, Foreign Ministry, and Iranian diplomatic missions are following up their cases.

“Due to the dual approach of the West on the issue of human rights, the number of Iranians who need human rights protections abroad is not small,” Gharibabadi said.

“There are many examples in this regard, like the sham trial of Hamid Nouri in Sweden, the violent mistreatment toward a female Iranian asylum seeker by Danish police in front of her child, and even Iranians being prosecuted under the pretext of circumventing U.S. sanctions against Iran,”

he pointed out.

He stated that the Iranian captives will surely require the assistance of Iran’s High Council for Human Rights.

“We follow up on the problems of our compatriots abroad in several ways, mostly through Iranian embassies and by contacting relevant officials, as was the case in Denmark and the mistreatment of an Iranian asylum seeker by Danish police. I corresponded with the Danish minister of immigration in this regard. Of course, there are other mechanisms,” Gharibabadi stated.

The human rights chief went on to say that “our consular section at the Foreign Ministry is following up on the problems. I would also like to emphasize that in some cases the follow-up is lengthy and does not mean that we are abandoning them. We give various forms of human rights support as well as legal, judicial, political and consular

Iran calls on Muslims to unite in support of Palestinian cause

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for Iran’s Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh on Saturday urged Muslims to unify behind the Palestinian cause.

Khatibzadeh voiced anger over the Israeli regime’s fresh atrocities in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and cautioned against the implications of certain Arab countries’ desire to restore relations with the Tel Aviv regime.

“Deeply outraged by the new atrocities of the Israeli regime. We strongly condemn the desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque,” Khatibzadeh tweeted.

“Reminder that normalization with the apartheid regime of Israel only encourages the oppressor to double down on its brutality,” the spokesman underscored.

“Muslims must stand united behind the Palestinian cause,” he suggested.

“The Ascension of the Messenger of God is being trampled amid the silence and apparent betrayal of Islamic countries, and this is shameful,” he added.

Israeli forces expanded their violence in Al-Aqsa Mosque on Friday morning, storming

the mosque’s courtyards and attacking worshipers, wounding over 150 Palestinians and detaining 400 others.

On Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian blasted the Israeli regime’s attack on al-Aqsa Mosque in a phone conversation with Ismail Haniyeh, chairman of the political bureau of Hamas, saying resistance is alive while the Zionists are desperate.

“Undoubtedly, the Zionist regime has become too weak to withstand the uprising of the Palestinian people and the resistance that created the epic

IRGC’s name from the terrorist list, a guarantee was asked from Iran that former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Brian Hook, the former United States Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, would be safe from the promised harsh revenge after the assassination of General Soleimani, the spokesman, “The fundamental principle was formed in the foreign policy after the cowardly assassination of martyr Soleimani that the perpetrators and advisers of this cowardly act will not go unpunished and this is a fundamental principle in Iran’s foreign policy that these people must be brought to justice.”

‘Insult to holy Quran in Sweden’

When asked about the recent abhorrent action by some Swedish nationals in burning the holy Quran in purpose, the spokesman said that what happened in Sweden was “very disgusting and the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns this insult.”

“The repetition of this in Sweden by Swedish citizens is deeply regrettable, and instead of abusing freedom of expression and providing freedom of expression, we expect Sweden to take responsibility and react appropriately,” he underlined.

Khatibzadeh pointed out that the Islamic world is deeply hurt by these insults, which are created in the shadow of the false peace and security created for these insults in Western countries.

pursuit to those who are in trouble.”

Iran has been subjected to harsh unilateral U.S. sanctions that have been imposed by Washington when Donald Trump announced an abrupt withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018.

Trump subsequently launched a “maximum pressure” campaign on the Iranian economy, despite Iran’s complete compliance with its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA.

Under the Joe Biden administration, negotiations began in Vienna last April between Iran and the remaining JCPOA parties to bring the U.S. back into compliance with the agreement.

However, since the start of the negotiations, Washington has put a number of sanctions on Iran, which Tehran sees as a sign of poor faith.

of Operation al-Quds Sword,” Amir Abdollahian noted.

Khatibzadeh further stated that the Israeli apartheid regime is brazenly breaking human rights principles and international law by committing crimes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

He lashed out at the Zionists’ “shameless” acts of violence against sacred places in Palestine and against the fasting people and worshipers at mosques.

Across the Muslim world, mass protests were staged in support of the oppressed Palestinian people.

Iranian envoy in Baghdad meets Iraqi president

TEHRAN— Iraj Masjedi, the Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, whose diplomatic mission to Iraq has come to an end, met with the country’s president Barham Salih on Monday.

In the meeting, Salih praised the efforts of the Iranian ambassador to expand relations between the two countries and wished him

success in the future.

Referring to the depth of bilateral relations between Iran and Iraq, the Iraqi president stressed the importance of expanding these relations in various fields.

For his part, Masjedi emphasized Iran’s support for the stability and security of Iraq and called for strengthening economic and

social relations between the two neighbors.

Recently, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, announced that the new Iranian ambassador to Iraq has been appointed and will travel to Iraq soon.

Khatibzadeh announced that Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadeq would replace Masjedi and that he will soon start his work.

Raisi starkly warns Israel

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Monday issued a strong warning against any Israeli move to harm Iran, making sure that Iran is aware of Israel's possible plans to take the battle into Iran.

The timing and the venue from which the warning was issued could not be more meaningful. President Raisi made the remarks during a military parade held on the occasion of the Iranian Army Day. Flanked by Army generals in an elevated stand, Raisi told parading troops that Iran will respond to any Israeli aggression against Iran in Israel's depth.

Underlining that Iran will never start a war, but will face any aggression with a remorseful and decisive response, President Raisi announced the high readiness of the country's military forces and the high intelligence elite of these forces in the face of regional and international developments.

He asserted that the slightest movement of the enemy will not be hidden from the sharp eyes of Iran's armed forces, noting, "The Zionist regime [Israel] that is seeking to normalize relations with some regional countries must now that the slightest move it makes will not be hidden from the sharp eyes and intelligence of the Armed Forces and intelligent forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Stressing that any movement of the Zionist regime against Iran will lead to a decisive response from the



Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Raisi warned the leaders of the regime, "Beware that the great and formidable power of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not leave you as you are for a second."

This is the highest-level warning after the Iranian missile strike in March against a "Mossad headquarters" in Erbil, northern Iraq, which was reportedly a response to a previously announced Israeli drone attack in the western Iranian province of Kermanshah.

Iran's Al-Alam news television said the missile attack, launched by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), came in response to a recent Israeli drone attack in the Mahidasht region in western Iran.

Little is known about the Mahidasht strike but it apparently marked a significant stage in what Israelis call the "Octopus doctrine," which happens to be a brainchild of Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

The doctrine means that Israel should take the battle to Iran instead of fighting Iran's allies across the West Asia region. Bennett outlined the doctrine at the Herzliya Conference in May 2018 when he was education minister.

"While we're shedding blood fighting their tentacles, the octopus's head is lounging in its chair enjoying itself," he said of Iran, adding that it was time for Israel "to aim at the head of the octopus and not its tentacles."

Bennett reiterated the doctrine when he became defense minister,

saying in February 2020 that "when the tentacles of the octopus strike you, do not fight only against the tentacle, but suffocate its head. Likewise with Iran."

But Bennett has largely failed in carrying out his doctrine due to Iran's vigilance. Israel was unable to mount a significant attack inside Iran. And the Mahidasht attack was so minor in its effect that Israel was unwilling to highlight it at the media level just as it does with the attacks that it does not claim responsibility for.

Anyway, Iran seems more vigilant than ever vis-a-vis Israel's moves. Iran has long said it is watching all the steps Israel makes in the region whether through its new allies or directly. And has the will to respond to any aggressive move, as Raisi said.

Army showcases drones, missile systems and electronic warfare equipment

TEHRAN – On the occasion of National Day of the Iranian Army, the Air Defense Forces displayed their new equipment and achievements in the field of radar and reconnaissance systems, electronic warfare, drones, different types of missiles and command and control systems.

Fars News reported that the equipment and achievements of the Air Defense Forces, which were displayed on the Iranian Army Day, are as follows:

Drones of the models: Mohajer 6, Karrar, Nasser, Kayan 1, Kayan 2, Arash, Omid, Mohajer 4.

Missile and radar systems: the Majid missile system, portable CPC system, TM wheel COS ICT system, Damavand system, S300 loader system, Sayyad Communications vehicle system, S200 missile launcher, Sayyad 3 and 4 missile systems, Talash missile launcher, Joshan missile system radar, Radtla 15 Khordad system, Command control system, Bavar 373 missile system, Mersad 16 system equipped with Shalamcheh 2 missile, Hadi radar system, the Kavosh radar system, Mersad 15 missile system, Kavosh system operations room, Khatam system to direct fire, and Skycard system's radar.

Also on Monday, the latest drone of the Iranian army, dubbed Kaman 22, was unveiled for the first time in Tehran.

The Kaman 22 unmanned aerial vehicle of the army is considered a strategic and multi-tasking aircraft. And it is the first giant combat drone of the Iranian army, and it can fly for 24 hours continuously, and its operational range is three thousand kilometers.

The Kaman 22 drone can fly up to an altitude of 8,000 meters and is capable of carrying all types of ammunition, laser-guided missiles and smart missiles. It also has the ability to monitor, control, gather information and photograph distant targets, according to Al Alam.

It weighs 1.5 tons and carries 300 kilograms of weapons and ammunition. It is equipped with combat weapons, cameras and electronic warfare equipment. It was designed according



to the operational specifications required by the Air Force of the Army, and it carries 4 bombs of the Qaem class, in addition to two smart missiles, and it was also equipped with the X-Band jamming system.

This unmanned aircraft is similar to the American aircraft MQ9 and is currently undergoing the final testing stage, and the Iranian army has used it so far in the operations of guidance, control and monitoring of the maneuver area.

It is 6.5 meters long, two and a half meters high, and has a wingspan of 17 meters, and its range has increased by 2,000 kilometers compared to its prototypes.

Iran also unveiled the surface-to-surface Fat'h 360 and Labeik missiles as well as the Dezful and Majid air defense systems on Monday.

They were unveiled as the Iranian Army held an annual military parade near the shrine of Imam Khomeini in southern Tehran.

Speaking during the military parade, President Ebrahim Raisi said if Israel commits the slightest military adventure against Iran, the Islamic Republic will respond at the heart of the Zionist regime.

The 29th of Farvardin (the first month of the Iranian calendar year) was named Army Day by the founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini. Raisi said Imam Khomeini made a wise decision for naming such a day.

Raisi said, "The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran loves God and is the friend of the people and

left its best manifestation of insight in February 1979 in allegiance to Imam Khomeini and alliance with the people."

The president said that the Army also shone very brightly during the Sacred Defense.

Iran refers to resistance against the invasion of Saddam Army against Iran in the 1980s as Sacred Defense.

"The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran has also left famous figures among the martyrs who are a source of pride for all of us and what remains of the army in our minds has become a lasting model for ages and generations and will never be forgotten," Raisi pointed out.

Referring to the unity of all military forces under the command of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Raisi said, "Empathy and unity of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, as two powerful arms of the Commander-in-Chief, and cooperation of these two and other forces are a model in various fields in the country."

Pointing out that the Armed Forces have significant capabilities, the president stated, "The most central capability of the Armed Forces of our country is having sincere, faithful and spiritual-oriented personnel in the field of confrontation with the enemy."

"Our armed forces are experienced, skilled, disciplined, and revolutionary and have a valuable spirit of defending the holy system of the Islamic Republic and obeying the orders of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces," he said, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Raisi noted, "The armed forces rebuilt themselves after the imposed war so that today Iran is famous not only in the region but also in the world."

The president continued, "Our proud army used the opportunity of sanctions in the best way to be self-sufficient and empowered, and today our country's military industry, including the army, is in the best condition."

Bashar Assad.

In his congratulatory message on the National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ayatollah Raisi expressed his confidence that by using the great capabilities of the two countries the region will be stabilized and peace will be established. And "we can take valuable steps for laying the ground for regional cooperation and development of relations between the two countries," he noted.

government and people on the arrival of the National Day of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Amir Abdollahian expressed hope that in light of commonalities between Iran and Syria, the two countries would witness an increase in cooperation and expansion of relations in all areas, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Similarly, Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi sent a message to Syrian President

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and removal of sanctions, Kamalvandi said, Fars reported.

The remarks came as the AEOI announced the production of centrifuge parts in a new workshop at the Shahid Ahmadi Roshan complex in Natanz, after the equipment were transferred from the Karaj Industrial Complex.

"Given their high significance, centrifuge machines were moved to a safer location and are

now in operation," Kamalvandi said.

He added that Iran has plans to develop and manufacture centrifuge machines and to boost their security.

"Following the terrorist operation against TESA Karaj Complex, we had to tighten security measures. We moved a significant part of these machines and transferred the rest to Natanz and Isfahan," Kamalvandi stated.

IRAN IN FOCUS

APRIL 19, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Group B, the moment of truth

From Page 1 ► More demanding challenges lie ahead for Skocic's team and his trusted style of play; in modern football, team strategy has often been appropriately called "Style of Play". Many countries adhere to one style of play. The majority of Iranian football fans prefer the style of play that challenges other teams and puts them under pressure. They enjoyed watching the ball-possession-based style of play and offensive mentality. The three World Cup matches might give us a slightly better idea of what Skocic has done with our National Team during the past two years.

The three teams that Iran will face in Group B represent highly contrasting play styles.

Football style of play isn't a fixed thing either, and countries change their style in subtle ways over the years, depending on the coach's level of competition and philosophy.

Skocic, whose tactical decisions on these occasions have so often been put under the microscope, emphasis on team cohesion and precision reflects those characteristics which are paramount in Iranian culture. He has been living in Iran for many years and knows typical Iranian player possess creativity and improvisation and is highly coachable.

Tactically, Iran play with mobility in attack and tactical discipline in defense,

Iran have been in fine form since the last World Cup and still have their stars from the previous World Cup in Russia. Mehdi Taremi, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Sardar Azmoun, and goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand will definitely help the country book a place in the next round.

To make things better, stars like Vahid Amiri and Ehsan Haji Safi are back in the mix, along with young talents making for a winning line-up.

Skocic's men will be confident of reaching the knockout phase this time, despite being drawn against England, the U.S., and one of Wales, Scotland, or Ukraine in FIFA World Cup 2022 Group B.

Seydi to bear Iran's flag at 2021 Summer Deaflympics

TEHRAN – Judoka Mehrdad Seydi will bear Iran's flag at the opening ceremony of the 2021 Summer Deaflympics.

The 24th Summer Deaflympics will take place in Caxias do Sul, Brazil as main host city from May 1 to May 15. In addition to Caxias, there are events scheduled for the neighbor cites of Farroupilha and Flores da Cunha.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Hossein Abdi named Iran U17 football coach

TEHRAN – Iran football federation appointed Hossein Abdi as head coach of the country's U17 football team on Monday.

The former Persepolis assistant coach has previously led the team in 2019.

Abdi will have to prepare the team for the 2023 AFC U17 Asian Cup which will be held in Bahrain.

Ebrahim Ghasempour, spokesman of Iran football federation's technical committee, said the committee will appoint the Iran U19 coach soon.

Hamid Movahedi appointed Iran beach volleyball coach

TEHRAN – Hamid Movahed was appointed as new head coach of Iran beach volleyball team on Monday.

He has penned a deal with Iran until 2022 AVC Beach Volleyball Championship.

Movahedi has previously coach Nepal and Pakistan beach volleyball national teams.

Iran to play the U.S. at IFCPF World Cup opener

TEHRAN – Iran to play the U.S. at the opening match of the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF) World Cup in Spain.

Iran are drawn in Group C along with USA and Australia.

The men's World Cup is schedule to take place from April 27 to May 16, while the women's World Cup is set to take place from May 7 to 18 this year.

Group A consists of England, the Netherlands, Canada and Venezuela.

Brazil, Ireland, Thailand and Germany are in Group B.

Last edition's finalist Ukraine are in Group D with Argentina, Spain and Northern Ireland.

Iran boxing to hold joint training camp with Tajikistan

TEHRAN – Iran national boxing team will hold a joint training camp with Tajikistan in May.

The 10-day camp will start on May 22 in Tehran, capital of Iran.

The Iranian team took part in a joint camp with Uzbekistan in Tashkent.

Iran prepares for the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Iran freestyle wrestling team leave Tehran for Ulaanbaatar

TEHRAN – Iran's freestyle wrestling team departed for Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on Monday to take part at the Asian Wrestling Championships.

Iran, headed by Pejman Dorostkar, will participate with 10 wrestlers in the competition.

The 2022 Asian Wrestling Championships will be the 35th edition of Asian Wrestling Championships of combined events, and will take place on April 19 to 24 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Iran Team:

57kg: Reza Momeni

61kg: Dariush Hazratgholizadeh

65kg: Rahman Amoozad

70kg: Mohammad Mehdi Yeganeh Jafari

74kg: Younes Emami

79kg: Ali Savadkahi

86kg: Mohsen Mostafavi

92kg: Amir Hossein Firouzpour

97kg: Mohammad Hossein Mohammadian

125kg: Yadollah Mohebbi

Annual exports to ASEAN rise 33%



From page 1 ► Rezaei-Pour put the country's trade with the ASEAN union in the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) at \$3 billion, saying that the increase in exports

is an indication that the level of trade with the union is expected to follow an upward trend in the current year.

He pointed out that Iran's top imported items from this union include sugarcane, palm oil, soybeans, food products, rice, home appliances, medium-density fiber, and mobile phones.

ASEAN is an economic union comprising 10 member states in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.

453 idle small-scale mines revived in a year

TEHRAN - In the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), 453 idle small-scale mines have been revived throughout the country, IRNA reported, citing the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) data.

Based on the IMIDRO data, the revived mines in the previous year created jobs for over 3,000 people and increased the country's mineral output by 22.5 million tons.

The total number of revived mines has reached 852 since the launch of the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's program for reviving small mines across the country, in late March 2019. The revived mines in this program have created job opportunities for over 13,000 people in the mentioned period.

The most important goal of this program, which is being implemented by IMIDRO, is to activate the country's mines, which will result in increased production and employment, especially in deprived areas.

Back in December 2021, Reza Azimi, who directs the ministry's program for reviving and developing small mines, had mentioned concluding 37 memorandums of understanding (MOU) for investment, and scientific-research cooperation with knowledge-based companies, as well as the introduction of 124 projects to Mining Investment Insurance Corporation for receiving facilities, and the support and coaching of knowledge-based companies and startups as other measures taken under the framework of the mentioned program.

As reported, IMIDRO is conducting the program with the aim of providing feedstock for mineral industries, increasing production and completing



the mining industry's product chain, and developing and creating sustainable employment.

Following this program, so far various small-scale mines including chromite, manganese, hematite, dolomite, iron ore, copper, and construction stone mines have been surveyed by monitoring and diagnosing the problems of the mines and providing solutions for resolving their issues.

Over the past few years with new resilient economy strategies coming into play, the mining sector has become a major point of focus for the Iranian government and various organizations and bodies active in this sector have been tasked to implement new programs for boosting this sector.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, IMIDRO has been playing a significant part in the mentioned planning.

The organization has been implementing several new programs in all the main fields of the mining industry including exploration, machinery development, extraction and also reviving the country's idle mines.

Problems of industrial units discussed at TCCIMA meeting

TEHRAN - The 85th meeting of the dialogue council of the government and the Tehran Province's private sector was held on Monday, in which the representatives of industrial units and production companies raised issues facing their businesses.

The meeting was attended by Governor-General of Tehran Province Mohsen Mansouri and Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Head Masoud Khansari, as well as the representatives of the province's private sector, the portal of TCCIMA reported.

During the gathering, the government and private sector representatives mentioned the shortage of skilled workforce in production units located in industrial parks

as a major problem facing the industrial units and proposed employing foreign citizens with work permits as a solution to this problem.

Speaking in this meeting, Acting Head of the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO)'s Tehran Office Saeid Sadeghi stated that the workforce index in the industrial sector of Tehran province is 36 percent.

He noted that the industrial parks of Tehran province lacked 2,548 skilled workforces.

Sadeghi also mentioned the lack of a proper transportation system for the commute of the workers to industrial parks, as well as low wages as other causes of workforce shortages in these parks.

minerals and stones, nuts, petrochemical products, machinery and mechanical devices, components and parts, leather and shoes as the major exported items, and Turkey, Iraq, Armenia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Georgia, Bulgaria, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Italy as the main export destinations.

She further announced that 441,000 tons of products worth \$1.189 billion were imported to the province in the previous year, showing 19 percent rise in value, and six percent drop in weight year on year.

The official named Turkey, Germany, UAE, China, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Russia, India and Austria as the main



TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak said supporting knowledge-based export companies will be among TPO's top priorities in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

"We are trying to shift export incentives to knowledge-based companies in the current year," Peyman-Pak said in a press conference on Monday.

As TPO reported, emphasizing the use of innovative methods in foreign trade, the official said: "The development of online businesses, development of creative industries, the use of business-to-business (B2B) systems and activities in the field of cryptocurrencies and the transition from traditional to modern trading will be pursued in this regard."

Exports of value-added products on agenda

He further referred to his organization's programs for promoting the exports of products with more value-added and the prevention of crude sales, saying: "In this regard, we tried to enter the target markets and increase export profits by taking advantage of business-to-consumer (B2C) platforms and applications, and by connecting to distribution networks and retailers."

Emphasizing on the importance

TPO prioritizes supporting knowledge-based export companies



of export-oriented production, Peyman-Pak said: "We have tried to have an export-oriented approach in the areas where we have an advantage, and not in such a way that only surplus consumption is exported."

New measures taken to promote foreign trade

The official also underlined the measures taken to remove barriers in the way of foreign trade, noting: "TPO has taken new steps in various areas including

customs, support for traders abroad, the active presence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issuing visas, focusing on foreign trade issues in joint committee meetings, signing new agreements on trade laws and regulations and efforts have been made to pay special attention to the support of foreign trade in the country's macro-policy outlooks."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Peyman-Pak stressed the need for coordination among government entities related to

Iran-Oman annual trade hits record high of \$1.3b, growing 53%

TEHRAN - The value of trade between Iran and Oman hit a record high in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, the head of Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee announced.

Mohsen Zarrabi put the annual trade between the two countries at \$1.336 billion in the past year, showing 53 percent growth year on year.

The official also said that Iran's export to Oman rose 63 percent to stand at \$716 million in 1400, from \$438 million in 1399.

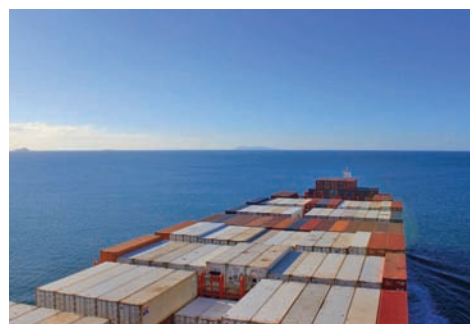
Iran shares borders with fifteen countries, namely the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Oman, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

Expansion of trade with these neighbors, especially increasing non-oil exports to them, is one of the major plans that the Iranian government is now pursuing.

Among the mentioned countries, Oman is one that the Islamic Republic has attached priority in this due, as the two neighbors enjoy an old history of good political and economic relations as well as many religious and cultural commonalities.

As stated several times by the officials of the two countries, the ground is completely prepared for the expansion of trade relations between Iran and Oman.

Emphasizing that the basic infrastructure is prepared for the development of trade relations between Iran and Oman, the head of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce, had previously said that with the beginning of sanctions and the severance of some countries' relations with Iran, the government of Oman not only did not cut its trade relations with Iran, but also they are trying to increase economic relations with the Islamic Republic in the framework of international relations and with a win-win approach.



Oman not only did not close its borders during the pandemic, when most countries closed their borders to Iranian goods, but also increased shipping lines to Iran, Zarrabi further noted.

He also mentioned Oman as a base for re-exporting Iranian goods noting that the sultanate has free trade agreement with 16 Arab-African countries, the United States, Singapore and four European countries, and noted that Iran should take advantage of this golden opportunity.

Agricultural products, construction materials, building stones, minerals, metals, bitumen, and cement are the major products Iran exports to Oman.

Basic infrastructure prepared for Iran-Oman trade expansion

Given the favorable conditions for increasing the diversity of Iranian exports and the existing infrastructure for re-export in Oman, there is a capacity to increase the value of trade between the two sides to \$5 billion.

Iran has currently an increasing trend in re-exporting its goods from Oman. In fact, Oman is the only Arab country in the Persian Gulf that accepts Iranian companies through which Iran can reach the markets of other countries.

In January 2020, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held the first meeting of its Commodity-Country Desk on trade with Oman presided by Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries.

In mid-February, Iranian Ambassador to

foreign trade, saying: "Laws and regulations that protect domestic economic sectors should not be in conflict with foreign trade and the necessary coordination should be made between domestic market regulation policies and foreign trade development policies."

The TPO head also mentioned the activation of trade corridors, including the north-south and east-west corridors by the Transport and Urban Development Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and said: "Due to the activation of these corridors and the creation of new foreign trade opportunities, the country's income from this sector increased 2.5 times last year."

Exporting \$20b of technical services targeted

Referring to the growth of the exports of technical and engineering services, he said: "The exports of technical and engineering services which was \$480 million in the year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) reached more than \$2.3 billion last year, and considering new contracts that have been signed the increase in the exports of such services will continue in the current year."

According to Peyman-Pak, TPO has targeted exporting \$20 billion of technical and engineering services, of which this year \$6 billion is expected to be realized.

Oman Ali Najafi had announced that the value of trade between the two countries increased by 40 percent in the 10-months period from March 21, 2021 to January 20, 2022, compared to the same period in the previous year.

Najafi put the value of trade between the two countries at over one billion dollars in the mentioned 10 months, saying that Iranian exports to Oman increased by over 70 percent in the said period.

According to the official, the trade between the two neighbors is following an upward trend and is expected to increase even further in the months to come.

Mentioning the holding of the 19th Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting in early February, the official said, during his visit to Oman for attending the joint economic committee meeting, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin met with the private sector and political and economic officials of the Kingdom, including the minister of Health, the minister of Economy, Foreign Affairs, Energy, and Minerals and the minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology of Oman and the heads of Oman's free and special economic zones to discuss the latest state of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Najafi stressed the importance of increasing trade relations between the two countries and said: "We hope to see the utilization of the existing capacities in Iran-Oman relations by pursuing a preferential tariff agreement and organizing and strengthening maritime transport between the two countries."

Referring to the serious determination of the Iranian Embassy in Oman to advise and support private sectors of the two countries, he stressed: "The doors of the Iranian embassy are always open to all Iranian and Omani businessmen and investors, and in this regard, and in line with our economic diplomacy, more than half of the daily meetings of the ambassador and other relevant colleagues are held with Iranian and Omani businessmen."

TEDPIX returns to above 1.5m points

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 28,000 points to 1,503 million on Monday.

In this way, the index returned to the level of above 1.5m 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.

As stated by the head of

Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the monthly sales of the shares of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange has been very good in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), and it is predicted that the growing trend of the exchanges will continue in the present year as well.

"Considering the general provisions approved in this year's budget bill we expect that companies will have good capital increase and take positive development measures, and it will be easier for investors to make decisions," Majid Eshqi told the press on March 12.

Export from East Azarbaijan province increases 16%

TEHRAN - The value of export from East Azarbaijan province, in the northwest of Iran, rose 16 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year, an official with the customs department of the province announced.

Leili Orangi said that commodities worth \$1.654 billion were exported from the province in the previous year.

In terms of the weight, the exports indicate nine percent annual growth, she added.

The official named carpets and handicrafts, sweets and chocolates, glass and glass products, steel and cast iron, objects made of plastic materials,



sources of imports to the province in the past year.

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

Alireza Moqadasi put the country's

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

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

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

“High levels” of U.S. Muslim students bullied at school

From page 1 ▶ This brain-washing at such a young age is just what America wants its new generation to believe in.

The civil rights managing attorney for CAIR-LA, Amr Shabaik says “Muslim students of all ages have been ostracized and mistreated in the past because of their faith and perceived, yet clearly false, association with 9/11 and other acts of terrorism;”

CAIR's latest report focusing on the state of California shows the highest-ever percentage of Muslim students, feeling unsafe in school.

The figure is more than twice the rate of the national statistics.

Interviews conducted with 700 Muslim students in the state of California found high levels of bullying, harassment, and discrimination in schools.

More than half of the respondents, 55.73 percent, reported feeling unsafe, unwelcome, or uncomfortable at school due to their Muslim identity.

This is the highest reported level since CAIR-California began conducting surveys in 2013.

What's even more disturbing, according to CAIR, is that nearly one of three female respondents (30.12 percent) who wear a hijab, reported their hijab was tugged, pulled, or offensively touched.

an 18-year-old female student said, “I was constantly called Osama bin Laden by the same guy who would tell me that I looked Bomb with a big emphasis on the word bomb.”

“People have verbally abused me for being Muslim,” a young woman, 18, from Redwood City told the survey. “(They) mocked me and Islam and I have had my hijab pulled off by a classmate for no reason.”

That reflects a major fault with the U.S. educational system that co-existence among Muslims and non-Muslim students has not been advocated to the extent that 30.12 percent of female students who wear a hijab have reported their headscarf being tugged at, pulled, or offensively touched.

The report also found approximately one-third of students experienced or witnessed some form of cyberbullying.

One of the other disturbing aspects of CAIR's findings is that nearly one in four respondents, 23.5 percent, reported that a teacher, administrator, or other adults at their school made offensive comments about Islam or Muslims.



“A 16-year-old female public school student from Orange County reported that her ‘teacher attacked [her] in front of [her] class;” said Shabaik. “Saying things like ‘terrorist’ and ‘you don’t belong here.’”

Islamophobia in U.S. public schools is a prevalent and ongoing problem, CAIR says.

“Muslim students of all ages have been ostracized and mistreated in the past because of their faith and perceived, yet clearly false, association with 9/11 and other acts of terrorism,” said Shabaik.

Professor Zahra Jamal, the associate director of Rice University's Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance warned that discrimination against Muslims rose to more extreme levels after the 2001 attacks in the U.S. saying “after 9/11 and the rise of the Islamophobia industry, negative portrayals of Islam and of Muslims became more mainstream and codified in media, law, politics, education.”

“This has undoubtedly played a role in Muslim students’ experiences with bias and discrimination,” she added.

Jamal said the survey's findings are consistent with a nationwide poll taken in 2020 that found 51% of Muslim students in kindergarten through 12th-grade public schools faced religious bullying.

Jamal points out that bullying and racism have far-reaching effects including emotional, physical, and even social consequences.

“Some young Muslims experience anxiety, depression, insomnia, and low esteem, while others

feel they must choose between being American or Muslim at school,” she said, citing the survey. “Sadly, 55 percent feel unsafe at school because of their faith ... 32% percent hide their Muslim identity, and 20 percent skip school because they feel unsafe and unwelcome at school.”

The culture of stereotyping Muslims as terrorists needs to change. Experts believe the only way to change the outdated stereotypes is through education, which starts in schools, where children are supposed to learn about cultural diversity and acceptance.

Islamophobia in American schools is a common and continuing issue, as indicated by the latest CAIR statement.

Last year 60 percent of Muslim youths surveyed in Massachusetts reported being mocked, verbally harassed, or physically abused because of their Islamic faith, the state's chapter of CAIR reported.

The Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization said about one-third of students also altered their appearance, behavior, or names to hide the fact that they are Muslim. And about 17 percent reported other forms of physical harassment,

including having their hijab pulled on.

CAIR says “we are in the midst of a crisis among Muslim youth in our state, we hope that it helps serve as a catalyst for urgently needed change by showing the full scale of the issue.”

The organization said the results come from its first-ever survey of Islamophobia in Massachusetts public schools. The

survey was modeled after similar ones conducted every two years by the organization's California chapter.

According to CAIR, one 14-year-old student living in the Boston area said she stopped wearing her hijab after being harassed in high school.

She said students spread rumors about her being in Daesh, and when she tried to report a student that called her a terrorist, she faced further bullying from students at school.

The Muslim advocacy group's reports regularly provide and offer different recommendations.

For example, it says districts should make sure teachers and staff members participate in cultural competency training, as some 40 percent of survey respondents said those school officials also made offensive comments about Islam or Muslims, the organization said.

Recommendations in the report also included having Congress pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which would prohibit bullying and harassment based on a student's religion, race, color or national origin.

But again, why would Washington want to pass such an act? Its economy relies heavily on a false pretext of a false enemy which in turn allows for conflicts to rage and arms manufacturers to prosper, while the establishment or deep state is busy elsewhere planning more plots on how to create more insecurity in the Muslim world.

Unfortunately in this particular case, it's American Muslim students who are suffering and paying the cost.

The billion-dollar global market for nuclear weapons

Nuclear insanity: ongoing development and deployment, endless investment, eventual (either accidental or intentional) use

By Robert Koehler

Nuclear sanity: ultimate (or, God help us, immediate) disarmament.

Nuclear insanity: ongoing development and deployment, endless investment, eventual (either accidental or intentional) use.

Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., addressing Congress several weeks ago, made a heartfelt and powerful case for nuclear sanity, for a revamping of the system of mutually assured destruction, which gives certain national leaders “God-like powers known as sole authority to end life on the planet as we know it . . .”

He went on: “We cannot uninvent the atom, its military applications, and technological knowhow. The nuclear Pandora's box is sadly forever opened. We must, however, do everything in our power to be able to look the next generation in the eye and say that we did everything – everything – in our power to avert the unfathomable, a nuclear war on this planet; and that includes supporting negotiations that not only end Russia's war in Ukraine, but also future negotiations to end the budding 21st century nuclear arms race which is spinning out of control.”

Until the other day, I thought all I needed to do was grasp the sanity of nuclear disarmament – help spread the word – and the world would eventually come around. Then, out of the blue, I stumbled upon the “rationality” of nuclear insanity, and it shocked me into a new level of understanding. Suddenly, against my will, I'm starting to get it and, ever since, I've been trying (psychologically) to duck and cover. This transcends geopolitics.

Here's the beginning of a recent, minuscule Reuters story:

“The global market for nuclear missiles and bombs should surpass \$126 billion within ten years, up nearly 73 percent from 2020 levels, according to a report by Allied Market Research on Monday, as Russian aggression in Ukraine spurs military spending.”

I could hardly read beyond this paragraph. There's a “global market” for nuclear missiles? You mean, like there's a market for oil, for gold . . . for bananas? I had always fathomed nukes solely as geopolitical, as harbingers of hell, birthed by World War II and the Manhattan Project, forever entwined with the words Robert Oppenheimer quoted from the Bhagavad Gita when the world's first atomic bomb was dropped at Alamogordo, N.M. in July 1945.: “Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.”

But obviously somebody has to build them. There are more than 12,000 nuclear warheads here and there on Planet Earth, with more coming. Just because their use is suicidal, that doesn't mean the builders shouldn't profit from them.

I had no choice but to visit the source of the Reuters article, the Allied Market Research report, which discussed the nuclear arms market

with such a creepy-cold objectivity, I started to sense the mental equivalent of nuclear winter (I started calling it cranial winter), e.g.:

“There is expected to be a nuclear arms acquisition race by superpowers such as the U.S. and Russia, to accelerate business opportunism within coming years. In 2021, the U.S. and Russia had 5,550 and 6,255 nuclear warheads and are expected to reach 6,380 and 6,734 in 2030 respectively. The expenditure done by major companies such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Airbus, and Boeing toward research, development, management, conducting exhibitions and seminars to conduct importance and feasibility of nuclear weapons will encourage nations to increase their budget allocation. . . .”

“The rise in border disputes among neighboring nations, plans for territorial expansion, and efforts to establish strategic and political dominance at the global level remain primary factors that support the nuclear bombs and missiles market. The ongoing dispute between Ukraine and Russia as of March 2022 will notably impact the business dynamics in the coming years.”

And there you have it: the upside of World War III. The upside of Armageddon. There's money to be made in border disputes and superpower clashes – lots of money. Keep at it, boys! As The Nation noted:

“In 2015, the defense industry mobilized a small army of at least 718 lobbyists and doled out more than \$67 million dollars pressuring Congress for increased weapons spending generally.”

Money makes the world go around, and if you can control its flow, you make the world go around. Or so it seems. And I confess, I'm not sure what the takeaway is on all this. As The Nation story pointed out, nuclear-weapons contracts are welfare-sated. The business model is called “cost-plus,” that is: “no matter how high-cost overruns may be compared to original bids, contractors receive a guaranteed profit percentage above their costs. High profits are effectively guaranteed, no matter how inefficient or over-budget the project may become.”

And: “The continuing pressure of Congressional Republicans for cuts in domestic social programs are a crucial mechanism that ensures federal tax dollars will be available for lucrative military contracts.”

Nuclear winter begins with cranial winter: with a coldly abstracted reality in which profit trumps sanity. Duck and cover won't save us.

Those of us who want a future have some serious negotiating to do, not with Russia but with Congress – with ourselves.

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago-based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. His latest book is Courage Grows Strong at the Wound.

(Source: antiwar.com)

U.S., S. Korea urge North's return to talks after missile tests

The U.S. special envoy for North Korea said Monday that Washington and Seoul agreed on the need for a strong response to Pyongyang's recent spate of missile tests, though they remain open to dialogue with the country.

Sung Kim flew to South Korea on for talks two days after North Korea conducted a new type of missile test in its 13th round of weapons firing this year. Experts say North Korea wants to advance its weapons arsenal and wrest concessions like sanctions relief from its rivals.

Weapons tested include nuclear-capable missiles targeting both the U.S. mainland and its allies such as South Korea and Japan. There are concerns that North Korea may conduct a nuclear test soon to intensify its pressure campaign.

“We agreed on the need for a strong response to the destabilizing behavior we have seen from” North Korea, Kim told reporters after a meeting with his South Korean counterpart. “(We) also agreed on the need to maintain the strongest possible joint deterrent capability on the peninsula.”

South Korean nuclear envoy Noh Kyu-duk said he and Kim shared concerns that North Korea will likely continue to engage in acts that raise regional tensions. He urged North Korea to return to talks.

Kim said the allies “have not closed the door on diplomacy” with North Korea and have “no

hostile intents toward” the country. He repeated his earlier statement that the United States is ready to meet North Korea “anywhere, without any conditions.”

North Korea has so far rejected Kim's outreach, saying the United States must first drop its hostile policy before talks can resume. Some experts say North Korea wants the U.S. to relax sanctions or suspend its regular military drills with South Korea, which it views as an invasion rehearsal.

Earlier Monday, the U.S. and South Korean militaries kicked off their springtime computer-simulated command post exercise. North Korea has previously responded to such drills with missile tests and warlike rhetoric.

North Korea said Sunday it tested a new tactical guided weapon a day earlier, which would boost its nuclear fighting capability. Some analysts said the weapon is likely a short-range ballistic missile to be mounted with a tactical nuclear warhead that targets South Korea.

Last month, North Korea test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile potentially capable of reaching the U.S. homeland in its first long-range weapons test since November 2017.

U.S.-led diplomacy meant to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions in return for economic and political rewards remain largely stalemated since 2019.

(Source: AP)

Dangerous Western gambling in Ukraine

The failure of the Russia-Ukraine talks to become a show to hide the West's dangerous intentions in the Ukraine crisis, due to the West's long-term strategy to defeat Russia in the political, economic, military, and media fields, cannot be a strange and incomprehensible issue.

From the beginning of the Ukraine crisis, many strategic experts have sought to answer the question of whether the West has the will to end the war in Ukraine.

The answer to this question can shed light on many of the hidden angles in the formation and culmination of this crisis, which should be described as a unique international event after World War II.

Regardless of the factors that caused this crisis and the role and influence of the main actors (Russia and the West) in it, one of the issues that many military and strategic experts emphasize today is that the entry of the Russian Federation into this war, it has not been accompanied by accurate estimates of Ukraine's strengths and weaknesses, the West's support for Kyiv, and the extent of the political, economic, and media pressures it faces.

There are several propositions that can support this hypothesis, but it is beyond the scope of this article.

In addition to the developments in the Ukraine crisis, one of the main approaches that the parties to the conflict, especially the West, have emphasized since the beginning of this event has been the need for the parties to be present at the negotiating table to reach a mutually acceptable solution and end the war.

So far, several rounds of talks have been held



between the representatives of Russia and Ukraine, and despite the extensive propaganda that has taken place about the axes of dialogue between the parties and the differences and areas of understanding, etc., it can be said that no progress has been made in the talks.

The lack of progress in the negotiations and the transformation of the Ukraine crisis into a matter of prestige for Russia, as well as the significant acceleration of Western financial, political, military, intelligence and media support for Ukraine, have darkened the prospects for reaching an agreement through negotiations. The scope of military conflicts will increase significantly.

The Western propaganda against Russia and the ongoing efforts to increase economic pressure on the country using sanctions, as well as Ukraine's record-breaking equipping with state-of-the-art military weapons, are all clear evidence of the West's strategy of turning Ukraine into a deadly quagmire for Russia to create the conditions for the West to play a more active role on the world stage, especially in the

Eastern Hemisphere, by removing it from the list of major players on the international stage.

In such circumstances, the failure to advance the negotiations and turn it into a dramatic process to hide the dangerous intentions of the West in the Ukraine crisis, cannot be a strange and incomprehensible issue.

Russia's recent warning to Washington about the “unpredictable consequences” of massive US and NATO military aid to Ukraine, which enters the country mainly through Poland's border, is a worrying sign of Russia's growing sensitivity to the complex and, of course, very dangerous game that the West has started in Ukraine.

Although it is not yet possible to give an accurate estimate of the future of the field and political developments in Ukraine, given the set of events that have taken place since the beginning of the conflict, we can confidently emphasize the West's lack of will to end the crisis in the short term.

Certainly, a change in Western strategy, the continuation of which will be accompanied by the destruction of Ukraine's main infrastructure and the killing and wounding of forces on both sides of the conflict and the displacement of tens of thousands, depends entirely on Russia's success in managing the crisis politically, economically, and militarily.

If Russia's set of national and international capacities has the necessary flexibility to overcome the Ukraine crisis, then new equations will prevail in the international system that can certainly not meet the goals that the West is achieving, by sacrificing Ukraine and its people.

(Source: Nournews)

Tehran exhibit showcases rare Quran manuscripts

TEHRAN – A selection of rare manuscripts of the Holy Quran, which have been calligraphed and illuminated centuries ago, has been put on display in an exhibition at the Golestan Palace in Tehran.

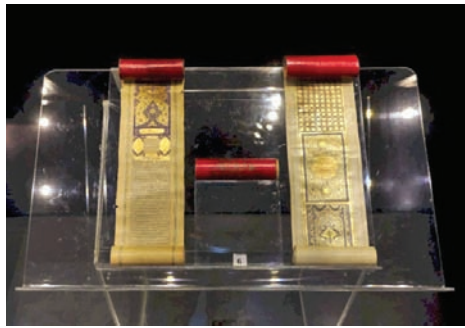
Written in neat, flowing Jali Naskh Script, the scroll-shaped manuscripts attributed to the Timurid ruler Bisonghor Mirza are among the highlights of the exhibition, which is underway till May 5, ILNA reported.

The exhibit is held annually during the holy month of Ramadan, which is known as “the spring of the Quran” in Islamic countries.

The earliest Quran manuscripts were produced in the mid-to-late 7th century CE (1st century Hijrah), although it is difficult to be precise about their date because ancient copies from this period have not survived intact and exist only in fragments.

Experts say the importance of these fragments cannot be overestimated as they provide the only available evidence for the early development of the written recording of the Quran text.

A destination for domestic and international travelers, Golestan Palace is located in the heart and historic core of Tehran. The palace complex is one of the oldest in the Iranian capital, originally built



during the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) in the historic walled city.

Following extensions and additions, it received its most characteristic features in the 19th century, when the palace complex was selected as the royal residence and seat of power by the Qajar ruling family (1789–1925). At present, the Golestan Palace complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

As mentioned by UNESCO, the complex exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

Natural properties in Tehran made national heritage



TEHRAN – A selection of seven natural properties across Tehran province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list of Iran.

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

Collections of old plane trees as well as Sangan waterfall and Suren River were among the properties added to the list.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in

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

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

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

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.

Iran museum eager to deepen ties with Singapore

TEHRAN – The National Museum of Iran has announced its readiness to expand ties with cultural heritage museums in Singapore.

“The National Museum of Iran is ready to have joint cultural cooperation with the museums of Singapore,” the museum director Jebrael Nokandeh said on Sunday.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Tehran's ambassador to Singapore Behnam Bolourian as the two nations are due to mark their 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Mehr reported.

“Joint exhibitions of historical and cultural monuments can pave the way for the two nations of Iran and Singapore to get to know each other better to deepen their friendship,” Nokandeh said.

Introducing Iranian culture, art, and civilization at the international level is one of the great goals of this museum, Nokandeh added.

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

The main building of the National Museum, designed by French architect André Godard



and completed in 1928, is one of the more attractive modern buildings in Tehran, blending Sassanian principles such as the grand iwan-style entrance with art deco-style brickwork.

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

Iran's 'Taj Mahal' cleaned to mark Intl. Day for Monuments and Sites



TEHRAN – A host of cultural heritage advocates have recently cleaned the UNESCO-designated Gonbad-e Soltaniyeh and its premises to celebrate the International Day for Monuments and Sites. Surmounted by a huge double-shell brick dome, the 14th-century monument is sometimes referred to as Iran's 'Taj Mahal'.

“We hope this clean-up project would help promote – and draw people's attention to – the preservation of natural and historical heritage,” IRIB quoted the director of the World Heritage site as saying on Monday.

“Historical monuments and sites are of high importance as an ingredient of the national identity ... people should be aware of their role in the protection of cultural heritage sites and monuments. In

this regard, we will do our best for public education,” Hossein Eydani explained.

The International Day for Monuments and Sites is observed globally on April 18 to encourage local communities and individuals to recognize the value of cultural heritage in their lives.

According to the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the occasion focuses on raising awareness about the diversity and vulnerability of cultural heritage, in addition to measures to preserve monuments.

The World Heritage Day theme for 2022 is Heritage and Climate. ICOMOS has called on its members, individuals, and organizations to hold activities around the theme. “

This year's theme offers

Shiraz historical texture holds potential to gain UNESCO tag

TEHRAN – The historical texture of Shiraz, the capital of southern Fars province, holds the potential to be registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The historical texture of Shiraz could be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, but it has not yet been registered on the national heritage list, and that is one of the prerequisites for gaining a UNESCO tag, a cultural heritage expert has said.

The historical texture of Shiraz is one of the richest in Iran and even in West Asia due to its relative coherence and unique architectural features, Siamak Basiri explained on Monday, ILNA reported.

There is a wide range of historical monuments in this area dating back to the Safavid and Qajar eras as well as the Pahlavi period, he added.

Antiquity and lack of adequate budgets have caused the historical texture to undergo a process of destruction and degradation during the past two decades, however today, with the participation of the private sector, many cases



of restoration and protection have taken place, he noted.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, the southern Iranian city in Fars province has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly,

it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital.

Eram Garden, Affif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

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

Shiraz is also home to some magnificent historical gardens such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.

UNESCO describes the Persian Garden as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

Maragheh fossil site needs to be designated as geopark, expert says

TEHRAN – A fossil site in the city of Maragheh, northwestern East Azarbaijan province, should be designated as a geopark, the head of the Iranian Paleontological Society has said.

The Maragheh fossil site is among the five most important and valuable vertebrate fossil sites in the world and it has the potential to be designated an international geopark, IRNA quoted Abbas Qaderi as saying on Monday.

Geosites, no matter where they are, contribute to the development of land by being properly introduced and exploited, he noted.

This unique capacity of the region, however, deserves more attention and efforts to attract investment for the development of tourism, he added.

This valuable capacity, which



is unmatched in other countries in the region and is rare in other parts of the world, calls for further study, introduction, and creation of various geosites as part of an important global geopark, he explained.

It is, therefore, possible to introduce Maragheh fossil site to the world as the fourth national geopark in Iran, he said.

The fossil site of Maragheh is one of the richest fossil areas in the world, and in the last study

conducted, ancestral fossils of mammoths, giraffes, and deer were found in this area.

It was found that the fossil layers in Maragheh date back to the end of the Cenozoic period, approximately seven to twelve million years ago, and that scientific exploration can provide accurate information about the lives of these gigantic animals.

As a result of the presence of mastodon and mammoth fossils (prehistory fossils), the fossil area of Maragheh has global fame and is now under the protection of the province's Department of Environment.

As the first national, natural, and fossil remnant of Iran, Maragheh has the highest rating of environmental protection.

A geopark is a unified area

that advances the protection and use of geological heritage in a sustainable way and promotes the economic well-being of the people who live there. A UNESCO definition of the global geopark is a unified area with a geological heritage of international significance. Geoparks use that heritage to promote awareness of key issues facing society in the context of our dynamic planet.

Experts believe that the majority of geoparks help promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies with local communities. Geoparks embody records of past climate changes and are indicators of current climate changes as well.

East Azarbaijan completes restoration for caravansaries

TEHRAN – Teams of restorers and cultural heritage experts have finished restoration projects for four historical caravansaries situated in East Azarbaijan, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The projects aimed at preparing Yam, Goyjeh-Bell, Jamalabad, and Khajeh Nazar caravansaries for possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list, Ahmad Hamzehzadeh explained on Monday.

The province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department took the necessary steps to manage the caravansaries, which are the candidates for the collective UNESCO tag, after a team of UNESCO assessors visited them last November, the official added.

The Ilkhanid-era (1256–1353) Yam Caravansary, near the city of Marand, has turned into a traditional accommodation center and has been inscribed on the National Heritage List.

As one of the rare mountain caravansaries, Goyjeh-Bell Caravansary is located near the provincial capital of Tabriz. The Safavid-era (1501–1736) structure has been designed for mountainous and cold regions with hard and snowy winters.

The other Ilkhanid-era caravansary of Jamalabad is also among the entries. The caravansary, which collapsed completely, was reconstructed during the Safavid era.

Khajeh Nazar Caravansary in Jolfa was built by the order of the famed Safavid king, Shah Abbas I (1571–1629).

Iran has put forward a selection of 56 caravansaries as a candidate for a collective inclusion in UNESCO'S cultural heritage list.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravansaries for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture and historical and cultural values.

Caravansary (also Caravanserai or Caravansaray) is a building that served as the inn of the Orient, providing accommodation for commercial, pilgrim, postal, and especially official travelers.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, from the number of surviving caravansaries and their sizes, it is clear that in Safavid and Qajar times there was a state architectural department that was specifically concerned with the construction of caravansaries and stations on the overland routes. Furthermore, in the cities, several caravansaries were erected as lodging houses, depots, and commercial offices in the vicinity of the bazaars.

Bandar Khamir, Varzaneh accredited as Ramsar Wetland Cities

TEHRAN – The cities of “Bandar Khamir” near the Khorkhoran International Wetland in Hormozgan province and the city of “Varzaneh” near the Gavkhuni International Wetland in Isfahan province were awarded the title of Wetland City by the Ramsar Convention.

The Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention aims to further promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.

The accreditation will encourage cities that are close to and dependent on wetlands, primarily Wetlands of International Importance, but also wetlands with other conservation category status, to develop and strengthen a positive relationship with these valuable ecosystems, for example through increased participation and public awareness, as well as careful consideration of wetlands in municipal planning and decision-making.

A candidate city for the Wetland City Accreditation will be assessed and recommended as an Accredited Wetland City by an Independent Advisory Committee, after being proposed by the Contracting Party (through its Ramsar National Focal Point or Head of Administrative Authority) on whose territory it stands.

Cities complying with each accreditation criterion described within Resolution XII.10 are invited to complete the nomination form.



Wetland Cities

Bounded by the Persian Gulf, Bandar Khamir is the only city located on the coast of the Khorkhoran Wetland, one of the largest and most important marine environments in the country.

In 2018, Bandar Khamir got the international accreditation to be a Ramsar wetland city.

It has also joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities this week, according to UNESCO, and received a certificate of membership in the network.

Stretching 47,000 hectares, Gavkhuni is a salt marsh with an average depth of about 1 m. which is located in the terminal basin of the Zayandeh-rud river.

It is the 19th wetland in Iran designated as a Wetland of In-

ternational Importance on the Ramsar list, which as defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

The Convention was adopted in the Iranian northern city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

Wetlands importance

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth. In recognition of these challenges, the RAMSAR Convention, an international treaty, was adopted in 1971.

Ramsar Wetlands are sites inscribed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) under the Convention on Wetlands.

Iran short of rain by 29%

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the current crop year (September 23, 2021), precipitation has dropped by 29 percent compared to a year ago, Sadeq Ziaeian, director of the national center for drought and crisis management, affiliated with the Meteorological Organization, has said.

During the current [Iranian calendar] month (started March 21), rainfall decreased by 88 percent compared to last year, he further lamented, adding that it is predicted that the rains will be below normal in April and will not compensate for the low rainfall.

Since March 21, the temperature also increased by 2.5 degrees Celsius this month, which also causes evaporation. Also, from the beginning of the current crop year, we have had a temperature increase of 4.4 degrees Celsius compared to the long run.

This year is a dry year and all the pastures around the cities are dry with the slightest wind, dust rises into the air, and even the dust rising from Qom and Markazi provinces move toward Tehran.

On April 8, a dense mass of sand and dust storms entered Iran from Iraq and affected the western and central provinces, and eventually hit 25 provinces, including Tehran, Alborz, Kermanshah, Ilam, Zanjan, and Kordestan, causing the air pollution index of Tehran to reach a very dangerous scale.

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

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

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

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75



percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

Climate change and extreme weather events

Climate change is a fact that cannot be run over, whether the temperature raises over 2 or 6°C, natural incidents such as flooding, droughts, and severe storms are among the main consequences of climate change.

Moreover, water and food shortages, water-borne illnesses, and cold or heat-related deaths will come up as the results of temperature variations. In tropical areas also the risk of floods will rise.

Heavy rain and other extreme weather events will become more frequent, which can lead to floods along with decreasing water quality, but also decreasing availability of water resources in some regions.

Climate change will also bring extreme wet and dry seasons, which mainly causes rainfall fluctuations and water scarcity. While there have been prolonged droughts nationwide in past recent years leaving people scrambling for water.

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

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

Amphibians and Reptiles from Iran

Part 1

Twenty species of amphibians occur in Iran: six salamanders in three genera in two families and fourteen frogs and toads in four genera in four families.

The amphibian fauna is most diverse in the northwestern provinces, which have the greatest rainfall and running water throughout the year.

Almost every geographic region has one or more species. Most restricted in distribution are the salamanders, which do not extend into the arid steppe and desert regions of the southern and eastern provinces.

All of the species belong to families and genera that are widely distributed in the northern hemisphere. While some populations are distributional relicts of a moister period, the most widely distributed species are those with broad ecological tolerances.

Salamanders. The four species of salamanders known from Iran belong to two families, the Hynobiidae with two species and the Salamandridae with four species.

The Hynobiidae is the only salamander family confined to the Asian continent (with one spe-

cies just entering Europe). Two representatives of this family occur in northern Iran, the south-westernmost outpost of the hynobiids.

The Persian brook salamander (*Batrachuperus persicus*) occurs in the Talesh and Alborz mountains. The larvae live in cold, clear mountain brooks and in the small pools through which they flow in the thick Hyrcanian forests of the mountains west and south of the Caspian Sea.

Larvae have been found at about 800–1200 m elevation; nothing is yet known about the natural history of the adults. The Persian cave salamander (*Batrachuperus gorganensis*) is known from a single example found in a cave in the Alborz mountains between Gorgan and Aliabad.

The salamandrids (family Salamandridae) or newts are distributed throughout the temperate northern hemisphere. *Salmandrasalamandrasemenovi* has not yet been found in Iran, though it occurs close to the Iranian border in Iraqi Kurdistan and in eastern Turkey.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Over 161m doses of COVID vaccine imported

TEHRAN – Iran has so far imported more than 161,933,728 doses of vaccine to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Four types of vaccines have been imported to Iran, the largest amount of which is related to Sinopharm with 133.4 million doses, accounting for 82.3 percent of the total imported vaccines.

AstraZeneca vaccine is the second vaccine imported the most, amounting to 23.3 million, holding 14 percent share of the total vaccines imported to the country.

Moreover, 4.9 million doses of Sputnik-V have been imported to Iran, which holds a 2.5 percent share of the imported vaccines. In addition to 125,000 doses of the Indian vaccine of Bharat.

Domestically-made vaccines

Iran is the sixth country in the world and the first country in West Asia to gain the ability to produce the Coronavirus vaccine.



Considering that five coronavirus vaccines have so far been produced domestically, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said in June 2021 that Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms.

A total of 21 knowledge-based companies are operating to produce 50 million doses of vaccine monthly and 600 million doses annually, IRNA quoted Bahram Daraei as

saying on March 9.

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

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

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

Moreover, the Iranian-Australian Spikogen vaccine and Pastu Covac, are other vaccines, which have received the emergency use license and are being used in mass vaccination.

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said the country is currently exporting domestically-made vaccines for coronavirus to ten African countries.



National Nanotechnology Competition to be held

From page 1 ► **Iran improves in nanotechnology**

Iran's ranking in nanotechnology articles citation in 2019 has significantly improved compared to 2018, as it moved 26 levels higher, accord-

ing to the StatNano's statistics collected from the WoS database.

Based on a report Nanotechnology Publications report, Iran ranked 38th worldwide for the average number of times the na-

no-articles have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports in 2019, while in 2018, it was placed 64th.

Iran ranked 4th for the highest number of nano-article publications.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran working with Green Climate Fund

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) is working with the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to reduce the effects of climate change.

FAO and the Department of Environment as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), partnered to bring together local, national, and international stakeholders in a three-day workshop, the last one in a series of iterative events held under the project “Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Program of Iran.”

“Throughout the implementation of this Project, FAO as the delivery partner has always stayed committed to providing its technical expertise, data, and tools to support the country in its efforts to strengthen the national capacities to effectively access and efficiently manage, track and guide climate financing with particular attention to the requirements of the GCF,” said Gerold Bödeker, FAO Representative to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

همکاری ایران با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل

سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست به عنوان مرجع رسمی ایران در زمینه حفظ محیط زیست با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل با محوریت سازمان خواربار و کشاورزی ملل متحد (فائو) در راستای کاهش تأثیرات تغییر اقلیم همکاری می‌کند.

فائو و سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور به عنوان مرجع صلاحیت دار ملی ایران و صندوق اقلیم سبز با همکاری یکدیگر، این پروژه را پیش بردند و در قالب چند برگزاری چند کارگاه اقدامات را بررسی کردند، بر این اساس در آخرین کارگاه، دینفغان محلی، ملی و بین المللی را به عنوان آخرین حلقه از زنجیره رویدادهای پروژه «برنامه آماده سازی جمهوری اسلامی ایران برای همکاری با صندوق اقلیم سبز» گرد هم آوردند.

گرولد بودِکر نماینده فائو در جمهوری اسلامی ایران گفت: در طول اجرای این پروژه، فائو، به عنوان شریک اجرایی، همیشه متعهد به ارائه تخصص فنی، داده‌ها و ابزارهای سیاستی خود برای حمایت از کشور در تلاش‌های خود برای تقویت ظرفیت‌های ملی برای دسترسی موثر و مدیریت کارآمد، ردیابی و هدایت تأمین مالی اقدامات اقلیمی با در نظر گرفتن الزامات صندوق اقلیم سبز بوده است.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Unfortunate is he who cannot gain a few sincere friends during his life and more unfortunate is the one who has gained them and then lost them (through his deeds).

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:13:03 Evening: 20:00 Dawn: 4:56 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:26 (tomorrow)

Omar Khayyam: Illustrations of English translations of Rubaiyat

Part 3

Original illustrations of continental European translations of Khayyam's Rubaiyat have often been restrained in style, and based on line drawings.

The work of P. Zenker (dates unknown, published 1924) in France, and Endre Szasz (1926-2003) in Hungary, has been frequently reissued in those countries.

There are also illustrators of the Rubaiyat from as far afield as South Africa (Hope Beck - dates unknown, published 1950) and Uzbekistan.

One of the earliest of the modern illustrated editions of the Robaiyat from Iran is Sadeq Hedayat's selection of the Persian verses published in 1934.

The illustrations in it, attributed to Darvish, are very traditional in style, whereas the work of artists such as Mohammad and Akbar Tajvidi, and Hossein Behzad (1894-1968), which appears in Iranian editions from the late 1950's onwards, is more modern in feel, while retaining the format and some of the imagery of the Persian miniatures.

The illustrations of later Iranian artists, like A. Jamalipur (dates unknown, published 1996), Hojjat Shakiba (b. 1949) and Mahmud Farshchian (b. 1930) are much more flamboyant

Omar Khayyam: Translations into Italian

Part 1

No other Persian poet has enjoyed such enduring fame in Italy as Omar Khayyam has.

Italian libraries hold only four manuscripts (15th-17th centuries) that together contain eighteen quatrains ascribed to Khayyam, one of which is thought to be unattested elsewhere.

The first English and German versions of some of Khayyam's quatrains had already appeared at the beginning of the 19th century, but the encounter with and reception of, Khayyam's poetic work in Italy, as in the rest of Europe, was the result of the translation and rewriting of the English poet Edward FitzGerald (d. 1883) in the years 1859-79.

Thus, in Italy the more scholarly approach to Khayyam's work by a few dedicated Iranologists at a fitful pace over many decades has had to contend with the overbearing heritage of the so-called FitzOmar, which has been ardently loved, discussed, translated, and recast into Italian many times.

This dual process of reception has taken place in two intense phases: the two decades leading up to World War I, and the two decades immediately following World War II.

In the first key period, around the year 1890, a few samples of Khayyam's quatrains were translated directly from Persian in the context of academic or occasional publications by scholars: Italo Pizzi, professor of Persian at Turin University (5 quatrains in 1887, and 60 quatrains in his Storia della poesia persiana, 1894, from Nicolas's edition; these were inserted, together with some historical notes by Pizzi from the same book; in Dole's revised edition of his comparative work, II, pp. 536-56), and Pizzi's disciple and brother-in-law Vittorio Rugarli, a close friend of the Italian poet Giosuè Carducci, who also drew on Nicolas's edition to produce two

and non-traditional in presentation.

The range of illustrations for the Rubaiyat is wide, and the work varies in quality as well as popularity. Some artists have produced images that seem to bear little relation to the text that contains them.

Other images are not only beautiful in themselves, but also serve to interpret, to 'illuminate', the verses to which they refer. Seen from the standpoint of the early 21st century, it is the phenomenon of Rubaiyat illustration as well as the work of individual artists that is of interest.

The continued publication of illustrated editions of this short work for over 120 years is an amazing tribute to the ability of the writing of Khayyam and his translators to retain the interest of publishers and readers in the changing modern world.

Photo: Illustration by Hossein Behzad (1894-1968), published in 1970 in a multi lingual edition edited by Dr. H. N. Esfandiari. The illustration is related to quatrain 16 in FitzGerald's first edition, as well as to a quatrain in the original Persian, and a French translation by Etessamzadeh.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

Concluded

Doc spotlights Islamic philosopher Mohammadreza Hakimi's life story

Frome Page 1 ▶ “In 1992, I wanted to publish a single photo of Hakimi as the founder of the Separation School [an ideology in the Shia religious science that promotes separation between the philosophical teachings and the methods of religious studies] in a magazine. He told me, ‘no, it's unnecessary;” Asadi said.

“Our insistence was in vain and finally, the article was published with some photos of his masters. Since then I've been determined to know the secret behind his solitude. Hakimi was a lonely, simple and calm man with great influence in society who was living with his canaries in a small house,” he added.

“His relations with scholars in Islamic seminaries and universities, intellectuals, heretics and even non-religious people expanded his power and influence, before the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Abdolhossein Zarrinkub invited him to teach the Nahaj-ul-Balagha at the University of Tehran for the first time; [Ali] Shariati selected him as his executor; his letter to Fidel Castro and his meeting with Che Guevara's children, and his special

Islamic philosopher Mohammadreza Hakimi in an undated photo.

regard for social justice are among the various topics in his life,” Asadi stated.

Asadi has previously directed the documentaries “Philosophy with Flavor of Chocolate” about philosopher Gholam-Hossein Ebrahimi Dinani, “Painter Poet” about the master miniaturist Mahmud Farshchian and “Phosforic Hands” about the world-renowned Iranian neurosurgeon Majid Samii.

Hakimi was born into a religious

family in Mashhad, a major Iranian city, which is revered by Shia Muslims as it houses the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Imam of the Shia.

His father, Abdolvahab, was respected by top businessmen in the bazaar for his honesty. Hakimi began his education in 1941. He was admitted to the Khorasan Islamic seminary six years later, spending 20 years learning Islamic sciences from top clerics such as

Seyyed Abolhassan Hafezi and Sheikh Mojtaba Qazvini.

In 1969, Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Mohammed-Mohsen Razi popularly known as Aqa Bozorge Tehrani qualified him to exercise ijthad, however, he never wore the common Muslim clerics' attire.

He wrote over 100 books and articles on Islamic issues. “Al-Hayat” (“The Life”) is one of his greatest books written in Arabic in twelve volumes dating from 1974 to 2015.

This book is actually an encyclopedia of Islamic sciences, which holds a lofty place in the Islamic world.

“Minus Poverty” is another book written by Hakimi, which discusses his pro-justice views of economic issues in Islam.

“Based on a hadith from Imam Sadeq (AS), if one person, just one person, lives in poverty and scarcity in a society, even if in a remote village, the society cannot be considered as an Islamic one,” Hakimi had once said.

Among his credits are also “The Sun of the Occident”, “Sun Interpretation”, “The Red Wisdom” and “The Cry of Days”.

IRIB welcomes Quds Day by screening films on Palestine

Philadelphia” by Iranian director Esmaeil Rahimzadeh.

TEHRAN – Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) is welcoming International Quds Day by screening films on Palestine.

Seven movies will be shown on the Namayesh Network, an IRIB channel for screening films, in a weeklong program starting from April 23.

The beginning film is “Nagi El-Ali” by Egyptian filmmaker Atef El-Tayeb about Palestinian cartoonist Naji al-Ali who was assassinated in

London in 1987.

He was noted for his political criticism of the Arab regimes and Israel in his works.

Iranian director Habib Kavosh's 1990 drama “Hidden Fire” has also been chosen to be screened on Sunday night.

Jacob, a Lebanese Jew, is shot dead at a private gathering along with a number of his companions by a group of people dressed as Palestinian combatants. Palestinian combatants learned that the terrorist attack has designed to incite public opinion against them. Therefore they begin to uncover the truth about the Israeli operation.

Another film in the program is “The Buried Secret” by Iranian director Ali Ghaffari.

The film is about Amer Kalakish, also known as Abu Zeinab, a resistance fighter who died during an operation against an Israeli convoy in 1985. His operation killed 12 troopers in the Israeli occupation forces and wounded 14 others.

Iranian director Jamal Shurjeh's “33 Days”, a

film on the Israeli 33-Day War of 2006 against Lebanon, will also be screened.

Iranian director Parviz Sheikhtadi's 2009 anti-Zionist drama, “Saturday's Hunter” is a highlight of the program.

The film is about a boy and his grandfather, who execute Arab civilians in order to steal their land.

The program also features Iranian director Seifollah Dad's 1995 drama, “The Survivor”.

The film is based on Palestinian author Ghassan Kanafani's novel “Returning to Haifa”. It tells the story of a Palestinian couple who goes back to Haifa after the 1967 war to look for their baby, whom they were forced to leave behind in the war of 1948.

The program will end with a screening of “Philadelphia” on April 29, which is International Quds Day.

Directed by Esmaeil Rahimzadeh, the film is about a group tasked to supply food and medicine to the Gaza Strip in connection with their human rights activities.

Shearer West's “Portraiture” published in Persian

TEHRAN – British-American art-historian Shearer West's book “Portraiture” has been published in Persian.

Elmi-Farhangi, a major publishing house in Tehran, is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Maedeh Mirzai Ata-Abadi.

This fascinating new addition to the acclaimed Oxford History of Art series explores the world of portraiture from a number of vantage points, and asks key questions about its nature. How has portraiture changed over the centuries? How have portraits represented their subjects, and how have they been interpreted?

The book provides a clear, yet thorough overview of the history of portraiture in terms of social, political,

Cover of the Persian edition of Shearer West's book “Portraiture”.

economic and psychological factors over a broad time span. Issues such as identity, modernity and gender are considered within their cultural and historical contexts.

Shearer West uncovers intriguing aspects of portraiture, a genre that has often been seen as purely representational, featuring examples from African tribes to Renaissance

princes, and from stars such as David and Victoria Beckham to everyday people.

West examines the many meanings and uses of portraits throughout the ages and includes a wide range of artists from Botticelli to Picasso and Hans Holbein to Frida Kahlo.

In the process, the author reveals the faces of the past in an exciting new way. Beautifully illustrated throughout, this book is a unique and accessible introduction to the history of portraiture.

West is currently the vice-chancellor of the University of Nottingham since October 2017 and was formerly deputy vice-chancellor of the University of Sheffield.

A feminine story of bravery, “Farangis”

An interview with Mahnaz Fattahi

Lately, audiences have become interested in non-military aspects of the war, such as women's wartime memories, and Mahnaz Fattahi is one of the top writers in this field who has written the story of Farangis Heidarpur, one of the great heroes of that time.

*** Why do you believe it is vital to write about women's wartime memories?**

When society returned to peace after the war, we all agreed that the memories of the war and the events that occurred at the time should be recorded. It began with men's memories, and it was assumed that only soldiers had a big role while men were just a part of it. Women volunteered as relief workers, supported their husbands and sons, and collected aid for the front. All of these activities were carried out by women during the war, but they were not documented; however, later research revealed that women were also involved, and in some cases, they even became armed, like Farangis. I also believe that while men's recollections seemed

to lead to cold, soulless literature, women's war memories became increasingly important.

*** Who are the novels' primary audiences?**

We may think that the main audience consists largely of women, yet I have observed more men talking about it with me. As a result, I believe that the book's audience is all people rather than a specific group.

*** What inspired you to write Mr. Farangis Heidarpur's memoirs, and how did it go?**

I'd heard a lot about her, and seeing her in person had long been a dream of mine until I found her phone number and address through a friend. I had numerous problems like that at first, and she refused to be interviewed, saying that she had told her memories to many others like me before. However, she eventually agreed to have her memoirs written and published from her childhood to the present.

*** Would you explain the challenges you mentioned earlier?**

Every time I wanted to talk to Farangis, I had to go a significant distance. Sometimes, after three and a half hours of driving, I found out she was not in a situation to be interviewed, and I had to return all this way without getting anything done. The hardest part was when I realized that there was not much evidence for the documentation part, and most of what is stated in this book on documentation are due to the help of locals.