

Different Quds Day

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Op-ed 

Quds Day manifests humanity and sacred resistance

By Hossein Amir-Abdollahian

Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The World Quds Day coincides with the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan. It was designated as Quds Day on 7 August 1979 on the initiative of Imam Khomeini (May his soul rest in peace) to support the Palestinian cause and nation and mark a new stage of solidarity with the people of Palestine. Therefore, the Quds Day is a unique manifestation of unity among Muslims and all the world's freedom seekers in expressing support for Palestine and disgust for the usurper Zionists; it also illustrates an unparalleled portrayal of unity among the people of the world to condemn the atrocities and occupation of the Zionist regime and abhor the racist and inhuman nature of the Zionists; the Quds Day also symbolizes resistance. Undoubtedly, the establishment of the illegitimate and forged Zionist entity has become the prime element of instability and insecurity in West Asia since 1948. The tyrannized and resilient people of Palestine have risen up with the support of the Muslims and free peoples of the world, with a chain of Palestinian intifadas, against this massive oppression by the Zionist regime and have frustrated and depressed this forged entity.

During these years, the issue of Palestine has transformed into the main issue of the Muslim world at least for three reasons. First, the complexion of the Palestinian land, its sanctity and status among the followers of Islam. Second, the nature of the hostility of Zionists, their religious and historical claims and their expansionist and occupationist spirit; third, the nature of Western-Zionist coalition which pursues to weaken the Muslim Ummah and generate dissension and split between the Muslims with the hope that Muslim states remain dependent and reliant on the big powers. ► Page 5

Report 

U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal

Research has shown that global military expenditure reached a record level last year despite the second year of the pandemic.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) says in 2021, world military spending continued to increase, reaching an all-time high of \$2.1 trillion, making it the seventh consecutive year that spending on military has grown.

SIPRI says "even amid the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, world military spending hit record levels."

Dr. Diego Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Program noted "there was a slowdown in the rate of real-term growth due to inflation. In nominal terms, however, military spending grew by 6.1 percent."

Topping the list once again is the U.S. with total spending on military purposes amounting to a massive \$801 billion.

Between 2012 and 2021, U.S. funding for military research and development rose by 24 percent, with SIPRI pointing out 'the U.S. Government has repeatedly stressed the need to preserve the U.S. military's technological edge over strategic competitors.'

Whether that "technological edge" is effective considering American weapons' use by other countries that have purchased the equipment is open for debate.

Amid increasing global tensions analysts would argue it's natural for nations to increase their military expenditures. ► Page 5

Resistance leaders hail Palestinians' struggle



© File photo

TEHRAN — On Tuesday, the Resistance leaders, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, spoke out against the barbarity of the Israeli regime and supported the resistance of the Palestinian fighters, trying to attract the attention of the global community to the Palestinian question.

In his meeting with the university students late on Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei touched on various issues going on in the world, but he dedicated the last part of his speech to international Quds Day, which falls on April 29 this year.

Referring to the forthcoming Quds Day,

the Leader of the Islamic Revolution considered this year's Quds Day different from previous years and said, "This year, Quds Day is different from other years. Palestinians have made great sacrifices both last Ramadan and this Ramadan. ► Page 2

[STAY UPDATED #RememberPalestine](#)

Azeri economy minister calls for expanding ties with Iran

TEHRAN – Azerbaijan's Minister of Economy Mikayil Jabbarov has underlined the need for the expansion of economic relations with Iran, IRNA reported.

Jabbarov made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Affairs Mehdi Safari in Baku on Tuesday.

In the meeting, the officials explored ways of promoting trade relations, especially by defining and implementing joint projects.

During his visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Safari also met with Shahin Mustafayev, deputy prime minister and chairman of the two countries' joint economic committee. The official also held talks with his Azeri counterpart Khalaf Aly oghlu Khalafov.



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Iraq parliament speaker holds talks with Iranian officials

TEHRAN – Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mohammad al-Halbousi, who arrived in Tehran on Wednesday morning, held talks with top Iranian officials including his counterpart Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf.

The Iraqi parliamentarian was received at the airport by the deputy speaker of the Iranian parliament. ► Page 3

Tehran Times to hold first online event

As Iran's leading international newspaper, the Tehran Times will host its first online event, dubbed "Remember Palestine". The event will focus on various aspects of the Palestinian cause, the Islamic world's number one issue.

The event is aimed to commemorate the brave Palestinian fighters, as well as the

free-spirited people around the world who take the issue of injustice done against the Palestinians seriously. It also explores various aspects of Intifadas, as well as the issue of human rights violations in Palestine.

It will also promote awareness on the plight of Palestinians whose land has been under the Israeli occupation since 1948. "Re-

member Palestine" will be held on Friday, April 29, which coincides with International Quds Day, and will end on May 15, known as Nakba Day (Day of Catastrophe).

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Interview 

New Pakistan government consists of seasoned politicians: expert

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A Pakistani political analyst is of the opinion that the new government in Islamabad consists of experienced political figures and that Pakistan is not in an unstable situation.

"Most of the incoming ministers are seasoned politicians and have experience of running the government in the past," Shaukat Piracha tells the Tehran Times.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif himself has rich experience of running three times the largest province of Punjab. Punjab province has more than 100 million population," the media activist says.

Piracha believes that despite the tense political atmosphere, Pakistan is in a stable situation due to the political experience of the new prime minister and his team. "There is no doubt that the political temperature in Pakistan is very high. But it cannot be termed instability. The new cabinet was sworn in Tuesday morning."

He adds, "All institutions under the Constitution of Pakistan are working very well within their domains. It appears quite premature to assume instability of any kind."

The following is the text of the interview:

What are the main reasons for Imran Khan's failure to win the confidence of the Pakistani parliament? Critics say his economic policies were unsuccessful. What is your view?

There are two major reasons why Imran Khan failed to get the confidence of ► Page 5

Interview 

Stop wasting time: expert

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iranian football expert, Jalal Cheraghpour, believes that Dragan Skocic made Iran national team qualification to the 2022 World Cup look easy, however he questioned the Croatian coach's ability to handle complex issues of the World Cup.

There are discussions that the football federation must replace Skocic with a big name on the bench of the 'Persian Leopards'.

"In the second round of the World Cup qualifying matches, Iran were in such a bad situation that no coach, not even the Iranian ones, was willing to accept the leadership of this team," said Cheraghpour in his interview with Tehran Times.

"In a situation where it was not at all clear what the fate of the national team would be and whether there was a possibility of success for the team or not, the football federation took Skocic from the Sanat Naft Abadan team overnight and selected him as the national team coach. He did his job in the best way possible. ► Page 3



REMEMBER PALESTINE [STAY UPDATED](#) [#RememberPalestine](#)
by Tehran Times

Resistance leaders hail Palestinians' struggle

from [▶ page 1](#) The Zionist regime is committing the worst crimes. They commit every crime they want, and the U.S. and Europe support it."

Ayatollah Khamenei called the Palestinian people powerful while oppressed, and praised the struggle of the Palestinian youth who do not allow the Palestinian cause to be forgotten.

He added, "Quds Day is a good opportunity to express sympathy and solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people and give them a morale-boosting."

He also strongly criticized the silence of some Islamic countries on the issue of Palestine, noting, "Unfortunately, Islamic states have behaved very badly (in this regard) and are not even willing to talk about the issue of Palestine. Some of them think that the way to help Palestine is to establish relations with the Zionists, while this is a grave mistake."

Referring to the great mistake made by the Egyptian government more than 40 years ago that established relations with the Zionists, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution asked, "Does the Islamic world want to repeat the same mistake of Anwar Sadat?"

He then critiqued those countries that copied the same strategy of Sadat, saying, "Normalization with the Zionist regime will harm the copycats and the Palestinians."

Emphasizing that establishing relations with the Zionist regime will not be of any use, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "We hope that with God's grace, the conclusion of resistance in Palestine will be a happy ending, and that the Palestinians regain domination of their land and Al-Aqsa Mosque soon."

On the same day, Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah gave a key speech about the resilience of the Palestinian fighters.

Nasrallah said, "The most important reason for what we are exposed to in Lebanon, as well as to what countries and resistance movements in our region are subjected to, is everyone who belongs to this movement (of resistance), to this axis, to this idea, to this origin, to this goal, faced siege and sanctions and restrictions. We are subjected to these sanctions at the international, regional and domestic levels, and the sanctions' main goal is to abandon Quds, Palestine, the logic of resistance and the culture of resistance."

Speaking at the "Al-Quds Forum 2022 – the Equation," Nasrallah said that war in Quds means a "regional war."

"Today, we're standing on the verge of great and final victory," he said, declaring that the axis of resistance is prepared to make whatever sacrifices that are necessary to realize the prospect.

"Quds is our model and goal," he said, and urged that the axis of resistance be rather called "the al-Quds axis" due to the centrality of the holy city to unity among the axis' members.

Nasrallah, meanwhile, warned that the global arrogance's strategy on the issue of Palestine rested on "killing time" so the Palestinian and other Muslim nations end up forgetting and despairing of the Palestinian cause.

"However, what is actually taking place is contrary to their desire," Nasrallah said.

He then concluded his speech by saying that the resistance movement will continue its path regardless of how great the sacrifices, threats, difficulties and dangers will be.

"God willing, we will continue together hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder. All the resistance factions, all the resistance movements, all the peoples of the resistance, and all the countries of the resistance will break all restrictions and nullify all conspiracies. All the daggers that try to stab in our backs and in our chests will fall. Our real battle that will create complete freedom for the holy Quds, and Quds will remain the title, the goal, and the foundation of the axis," he stressed.

Similarly, Ismail Haniyeh, chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau stated that resistance was the Palestinian nation's preferred option, citing effective Palestinian operations across the occupied West Bank since the start of Ramadan.

As a result, he argued, issues like the occupation and the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland "cannot be handled at the negotiating table."

Realizing this, the Zionist regime began restoring relations with several regional powers in order to "legitimize its existence and its objectives for the destruction of the Palestinian cause," Haniyeh remarked.

According to Haniyeh, Tel Aviv was also attempting to exploit the situation in Ukraine as a smokescreen for its intentions for al-Quds and the al-Aqsa Mosque.

"However, all of the regime's efforts to manipulate the Palestinian nation have failed," he said, adding that "our nation does not tolerate distortion of the al-Aqsa Mosque's identity and the historical realities that apply to it."

The Palestinian conflict has been ongoing on since World War II, but the global community has chosen to be silent despite flagrant violations Palestinians' basic rights. But now the world is turning its attention to Palestine.

In a significant development, UN human rights experts called on the international community to take immediate and effective steps to protect and sustain the six Palestinian civil society groups that were designated as "terrorist organizations" by the Israeli regime in October 2021.

In a press release by the Office of the High Commissioner of the United Nations Human Right body, the UN experts dubbed the Israelis' move to designate civil society groups as terrorist organizations as a "disturbing designation."

"Israel's disturbing designation of these organizations as 'terrorist organizations' has not been accompanied by any public concrete and credible evidence," said the human rights experts. "We note that the information presented by Israel has also failed to convince a number of governments and international organizations that have traditionally provided funding for the indispensable work of these six organizations."

Recently, a four-year study by the Amnesty International partly revealed the true color of the Israeli regime and called on the international organizations to bring the Israeli officials to justice. But the million dollar question is, will the world listen?

Amnesty International's rigorous study and legal analysis, conducted in cooperation with other experts, shows that Israel pushes ahead with its malicious behaviors toward Palestinians through enacting laws and practices that ensure continued harsh discrimination.

Specific unlawful acts performed under a totalitarian ideology and supremacy with the goal of preserving it constitute the crime against humanity of apartheid, according to international criminal law. The Apartheid Convention and the Rome Statute define these crimes as unlawful killing, torture, forcible transfer, and denial of basic rights and freedoms.

Massive seizure of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible transfer, severe movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians are all components of a system that amounts to apartheid under international law, according to the comprehensive report titled "Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime against Humanity." This system is upheld by transgressions that Amnesty International determined to be apartheid as a crime against humanity, as defined by the Rome Statute and the Apartheid Convention.

Amnesty International has urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to include apartheid as a crime in its ongoing investigation in the OPT, and all governments to use universal jurisdiction to prosecute perpetrators of apartheid crimes.

For committing the crime of apartheid against Palestinians, Israeli authorities must be held accountable.

In this regard, as Iran's leading international daily, the Tehran Times will host its first online event, dubbed "Remember Palestine." The event will focus on various aspects of the Palestinian cause as the Islamic world's number one issue.

The event is aimed to commemorate the chivalrous Palestinian fighters, as well as the free-spirited people around the world who take the issue of injustice done to the Palestinians seriously. It also explores various aspects of Intifadas, as well as the issue of human rights violations in Palestine.

It will also promote awareness on the plight of Palestinians whose land has been under the Israeli occupation immediately after World War II. "Remember Palestine" will be held on Friday, April 29, which coincides with international Quds Day, and will end on May 15, known as Nakba Day (Day of Catastrophe).

To register and know more about event categories and submission topics, visit [event.tehrantimes.com](#).

Al-Aqsa Mosque must be protected under international law: Iran's UN envoy

TEHRAN- Iran's UN envoy has sharply criticized Israel's latest assault on the Al-Aqsa Mosque and warned the Zionist regime of the repercussions of its actions, emphasizing that the holy site must be safeguarded under "international law".

Majid Takht Ravanchi made the remarks at a UN Security Council meeting on Monday, during which he chastised the 15-member body for its silence and inaction on the Israeli regime's crimes against the Palestinian people, saying that the Palestinian people's rights will not be protected as long as the Security Council remains passive and silent about such crimes.

"The continuation of the Security Council's current stance has only encouraged and emboldened the Israeli regime to perpetuate its occupation and crimes against the oppressed Palestinian people," he noted.

The atrocities committed by the Tel Aviv regime against the Palestinians are well-documented and incontrovertible, according to Iran's UN ambassador, who also stated that they are deemed war crimes under international law and that the culprits must be brought to justice as soon as



possible.

Takht Ravanchi urged the Security Council to hold Israel responsible, stating that acknowledging the Palestinian people's fundamental rights is a prerequisite to resolve the decades-long crisis.

In response to the Israeli regime's recent atrocities in the occupied areas, Takht Ravanchi stated that the situation has deteriorated due to Israel's racist policies and harsh crimes against the Palestinian people.

"The Israeli regime has committed its crimes before the eyes of the international community and knows very well that it will not face any consequences," the Iranian

diplomat regretted.

Takht Ravanchi condemned Israeli attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque during the fasting month of Ramadan, saying that any violation of Muslim sanctities or hurting the sentiments of Muslims throughout the globe is abhorrent and should not be accepted.

He went on to say that the current "worrying trend" must be tackled immediately and seriously.

"To prevent a catastrophe with far-reaching implications, the historical and legal status of this sacred place must be protected under international law," he suggested.

"We call on the international

community to take precautionary measures to protect al-Aqsa Mosque, including its cultural heritage, from attacks by Israeli occupying forces and extremist settlers," the envoy added.

Since early April, when the holy month of Ramadan began to coincide with Jewish Passover, Israeli soldiers have targeted Palestinian worshipers at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

In addition to cracking down on solidarity rallies across the occupied West Bank, Israeli troops have continued to violate the flashpoint location.

The skirmishes in Al-Quds fueled worries of a repeat of last year's 11-day war between Israel and Palestinian resistance organizations, including Hamas, in Gaza.

Last May, Israel launched the conflict in reaction to Palestinian reprisal for violent assaults on Al-Aqsa Mosque worshipers and the regime's plans to evict a number of Palestinian families from their houses in East Al-Quds' Sheikh Jarrah district.

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, the Israeli attack killed 260 Palestinians, including 66 children and 40 women.

Over 40 ex-European officials urge US, Iran not to lose opportunity to revive JCPOA

They want US show flexibility to resolve remaining political issues with Iran

TEHRAN - In an open letter dated April 26, over 40 former top European officials have urged the United States and Iran to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, warning that strategic implications of failure to do so "would be grave and profound".

Part of the letter says for U.S. and European leaders to let slip the opportunity to defuse a crisis with Iran in West Asia would be a "grave mistake".

This is the text of the letter:

This open letter has been signed by members of the European Leadership Network, Board members of the International Crisis Group and Council members from the European Council on Foreign Relations.

We write to express our growing concern that negotiations to restore Iranian compliance with, and U.S. return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) appear to have entered a period of stasis that threatens to undo the real and welcome progress made in recent months toward reinstating a non-proliferation achievement that is crucial for international peace and security.

At a time when transatlantic cooperation has become all the more critical to respond against Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, for U.S. and European leaders to let slip the opportunity to defuse a nuclear crisis in the Middle East would be a grave mistake.

The JCPOA was a success. Persistent multilateral diplomacy, in which several of the undersigned were personally engaged, secured an agreement that advanced our shared non-proliferation goals. Preserving the benefits of a deal limiting Iran's stockpiles of enriched uranium, capping its levels of enrichment and extending the timeline for the accumulation of fissile material that could be used for a potential weapon, all under the watchful



eyes of the International Atomic Energy Agency, is the reason why European governments rejected the Trump administration's reckless decision to abandon the deal without a viable alternative and have worked hard to keep the deal alive following the 2018 U.S. withdrawal.

The strategy that the U.S. followed for more than two years after this withdrawal, based on "maximum pressure" alone, yielded little but nuclear escalation, dangerous regional sparring and economic deprivation for the Iranian people. The legacy of this strategic error can today be measured in the tons of enriched uranium Iran has since accumulated, including uranium enriched to near weapons-grade; in the thousands of advanced centrifuges it is spinning; and in the rapidly dwindling timeframe for Iran to reach a breakout capability. President Biden rightly identified a mutual return, by the U.S. and Iran, to their respective commitments under the 2015 deal as a necessary course correction.

Since April 2021, negotiations in Vienna have painstakingly but productively forged a draft document that will reverse Iran's nuclear advances, in return for relief from U.S. sanctions imposed during the Trump administration that

are inconsistent with the JCPOA. As the EU's Josep Borrell put it over a month ago, "a final text is essentially ready and on the table".

There are two possible scenarios ahead. In one, the U.S. swiftly shows decisive leadership and requisite flexibility to resolve remaining issues of political (not nuclear) disagreement with Tehran. In the other, the parties enter a state of corrosive stalemate, serving neither side's interests, that risks devolving into a cycle of increased nuclear tension, inevitably countered by the further application of coercive tools.

We know that the politics of this issue are difficult, particularly on issues like the designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, which is reportedly the last lingering issue of contention. While the details are of course for U.S. policymakers to determine, we believe that there are ways to provide the counter-terrorism benefits of the current designation while still accommodating Iran's specific request, and consider it imperative that these be fully explored. For its part, Iran should not expect a nuclear deal to address broader areas of disagreement between Tehran and Washington. Both sides must approach this final phase of negotiation with an understanding that the strategic implications of failure would be grave and profound.

Based on our long experience in diplomacy and statecraft, we see a deal as eminently possible. Having come within touching distance, we urge President Biden and the Iranian leadership to demonstrate flexibility in tackling an issue of vital significance to the global nonproliferation regime and regional stability, and see these negotiations through to a successful conclusion.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

As US retreats, Saudi Arabia and Iran are trying to mend fences: CNN

As Persian Gulf Arab states lose faith in the United States' commitment to their security, two West Asian archrivals are taking matters into their own hands.

On Monday, Iran revealed that it held a fifth round of talks with Saudi Arabia late last week. The negotiations between the two regional heavyweights were "progressive and positive," according to an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman. Saudi Arabia is yet to comment on them.

The ministry spokesman said talks were underway on sending 40,000 Iranian pilgrims to the Hajj in the Saudi city of Mecca this year.

While talks to date have focused on relatively small issues like pilgrimage to holy sites and have been attended by officials at the intelligence level,

the potential inclusion of foreign ministry-level officials in forthcoming talks could indicate significant progress and a desire to bring to a conclusion some of the region's most intractable conflicts.

Riyadh severed ties with Tehran in 2016 after Iranian protesters stormed the Saudi embassy in the Iranian capital following the execution of a Shi'ite cleric in Saudi Arabia.

Frustrated with what they see as the United States' waning interest in their own security, Persian Gulf Arab states have begun taking matters into their own hands of late, reaching out to rivals to fend off conflicts that can wreak havoc on their economies.

The U.S. has reiterated its commitment to Persian Gulf security by bolstering regional defenses

against missile attacks. President Biden on Friday picked career diplomat Michael Ratney as the next U.S. ambassador to Riyadh. If confirmed, he would be the first career diplomat to hold the post in the country in three decades.

The clearest manifestation of this rethink was the Persian Gulf states' muted reaction to the war in Ukraine. The U.S. allies haven't wholeheartedly come out in support of the Biden administration's position on Russia's war there, and regional officials have pointed to the conflict as a sign of a changing world order where the West may have less say than it once did.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, and the UAE have rebuffed U.S. calls to increase oil production

to lower the price of crude that is fueling Russia's war, opting instead to stick to an alliance with fellow exporter Russia to ramp up production gradually. More than 15 months into his presidency, Joe Biden and the de facto Saudi ruler crown prince Mohammed bin Salman are yet to speak to each other.

Meanwhile, both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have been mending fences in the region.

Over the past two weeks, Saudi Arabia has de-escalated its war in Yemen through a rare truce and begun a rapprochement with Lebanon after an unprecedented rupture of ties last year. Both countries are arenas for proxy conflicts between Riyadh and Tehran.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Iraq parliament speaker holds talks with Iranian officials

From Page 1 ► Al-Halbousi first visited Iran in March 2018.

During a press conference held after his meeting with Al-Halbousi on Wednesday, Qalibaf expressed his happiness at hosting his Iraqi counterpart and the accompanying delegation, stressing that the parliamentary policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the thirteenth government is to develop relations with neighboring countries and the region, especially economic, political, cultural and environmental relations.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly stressed that “one of our most important demands from the Parliament and the Iraqi government is to open the land borders for Iranian pilgrims to visit the holy shrines during the Araba’een.”

He added that the Iranian people and officials express their hope that the Iraqi parliament will begin its work as soon as possible with a political agreement between all political groups.

Qalibaf pointed out that the Iraqi government will decide its future path, and the people, the government and the Iranian parliament will support the Iraqi government and parliament.

Qalibaf stressed that the strong relations between Iran and Iraq are effective in the region and the world. He said, “We must take steps at the parliamentary level of the two countries, the level of the Asian



continent and the level of world parliaments.”

Al-Halbousi, for his part, appreciated the invitation he received from his Iranian counterpart to visit Iran.

He said, “I hope that by strengthening relations, we will be able to remove the obstacles to the development and cooperation of governments. Because the development of relations will end in the interest of the nation of the two countries.”

Underlining that stability in Iran has a positive effect on Iraq and the region, al-Halbousi noted, “In Iraq, we are trying to solve regional problems through proxy diplomacy. We consider meeting and negotiation and understanding as the basis for solving problems between neighbors. Many of the problems require dialogue and consultation. Nations are looking for better relations and they want to

improve their lives, their future and their economic conditions, and they want to prevent the return of the shadow of war.”

The Iraqi parliament speaker also met with Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Iranian Foreign Minister and Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

Shamkhani told al-Halbousi that “The Islamic Republic of Iran considers political stability and lasting security in Iraq a national and regional necessity and it is ready to use all its capacities to fulfill the will of the Iraqi people.”

He cited the Iraqi constitution and legal procedures as a good basis for overcoming political challenges in the country.

Shamkhani added, “Iraq’s national resources and wealth can be used for the comprehensive development of the country when it is extracted and exported solely under the

management and supervision of the central government.”

The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran pointed out some unacceptable actions that are being taken from inside Iraq against the interests of Iran.

He warned that the Islamic Republic of Iran will react swiftly and decisively with authority to any action that seeks to harm the security of Iran and the region.

Shamkhani said that Iraq’s return to its true place in the Islamic world and the Arab world has a decisive role in creating stability and security in the region, adding that comprehensive cooperation to create a strong, prosperous, developed and stable Iraq in Iran’s neighborhood is the permanent and unchangeable policy of the Islamic Republic.

The top security official stated, “Iranian companies are ready to strengthen the process of cooperation between the two countries more than before by participating in Iraqi economic and technical projects.”

In the meeting, al-Halbousi, referring to the lasting friendship between the two countries, put emphasis on further strengthening Tehran-Baghdad relations.

“The Iraqi parliament is preparing a bill to criminalize cooperation and relations with Israel, in order to prevent any possible steps to be taken in this direction,” he said.

Different Quds Day

TEHRAN – After a two years hiatus in marking the International Quds Day due to Covid-19 restrictions, millions of Muslims in Iran and other countries are gearing up for condemning Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories.

International Quds Day is marked on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan every year. The occasion was designated at the initiative of Imam Khomeini. This year’s Quds Day rolls around on 29 April.

Massive preparations are underway across Iran to magnificently stage processions and online events. Mohammad Hossein Mousa Pour, chairman of the Islamic Advocacy Council, said on Wednesday that the Quds Day processions will be held in Tehran and 900 cities and villages around the country.

“This year, we are going to witness the holding of popular processions across the country after two years,” Mousa Pour, a cleric, said. “The Quds Intifada Commission was formed and it reviewed the strategies, plans, and slogans. Now, there is coordination and convergence for implementing the programs inside and outside the country,” he said.

According to the chairman, who is in charge of planning and coordinating the Quds Day activities, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) General Hossein Salami will deliver a speech at the University of Tehran, where the demonstrators will gather for the Friday Prayer. Other Iranian officials are expected to deliver speeches on the occasion.

Also, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian will take part in an online event on Palestine along with Ali Akbar Velayati, an advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on international relations. The event, promoted as the biggest online International Quds Day ceremony, is dubbed “liberating Quds as the capital of Palestine.”

Earlier on Tuesday, Ayatollah Khamenei hailed this year’s Quds Days as being different from previous years.

Addressing a number of university students on Tuesday afternoon, the Leader said, “This year’s Quds Day is different from other years. The Palestinians have been making great sacrifices both during last year’s and this year’s Ramadan. The Zionist regime is committing

the worst crimes, and the US and Europe are supporting them.”

He added, “Palestine is both oppressed and powerful; it’s an oppressed power. I said the same about Iran many years ago. Palestine is truly strong today. The Palestinian youth do not allow the question of Palestine to be forgotten and they’re standing up in opposition to the enemy’s crimes.”

Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar has said that the resistance of the Palestinians has become a source of concern for Israel given the coincidence of the Quds Day and the Day of Nakba, which falls on May 15.

“Despite the relative calm currently in force in the occupied Palestinian territories, it does not seem that the escalation will be delayed before it rears its head again. Israel is waiting for two occasions that constitute an annual date for Palestinian activities in the face of the occupation, namely Quds Day and the Nakba commemoration,” the newspaper said.

It described the security situation in Palestine as “fragile to the extent that any operational mistake could push towards a wide confrontation.”

Government follows Leader’s instructions: Raisi

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has said that his administration considers itself obliged to follow the instructions of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

President Raisi made the remarks in reaction to the Tuesday speech of the Leader.

Speaking on Wednesday in the cabinet meeting, Ayatollah Raisi referred to the strategic statements of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution in his meeting with students on Tuesday, regarding the importance and position of science and culture centered on the university, and obliged all government departments to try to fulfil his orders, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

He considered the preservation of the scientific, religious and revolutionary identity of the university as the most important concern raised by the Supreme Leader in this meeting and said, “The enemy has always tried to distort the identity gained by the university thanks to the Islamic Revolution and we all have a duty to prevent the implementation of this sinister plan”.

Raisi described giving hope to students as one of the other concerns of the Supreme Leader

of the Revolution and said, “One of the problems of students after graduation is employment, which the Ministry of Science should plan for with the cooperation of the Ministries of Industry and Labor”.

Expressing that the government will be the executor of the Supreme Leader’s instructions, President Raisi urged his Vice-President for Science and the Minister of Science to cooperate with the relevant departments, to review and follow up on the implementation of the Supreme Leader’s statements.

Ayatollah Raisi also described the organization of the dormitories to be important and necessary, and instructed the Ministry of Science and the Plan and Budget Organization to address this issue immediately.

The president also mentioned the university as a think tank of the government and urged the university professors and students to study the important issues of the country such as water issues, smuggling of goods, development of knowledge-based companies and prevention of raw materials and to find and provide a solution to them.

On Tuesday, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution met with a number of university students. In the meeting, the Leader said revolutionary university should be a place of nurturing elites for solving

the problems of the country.

The Leader also touched on a number of international issues. “Today the world is on the threshold of a new world order: a new international order against the previous monopolar and bipolar world,” he said.

He added, “The Ukraine War should be considered more deeply. This war isn’t simply about a military invasion of a country. The roots of this invasion are deep and a complex, difficult future can be predicted.”

He noted, “On the eve of a probable new world order, all countries including Iran have a duty to be active in the fields of both soft and hard power such that they can ensure their nation’s interests and security. The most important duty is on the shoulders of the university students.”

Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to the decline America is going through. “The US is getting weaker day by day—from within, in its domestic policies, in its foreign policies, in its economy and in its security. The US has become weaker since 20 years ago and continuing up until today,” he said.

Earlier in March, the Leader said Iran is supporting an end to the war in Ukraine. He stated, “Iran advocates ending the war in Ukraine. However, the solution to any crisis only works

SPORTS

Stop wasting time: expert

From Page 1 ► “Now the question is why at that time no one accepted the risk of coaching the national team? And why today a lot of people are criticizing Skocic?”

“Contrary to many of Skocic’s current critics, I believe that the national team are no bigger than Skocic, because we qualified for the 2022 Qatar World Cup for his charisma, patience, intelligence, and tactical decisions,” he added

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with England, the U.S. and either Ukraine, Wales or Scotland.

Cheraghpour then talked about the World cup.

“The big question is whether Skocic is capable of facing the complexities of the World Cup. In Asia, we faced teams such as Bahrain and Iraq, but in the World Cup we should face England and European teams.

“We struggled in both games against South Korea in the qualifiers. This is a warning sign that if a team are a little better than South Korea, how will we face against them?”

“In the current situation, we can say that teams like the United States, Wales /Ukraine/Scotland are better than Korea, and this is a big challenge for the Iranian national team. The correct question is this: is the size of our national team coach in line with these complexities?”

“I believe that Skocic should stay in the national team because he has lived with this team for two years and is familiar with the players and their spirit. Bringing in a new coach means wasting time,” he concluded.

Iran, No. 21 in the current FIFA world rankings, will kick off the 2022 World Cup campaign in Qatar against fifth-ranked England on Nov. 21 before facing Wales/Scotland/Ukraine on Nov. 25. The Iranians will close out Group B play on Nov. 30 versus the U.S. (No. 15 in FIFA ranking).

2022 ACL: Foolad held by Shabab Al Ahli

TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli Dubai football team snatched a ticket to the 2022 AFC Champions League Round of 16 after battling to a 1-1 draw against Foolad at the Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Stadium.

Brazilian veteran Shimba scored a 71st minute penalty while Shabab Al Ahli’s Yahya Al Ghassani took advantage of a rare defensive mistake from Foolad as both sides settled for a draw to remain unbeaten in Group C.

Both sides settled for a draw to finish the Group Stage undefeated as Foolad ended the campaign on top of Group C while runners-up Shabab Al Ahli had reason to celebrate with their qualification to the next round.

Furthermore, Sepahan lost to Al Duhail 5-2 in the final Group D match at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium Tuesday night.

Michael Olunga opened the scoring for Qatari giants in the 10th minute but Mohammad Nejadmahdi equalized the match in the 20th minute.

The Nigerian striker completed his brace in the 35th minute before Edmilson Junior making it 3-1 before the break.

Ferjani Sassi scored Al Duhail’s fourth goal in the 50th minute.

With eight minutes remaining, Sepahan midfielder Soroush Rafiei pulled a goal back but Junior made the scoreboard 5-2 in the injury time.

Al Duhail finished their group stage campaign top of the group on 15 points from five wins and a loss, while Sepahan stay third and therefore are eliminated after picking up seven points from five games.

Mohammad Mousavi reaches agreement with Paykan

TEHRAN – Iran international middle blocker Mohammad Mousavi has reached an agreement with Paykan.

Paykan is going to strengthen for the 2022 Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship.

The competition will be held in Tehran from May 15 to 20.

Paykan Tehran hold the record for most victories, winning the competition seven times. Teams from Iran have won the tournament 15 times, the most for any nation. The current Asian champion is Iran’s Foolad Sirjan, who defeated Qatar’s Al Arabi 3-1 in the final of the 2021 event.

Paykan volleyball club had been also linked with French outside hitter Earvin N’Gapeth.

There is room for improvement for Foolad: Javad Nekounam

TEHRAN – Foolad football team head coach Javad Nekounam insists there is room for improvement ahead of the Knockout Stage if he is given the opportunity to continue leading Foolad.

Foolad are the only Iranian side to advance to the next stage and it did so in sensational fashion by topping Group C on 12 points after a 1-1 draw against Shabab Al Ahli Dubai on Tuesday.

With the West Zone Round of 16 scheduled for February 2023, Nekounam insists there is room for improvement ahead of the Knockout Stage if he is given the opportunity to continue leading Foolad.

“If I’m given the chance, I have the perfect plan for the next round because in that stage you cannot make mistakes. We will need players who can add their experience to the team and are able to convert our ideas on the pitch,” he said.

Nekounam praised his charges for negotiating past a difficult Group Stage with flying coolers where they won three and drew three matches.

“We qualified as the first team in a group with powerful teams from the UAE and Qatar and that showed our quality. I want to congratulate my players because from the first day, our goal was to qualify as the first team and now we are among the eight best teams in the West Region,” Nekounam enthused.

Navidkia apologetic after Sepahan’s early exit

TEHRAN – Sepahan head coach Moharram Navidkia apologized to Sepahan fans after his side crashed out of the 2022 AFC Champions League following a 5-2 defeat by Al-Duhail on the final matchday of Group D.

Sepahan needed a win coupled with its direct rival Al Taawoun dropping points to move into second place, but while the Saudi side did lose to Pakhtakor later in the night, Navidkia’s men were unable to complete the task at hand, falling to a comprehensive defeat at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium.

“Frankly, I cannot believe what happened, especially the first half, in which we conceded three goals, which made our task more difficult in the second half,” said Navidkia.

“We tried to put pressure on the opponent during the second half and we had a lot of opportunities, but we did not take advantage of them, unlike the opposing team who took advantage of their chances in the best way, and I think that the mental factor was decisive, which the opponent excelled in as well.

“We apologize to the Sepahan fans, who were waiting for us to qualify for the next round, but we did not succeed in achieving that due to some mistakes that cost us winning more than one match, in addition to fixture congestion also negatively affecting the performance of the players,” he added.

Mandana Dehghan joins Spanish cycling team

TEHRAN – Iranian cyclist Mandana Dehghan joined Spain’s Zaaf Cycling Team.

She has been a member of Vietnamese and Japanese teams in the recent years.

Dehghan will travel to Spain on Thursday to finalize her contract.

Zaaf Cycling Team is a Spanish women’s road cycling team that was founded in 2022.

Revenue inflows uninterrupted even without JCPOA: CBI governor

TEHRAN – Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said the country will not face any problems in supplying its foreign currency needs even without the nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) revived.

“Oil sales have reached very good figures and we receive all our export earnings; Even if Barjam (the Persian equivalent for JCPOA)

is not revived, we will not have any problems in providing the currency needed by the country,” Ali Saleh-Abadi said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting, the official mentioned the recent fluctuations in the foreign currency exchange market, stating that the country's foreign currency earnings have improved compared to the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Golestan province exports products worth \$53.6m to EAEU members in a year

TEHRAN – Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, exported commodities worth \$53.6 million to the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), a provincial official announced.

Darvish-Ali Hassanzadeh, the acting head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that the export from Golestan to EAEU member states rose by 100 percent in the past year.

As announced by the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iranian exports to the members of the Eurasian Economic Union exceeded \$1.170 billion in the previous year, to register a 12-percent increase year on year.

Iran exported over 2.770 million tons of commodities to the five members of the mentioned union in the said year, 3.5 percent more than the figure for the preceding year, Ruhollah Latifi has stated.

Russian Federation with \$583.658 million was the top destination for Iranian products among the EAEU members, followed by Armenia with \$302.343 million, Kazakhstan with \$188.866 million, Kyrgyzstan with \$78.900 million, and Belarus with \$16.813 million of imports, the official said.

Iran also imported over 10.356 million tons of goods valued at \$4.472 billion from the block in the said year, to register a 90 percent rise in value and a 73 percent increase in terms of weight, compared to the preceding year.

Russian Federation with \$4.053 billion, Kazakhstan with \$379.271 million, Belarus with \$28.605 million, Armenia with \$9.071 million, and Kyrgyzstan with \$1.663 million were the

TEDPIX drops 1,400 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 1,433 points to 1.521 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 12.68 billion securities worth 63.999 trillion rials (about \$230.2 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 2,260 points, but the second market's index rose 859 points.

TEDPIX gained 58,000 points (four percent) to 1.512 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

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

TEDPIX also rose 145,000 points (10.5 percent) in the past Iranian month Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20).

Head of Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has said 25 new major companies are ready to offer their shares at the country's stock exchange.

“Many initial public offerings (IPOs) are going to be made in the near future, and now about 25 companies are ready to enter the market,” Eshqi told IRNA on April 24.

“Over the last six months, we have been preparing initial offerings in accordance with market conditions and the balanced entry of liquidity into the market. Currently, Tehran Stock Exchange and Iran Fara Bourse (IFB) officials and experts have made the necessary plans so that the initial public offerings can be made in accordance

with the best conditions for capital to enter the market,” he explained.

Eshqi further mentioned some of his organization's programs for ensuring positive growth in the market, saying: “SEO's programs for this year include intelligent and electronic monitoring of the market. In this regard, we will strengthen the capital market monitoring center, which was launched in March, so that there is no violation in the market trading process. We will identify violations quickly.”

Another program is to monitor financial institutions like brokerage firms, portfolio companies, and investment funds to ensure that they perform in accordance with the rules and regulations of the market, the SEO head added.

“These two measures are among the main programs of the Securities and Exchange Organization and to realize them, it is necessary to take serious measures to improve IT infrastructure, and to amend capital market regulations and laws or even apply new regulations,” he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Eshqi mentioned SEO's plans for increasing the capital market's role in financing production units and projects, saying: “If we succeed to increase the capital market share in financing production units in the current [Iranian calendar] year (started on March 21), we have done a great job, it seems that this potential exists in the market and we will see it realized by the end of the year.”

According to Eshqi, last year, due to capital increases from various sources, such as the issuance of bonds, the capital market only accounted for 25 percent of the mentioned fundings, but SEO plans to increase this figure as much as possible in the current year.

Azeri economy minister calls for expanding ties with Iran

from page 1 ▶ Also on Wednesday, Azerbaijan's ambassador in Tehran said that his country and Iran have proper capacities to raise economic and trade ties.

Ali Alizadeh who traveled to

Ardebil Province, northwestern Iran, made the remarks on the sidelines of a meeting with the province's governor-general.

The ambassador said that Iranian and Azerbaijani businesses have strong ties



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mehdi Safari (R) and Azerbaijan's Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov

which could be strengthened by facilitating cross-border exchanges.

He noted that the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been open to Iranians during the pandemic despite limitations in

place for other counties.

Alizadeh also said that the flights between the two countries have increased and cross-border travel has become easier for citizens of both countries, further reinforcing health tourism.

Iran expected to witness significant economic growth in next 2 years: expert

TEHRAN – A capital market expert said that the Iranian economy is expected to experience significant growth in the next two years, adding: “This will be a good thing for the capital market and we will see a positive effect on the market as well.”

In an interview with IRNA on Monday, Hamid Mir-Moeini pointed to the return of growth to the trend of stock exchange transactions and the factors affecting it, saying: “After the downward trend in the past [Iranian calendar] year (ended on March 20), the capital market finally returned to an uptrend in the last days of the year, paving the way for some optimism in the market for the current year.”

“The resumption of growth in the stock exchange transactions over the last week of Esfand (last month of the Iranian calendar year) was due to the optimism that was



influenced by the nuclear talks and this event affected the whole market,” he added.

According to Mir-Moeini, in the new year, however, some of the optimism about the Vienna negotiations waned, and this resulted in a decline in market transactions, but the stock market index continued its upward trend due to the debate over the privatization of

Tehran, Moscow to develop transportation ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi, who traveled to Moscow on top of a delegation on Tuesday night, has announced the two countries' determination for expanding transport ties.

As reported by the portal of the Transport Ministry, Qasemi made the remarks upon arrival in Moscow, saying that he's going to have important meetings with Russian officials including his counterpart.

Mentioning his meeting with the Russian transport minister, he said: “In this meeting, we will discuss various topics, including transportation issues, while

finalizing previous agreements in the field of rail, sea, road, and air transportation are also on the agenda.”

Increasing the number of flights, activating the two countries' ports, agreement for the operation of the rail corridor from Chabahar Port to Russia, and signaling of Incheh boroun-Garmsar railway are also on the minister's agenda during this visit.

Referring to the north-south railway corridor in Iran, the official stated: “The north-south corridor is connected [with Russia] at two points and Russia can be connected directly to the Persian Gulf via Incheh Boroun railway. We

are also connected via Jolfa and Nakhchivan.”

Iran and Russia have been taking serious measures for increasing relations in all areas, especially in the economy and trade.

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

However, according to the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) resolving transportation is a prerequisite for the development of Iran-Russia



economic relations.

Speaking in a meeting with Vladimir Obydenov, chairman of the Russian-Iranian Business Council (RIDS) earlier this month, Gholam-Hossein Shafeie said: “To send their goods to Russia, Iranian traders have to pass through third countries, which always cause hardships for them.”

Energy supply, a major challenge for big industries

TEHRAN – Keyvan Kashefi, a board member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said supplying electricity has become a major concern for large industries in the country, the ICCIMA portal reported.

Speaking in a meeting with Deputy Majlis speaker Abdolreza Mesri, Kashefi said: “Over the past few years, energy supply has become a major challenge for large industries and has greatly increased their production costs.”

This challenge has significantly affected large and high-consuming industries which are the main drivers of the country's economy, the official added.

He noted that during the hot season's peak consumption period such industries are faced with limited energy supply.

Kashefi, who is also the head of the Kermanshah Chamber of Commerce and Industries, criticized the fact that most of the times industries are the government's priority for imposing energy consumption restrictions, emphasizing: “The sum of these situations has greatly increased the cost of production.”

Annual non-oil export from Khuzestan province increases 75%

TEHRAN- The value of non-oil export from Khuzestan province, in the southwest of Iran, rose 75 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year, an official with the province's customs department announced.

Gholamreza Balouti-Mirza said that 17 million tons of commodities worth \$677 million were exported from the province in the past year, indicating also 12 percent growth in terms of weight year on year.

He named clinker, petrochemicals,

service goods for factories, and vegetables as the main exported items and the United Araba Emirates (UAE), China, Brazil and European countries as the major export destinations.

The official further announced that 20.56 million tons of commodities worth \$10.197 billion have been imported to the country through Khuzestan province in the past year, indicating 51 percent rise in value and 18 percent growth in weight year on year.

He said that 99 percent of the

province's imported goods were basic goods, which include corn, oil, rice, wheat and factory raw materials, imported from Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and other countries.

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.

saying: “All industrial units in Kermanshah together are not consuming as energy as some large-scale industrial units in developed provinces, and therefore a single recipe should not be applied for all industries in all provinces.”

In the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the government has been following new strategies in recent years to manage consumption and lessen the electricity losses in the national grid.

Back in September 2021, the government announced a plan for allowing major industries to build power plants and use the generated electricity during peak consumption periods.

Based on the mentioned plan, such industrial firms would fund the construction of over 10,000 megawatts (MW) capacity of new power plants to meet their own electricity needs.

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.

New Pakistan government consists of seasoned politicians: expert

From page 1 ► the Pakistani Parliament. Imran Khan's party i.e. Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf never had a simple majority and depended upon different allies and individual members of the Parliament. The allied parties like MQM, Balochistan Awami Party, etc. decided to part ways with him. His own party saw around two dozen defections. This explains why he lost the majority in the 342-seat National Assembly.

As far as economic policies are concerned, Imran Khan had bad luck. The petroleum prices in the international market continuously saw an upward surge. Pakistan, being dependent on oil imports, had to pay more. Consequently, there remained pressure on the exchequer. Covid-19 too caused high inflation. The consistent rise in the prices made him unpopular among the masses.

Imran Khan accused Washington of being involved in a conspiracy against his government, while the White House rejects such a claim. What do you think?

During his last days, Imran Khan kept on accusing Washington of putting pressure on a regime change in Pakistan. His argument is based on the communication of Pakistan's former Ambassador to Washington. Pa-



kistan's security agencies investigated and did not find any conspiracy. But Khan is keeping his political strategy based on the said conspiracy.

How do you see the future of Pakistan after the ouster of Imran Khan? Is Pakistan moving towards instability?

There is no doubt that the political temperature in Pakistan is very high. But it cannot be termed instability. The new cabinet was sworn in Tuesday morning. Most of the incoming min-

isters are seasoned politicians and have experience running the government in the past. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif himself

has rich experience in running three times in the largest province of Punjab. Punjab province has more than 100 million population. Secondly, all institutions under the Constitution of Pakistan are working very well within their domains. It appears quite premature to assume instability of any kind.

Imran Khan draws support from the youth, the urban population, etc.

What are Imran Khan's options to confront political rivals and foes? Legal process or streets?

Legal processes and streets are open to anyone in Pakistan. But Imran Khan has been ousted through a legal option. He is now openly criticizing the highest judicial body in the rallies. It appears that Imran Khan, for the time being, is banking on the streets. However, he also announced finding a case against the Chief Election Commissioner in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Who are the main supporters of Imran Khan? Can he count on his social base while the army is reluctant to support him?

Pakistan's Army has time and again, during the recent crisis, announced to remain apolitical. The non-partisan approach of the Pakistan Army is not liked by Imran Khan and his supporters. Imran Khan claims to have a large following in Pakistan. But the by-election in almost a dozen of constituencies last year as well as the grass-root election in the Cantonment Board saw his party facing a landslide defeat. But Imran Khan still getting good responses from his supporters in the rallies. He draws support from the youth, the urban population, etc.

Quds Day manifests humanity and sacred resistance

from page 1 ► The Zionist regime is considered as the violator of the fundamental rights including the right to self-determination of Palestinians and the main element of permanent insecurity in the region. There are many reasons to believe so; the Zionist regime breaches the international law and regulations as well as human rights and takes mad actions such as imposing collective punishment, blockading Gaza, completing the West Bank separation wall and evicting and displacing more than 5.7 million Palestinians; the Zionist regime assassinates Palestinian and other Arab and Muslim commanders and soldiers, destroys Palestinian houses and farmlands, Judaizes the al-Quds, and promotes and continues settlement constructions in occupied territories; Zionists enforce curfew on the Palestinian citizens of al-Quds and revoke the identification and permanent residence cards of Palestinians (in violation of international rules and agreements especially Article 43 of the Hague Convention and the Fourth Geneva Convention); moreover, the Zionist regime adopted the "nation-state of the Jewish people" bill in Knesset in 2018 and is separating the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

While the criminal and occupation-oriented logic of the kid-killer Zionist regime in the past seven decades has produced nothing but the continuation of occupation, murder, racism and dissension in the region, we regretfully are witnessing that a number of Muslim states have closed their eyes on the persistent crimes of the Zionist regime and have fallen into the trap of the Western-Zionist axis and have committed a historical but reversible and amendable mistake. Unfortunately, normalization of relations of some Arab and Muslim states with the Quds-occupying regime has emboldened the Zionists to expand their hostility. The recent desecration and atrocities of the Zionists in al-Aqsa Mosque testify to such emboldening. The satanic Western-Zionist conspiracy aims to hatch differences among the Muslims and has undoubtedly targeted the unity and solidarity of

the Muslim world in supporting Palestine.

The Zionist regime is regarded as the main source of insecurity and threat to regional and international peace and stability and represents the biggest violator of human rights in the world. The Quds-occupying regime is the only regime in the region which owns tens of nuclear warheads and avoids joining the International Atomic Energy Agency and related safeguards. Against this reality, the West and self-proclaimed Western defenders of human rights, in the past years, have continued military-political supports to the Zionist regime without any restriction. For example, we see how Americans, with double standards, veto resolutions against this regime in the United Nations, Human Rights Council, UNESCO and other international organizations. Washington has used its veto power at least 40 times to secure the interests of the Zionist regime. This per se suggests the sort of bias and partisan orientation of the Western policies in support of the Zionist regime and ignoring the fundamental rights of the Palestinians. The international community shoulders a heavy responsibility in this connection and must end its long-term silence and inaction and guarantee the termination of occupation and realization of the right to self-determination and human rights for the people of Palestine.

The "Saif al-Quds (Sword of al-Quds) Operation" in support of the al-Aqsa Mosque dealt a massive blow to the forged Israeli regime. In particular, this stage is a new beginning for the unity of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Occupied Territories of 1948, Palestinian camps and all the Palestinians across the globe.

Zionist occupiers and their global advocates must know that the determination of resistance will never be tremulous and Islamic and national resistance will continue to exist in various types and forms to support the suppressed people of Palestine. Without doubt, Islamic resistance against the Zionist occupation and diversion in occupied territories, Lebanon, Syria and other Muslim states would pave the grounds for

terminating this diversion and purulent gland. As the "Saif al-Quds Operation" indicated, the capacity and capabilities of the Palestinian resistance are strengthening on a daily basis.

I would like to commemorate the memory of the dignified martyred leaders of resistance such as the great general of resistance and liberation of the holy Quds, Haj Qassem Soleimani, who made continued efforts and wise decisions to fertilize the plant of resistance in so eloquent manner that the resistance movement now constitutes the main pillar of and is pioneer in all effective actions against Zionism and in support of the oppressed.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would spare no efforts, like the past, in supporting the legitimate and usurped rights of the Palestinian nation. On the basis of the political and democratic plan registered by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Secretariate of the United Nations, the settlement of the issue of Palestine would be possible only through ending occupation and holding a referendum with the presence of the main inhabitants of the land of Palestine and all refugees to determine their own destiny. The return of Palestinian refugees to their motherland and holding a national referendum among the original people of this land to shape their destiny and the type of political system is the most effective solution to resolve this crisis. Based on this proposal, Muslims, Jews and Christians of Palestinian descent should be bale to choose the type of legal system that is going to govern their destiny and benefit from its rights freely and equally. This plan, which has been presented based on the principles of democracy and international law as recognized by all governments and nations, could definitely replace the previous failed schemes.

In conclusion, I would like to ask all the people of Iran and other Muslims in the world as well as freedom seekers and awakened consciences to participate gloriously in the ceremonies and rallies across the globe to mark the World Quds Day to commemorate this great day and express solidarity with the suppressed people of Palestine.



evacuation of civilians have failed.

During the meeting, Guterres criticized Russia's military action in Ukraine as a flagrant violation of its neighbor's territorial integrity. He also urged Russia to allow the evacuation of civilians trapped in the steel mill.

Putin responded by claiming that the Russian forces had offered humanitarian corridors but said the

Ukrainian defenders of the plant were using civilians as shields and not allowing them to leave.

Before meeting the Russian president, Guterres had earlier talked with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and told him he was concerned about reports of possible war crimes in Ukraine and that independent investigations are needed.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal

from page 1 ► What's not natural is the amount America is spending on weapons. What's also not natural is the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal.

It is worth highlighting SIPRI's latest research on U.S. nuclear weapons.

According to the prominent independent research institute, as of January 2021, the U.S. maintained a stockpile of at least 3800 nuclear warheads.

Approximately 1800 of these, consisting of about 1700 strategic and 100 tactical warheads, were deployed on aircraft, ballistic missiles, and submarines.

In addition to the 3800 nuclear warheads, about 2000 were held in reserve, and around 1750 retired warheads were awaiting dismantlement (250 fewer than the estimate for 2020), which means Washington as of early 2021 had a total of at least 5550 nuclear warheads.

However, as SIPRI notes, these estimates are based on information made available publicly by the U.S. on its nuclear stockpile.

In 2010, for the first time, the U.S. reportedly declassified the entire history of its nuclear weapon stockpile size.

However, since 2019 there has been a lack of transparency by the Pentagon on this sensitive global security matter.

SIPRI says this was evidenced by the fact that in 2020, as had been the case in 2019, the administration of former President Donald Trump declined to declassify the number of nuclear weapons in stockpile and the number of retired warheads that had been dismantled over the year.

To make matters worse, the refusal to declassify was not explained and provided political cover for some other nuclear armed states to be less transparent.

The end result made an accurate independent assessment of the U.S. nuclear arsenal significantly harder, which means the figures can be higher.

These figures also do not count warheads stored at warplane bomber bases.

So what do we know before the U.S. began hiding its information again from the public domain?

U.S. nuclear offensive weapons include heavy bomber warplanes, land based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and Sub-surface ballistic nuclear, a nuclear-powered submarine carrying and launching ballistic missiles armed with nuclear weapons (SSBNs).

These forces, together known as the triad, changed little during 2020. SIPRI estimates that a total of 3570 nuclear warheads are assigned to the triad, of which an estimated 1700 warheads are deployed on missiles and at bomber bases.

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) operates a fleet of at least 169 heavy bombers, of which 66 are capable of firing nuclear weapons.

The B2A heavy bomber can deliver gravity bombs and the B52H heavy bomber can fire air launched nuclear cruise missiles.

SIPRI estimates that almost 850 war heads are assigned to strategic bombers, of which about 300 are deployed at bomber bases and ready for delivery on short notice.

Both the B2As and B52Hs are undergoing modernization intended to improve their ability to receive and transmit secure nuclear mission data.

This includes the ability to communicate with the Advanced Extreme High Frequency (AEHF) satellite network used by the US president and military leadership to transmit launch orders and manage nuclear operations.

The development of the next generation-long range strike bomber, known as the B21 Raider, is well underway and the first two test aircraft are being constructed

The B21 will be capable of delivering two types of nuclear weapons: the guided nuclear gravity bomb, which is nearing fullscale production and will also be deliverable from shorter range nonstrategic aircraft as well as a longer range nuclear which is in development.

The new B21 bomber is scheduled to enter service in the mid-2020s.



The number of U.S. nuclear bomber bases with nuclear weapon storage capacity is expected to increase from two as of January 2021 to five by the early 2030s.

USAF is planning to acquire at least 100 (but possibly as many as 145) B21 bombers by the mid-2030s.

As for landbased nuclear missiles and as of January 2021, the U.S. deployed 400 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in 450 silos across three missile wings.

The 50 empty silos are kept in a state of readiness and can be reloaded with stored missiles if necessary. Each Minuteman III ICBM is armed with one warhead.

SIPRI estimates there are at least 800 warheads assigned to the ICBM force, of which 400 are deployed on the missiles.

USAF awarded a \$13.3 billion contract to upgrade the nuclear-armed ICBMs with the purpose of "increased accuracy, extended range, and improved reliability."

SIPRI notes Washington has yet to publicly provide a rationale for why these enhanced capabilities are needed for the ICBM mission?

The U.S. Navy, meanwhile, operates a fleet of 14 Ohio-class SSBNs, of which 12 are normally considered to be operational and two are typically undergoing refueling and overhaul at any given time.

Each Ohio-class SSBN can carry up to 20 Trident II D5 submarine launched nuclear ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

Since 2017, the U.S. Navy has been replacing these SLBMs with an enhanced version. The upgrade is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

U.S. tactical nuclear forces include nuclear bombs delivered by several types of shortrange fighterbomber aircraft, as well as potentially a future nuclear armed SLCM.

The U.S. has one basic type of airdelivered tactical weapon in its stockpile, the B61 gravity bomb, which exists in two versions.

SIPRI estimates that the U.S. deploys approximately 100 of the bombs for potential use by fighterbomber aircraft at six air bases in five other member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): Kleine Brogel in Belgium; Bushel in Germany; Aviano and Ghedi in Italy; Volkel in the Netherlands; and ?ncirlik in Turkey.

The remaining B61 bombs are thought to be stored at Kirtland AFB in New Mexico for potential use by U.S. warplanes in support of allies outside Europe, including in East Asia.

The U.S. is also close to completing the development of the B6112 guided nuclear bomb, which will replace all existing versions of the B61 (both strategic and tactical).

Delivery is expected to take place this year. The new version is equipped with a guided tail kit that enables it to hit targets more accurately, meaning that it could be used with a lower yield and potentially produce less radioactive fallout.

Experts say the U.S.'s very existence is based on launching and instigating military conflicts around the globe yet has a disturbing stockpile of nuclear warheads.

And the country has used and tested nuclear weapons on too many occasions, including 67 times against the natives of the Martial Islands.

How much of a danger does the nuclear-armed U.S. pose to future global security and co-existence?

Meanwhile, consecutive U.S. administrations allege without any evidence Iran (which has not launched a military conflict against another country for hundreds of years) seeks a nuclear weapons program, despite the U.S. intelligence community begging to differ.

In 2019, the White House publicly clashed with the U.S. intelligence community's own assessment that Iran is not pursuing a nuclear weapons program.

Putin tells Guterres he still has hope for negotiated agreement with Ukraine

Russian President Vladimir Putin told visiting UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that he still hopes for negotiations to end the conflict in Ukraine.

"Despite the fact that the military operation is ongoing, we still hope that we will be able to reach agreements on the diplomatic track," Putin told Guterres in televised remarks after their meeting at the Kremlin on April 26.

Putin noted that Russian and Ukrainian negotiators made what he described as a "serious breakthrough" in their talks in Istanbul last month. But he said that efforts had been derailed by claims of atrocities committed by Russian forces in the town of Bucha, outside Kyiv.

"There was a provocation in the village of Bucha, which the Russian Army had nothing to do with," Putin said.

Putin also agreed "in principle" to UN and Red Cross involvement in the evacuation of civilians from the Azovstal plant in Ukraine's Mariupol, the United Nations said in a statement.

"Follow-on discussions will be had with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Russian Defense Ministry," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement after Putin's meeting with Guterres.

Recent attempts to set up humanitarian corridors for the

Mirza Kuchak Khan tour held in Gilan



TEHRAN – The first package tour that tells the story of Mirza Kuchak Khan, a legendary freedom fighter and Iranian national hero of the early twentieth century, was held in Rasht, northern Gilan province, on Tuesday.

In understanding the importance of this prominent figure from Gilan, the province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department has started to organize tours to recall the memory of this national hero, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The tours aim to give a proper introduction to Mirza Kuchak Khan’s personality and the Jangal Movement, as well as to visit Mirza Kuchak Khan’s house, his tomb, and some other important places, Vali Jahani said, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

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

and the occupation of Iran by Anglo-Russian and Ottoman troops.

The uprising started in 1914 and remained active until 1921 when the movement was defeated.

It laid the ground for a popular movement in the northern part of the country. In this period, the Iranian people were grappling with social unrest, anarchy, political turmoil, abject poverty, famine, and numerous other problems.

After Reza Khan took power in 1920, he issued a highly classified document requesting high-ranking security officials to deliver Mirza Kuchak to him, dead or alive, offering a large reward to whoever did so.

This secret document shows that the king of Iran was desperately seeking to suppress the Jangal Movement as soon as possible to crack down on the new freedom movements

mobilized in different parts of Iran.

Mirza and his companion named Gaouk, a Russian-German revolutionary adventurer, fleeing from the central government forces both died of frostbite in the Talesh mountains near Masal on December 2, 1921.

The tours aim to give a proper introduction to Mirza Kuchak Khan’s personality and the Jangal Movement.

Moveable properties in Hamedan approved as national heritage

TEHRAN – A selection of 12 historical objects in Hamedan province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Wednesday in separate official letters it submitted to the governor-general of the west-central province, ISNA reported.

Stone inscriptions, silver and earthenware utensils, and historical manuscripts were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world’s greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamedan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.



About 1220 Hamedan was destroyed by the Mongols. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabitants were massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy.

Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan’s attractions to name a few.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world’s greatest cities.

Police arrest illegal diggers in Khorasan Razavi

TEHRAN – Iranian police have recently arrested four illegal excavators and antique smugglers in Sarakhs, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage has announced.

The accused people were traced and finally arrested after police received reports from cultural heritage aficionados about their misdeeds, Mohammad-Ali Modir said on Wednesday.

The culprits were handed over to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

The provincial capital of Mashhad attracts hundreds of pilgrims each day from various

Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe; the raison d’être is the striking massive shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam.

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted across Mashhad. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded. The metropolis is also a good place to buy top handwoven rugs and carpets, and it’s a staging post for travel to Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and little-touristic Khorasan regions.

Windmills of Sistan-Baluchestan one step closer to being World Heritage

TEHRAN – Local authorities of Sistan-Baluchestan are trying to prepare ancient windmills in the southeastern province for a possible UNESCO registration.

We are preparing a dossier to have Asbads (windmills) inscribed on the UNESCO list as the province’s fourth World Heritage Site, the provincial tourism chief Alireza Jalalzai said on Wednesday.

With 11.5 percent of the country’s area, this province has a lot of potentials, the official added.

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

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

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

Ancient Iranian windmills

Iran seeks UNESCO recognition for arrays of its ancient windmills that can be



found in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Khorasan Razavi.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has almost completed the necessary preparations for a chain of ancient vertical-axis windmills; however, the documentation and mapping works have not been completed yet.

The documentation and mapping projects entail various architectural plans, cross-section geometry, photogrammetric photographs, and their proprietorship. Official reports suggest all documenting and mapping stages are being carried out based on the UNESCO standards and criteria.

The development of Asbads took place due to the scarcity of water resources and continuous 120-day winds, which annually sweep through the east and southeast of the Iranian plateau from late May to late September. In fact, wood, mud, and brick were the main construction materials for the two-story windmills.

Britannica says the earliest known references to windmills are to a Persian millwright in 644 CE and windmills in Seistan [Sistan], Iran, in 915 CE.

According to the UN cultural body, Robert Forbes, a technology historian, stresses the point that the Islamic era windmill was the invention of Iranian. He writes: “this invention which was initially an exclusive device for

Sistan-Baluchestan is home to two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

Centuries-old caravanserai to undergo restoration

TEHRAN – Safavid-era (1501-1736) Sadrabad Caravanserai in the central province of Qom is projected to undergo some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

A budget of five billion rials (\$18,000) has been allocated to the project, CHTN quoted Alireza Arjmandi as saying on Wednesday.

The project involves strengthening the historical structure as well as repairing damaged parts, such as walls and rooftop, the official added.

The historical inn was inscribed on the national heritage list in 1984.

The second-holiest city in the country after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools). Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage to the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

Possible UNESCO tag for Iranian caravanserais

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 caravanserais 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 as well as historical and cultural values.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Rehnan historical bath is built in Zand dynasty by Haj Aqa Mohammad Renani.

It is 1467 square meter and consists of a big and a small bathhouse, so it is called “twin bath”.

In this bath - unlike other

baths- the platform for changing cloths is in the middle and corridors are in the sides.

All of the walls in dressing



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.

A typical caravansary consists of a square or rectangular plan centered around a courtyard with only one entrance and arrangements for defense if necessary. Whether fortified or not, it at least provided security against beasts of prey and attacks by brigands.

The earliest caravanserais in Iran were built during the Achaemenid era (550 –330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais across the country.

For many travelers, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

Rehnan historical bath in Iran’s Isfahan

It is 1467 square meter and consists of a big and a small bathhouse, so it is called “twin bath”.

All of the walls in dressing

Iran and Afghanistan, turned into an important source of energy all over the Islamic territories in the 12th century, and not only it was used for the grinding of grains and operation of water pumps, but also the chopping of sugarcanes and other purposes.

Moreover, the UNESCO website says that such vertical-axis windmills were taken to China during the Mongol reign.

Furthermore, the know-how of windmills was taken to other Islamic territories and was used in Egypt as the main source for the chopping and grinding of sugarcanes. In the 11th century, windmills reached Spain, the Islands of the Aegean Sea, and Portugal.

Technically speaking, unlike European windmills, the Iranian design is powered by blades arrayed on a vertical axis in which the wind power is directly translated down without the need for any gears found on the horizontal-axis mills.

UNESCO says Asbad is a smart technique to grind grains, a technique that goes back to ancient times when the people living in the eastern parts of Iran, in an attempt to adapt themselves to nature and transform environmental obstacles into opportunities, managed to invent it.

Constructed of clay, wood, and straw, those ancient gears which are inherited from preceding generations, are perched on a cliff overlooking the village, milling grain for centuries.

According to the latest official data, a total of 374 Asbads have been identified so far mostly in the eastern wing of the country, but not all of them in faultless conditions.

Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It’s not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay! You can also conceive the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday.

It is not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their actual usage.

However, a couple of years ago, the Iran tourism ministry introduced a scheme to keep them alive and profitable; tens of caravanserais are ceded to the private investors for better maintenance. Now, some are exclusively renovated, and repurposed into boutique hotels and tourist lodgings.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

hall are decorated by Eslimi and geometrical designs in white, black and red color that it creates a beautiful and relaxing perspective by glint of the sun.

Govt. highlights developing intl. health relations

TEHRAN – Developing international health relations with different countries and organizations is one of the government's strategies, Health Minister Bahram Eimollahi said on Tuesday.

He made the remarks in a symposium with a group of foreign ambassadors and representatives of international organizations and agencies in Iran.

Now, our communication is not operational at the management level, which can be raised to higher levels and efficient results can be achieved by creating specialized working groups in the fields of education, research, and technology.

In this regard, by forming a bank of scientific resources and ideas, we can share our valuable experiences.

Fortunately, the young generation of Iran has reached great achievements by creating knowledge-based firms. We are ready to increase the level of cooperation in this field by defining joint projects.

"Health affects all political, social and economic dimensions of



societies," he said, adding, therefore, we suggest to all foreign embassies to plan and act specifically for health by appointing a health deputy in their system.

Iran is ready to cooperate with other countries in holding international conferences in the field of health, he concluded.

Health development

Based on innovative indicators

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

The health technology development is evaluated by the Global Innovation Index with seven indicators, including institutional structure, human capital and research, infrastructure, market and business complexity, technological knowledge, and creativity, he explained.

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries.

Iran-China joint scientific program enters new phase

TEHRAN – The Silk Road Science Fund (SRSF), an organization operated jointly by the Iranian Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has launched the seventh edition of a program to provide support for joint scientific activities by Iranian and Chinese researchers.

The SRSF has issued a call for joint projects from the Iranian and Chinese researchers and technical experts that will receive support from the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) – a department of the Iranian Vice Presidency for Science and Technology – and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The program will sponsor joint research and development projects and hold joint workshops between the two countries' researchers.

A maximum of six joint research projects will receive approval to benefit from the fund's support in the fields of water science and advanced materials within the framework of research and development projects.

The call for projects will be open until June 19, as the Iranian researchers can submit their

joint proposals in the Silk Road Science Fund's online system.

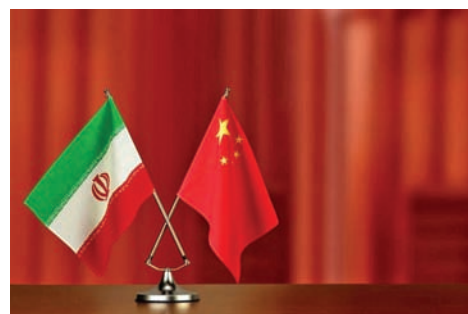
The final results on the projects qualified to receive support from the fund will be announced in early October, and the joint research projects will officially kick off in January 2023.

Science diplomacy at highest level

Data from the Scopus International Citation Database show that Iran's scientific diplomacy has reached more than 34 percent since the beginning of 2021, the highest level in the past 20 years.

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and build constructive international partnerships. It is a form of new diplomacy and has become an umbrella term to describe a number of formal or informal technical, research-based, academic, or engineering exchanges, within the general field of international relations.

Comparing the rate of 2020 with 2019, Iran with a growth of 12.5 percent and with a slight difference from India has gained second place in the world in terms of the growth of world science diplomacy, Mohammad Javad Dehghani, head of the



Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), said.

In 2011, the share of Iranian articles with international participation was about 16.5 percent, which increased to 19.7 percent in 2016 and gradually in the following years, so that in 2020 and 2021, reached 30.5 and 34.2 percent, respectively, he added.

The share of Iranian articles with international participation has had significant growth of 209 percent during an eight-year period (2013-2020), becoming the Islamic world's leading country in science diplomacy, according to the Scopus International Citation Database.

Technological innovations supported to develop smart agriculture

TEHRAN – The Biotechnology Development Council of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology supports biotechnology projects and innovative ideas in the field of smart agriculture.

Smart agriculture is the sustainability of food security focused on providing the agricultural industry with the infrastructure to leverage advanced technology – including big data, the cloud, and the internet of things (IoT) – for tracking, monitoring, automating, and analyzing operations.

With the participation of knowledge-based companies, smart agriculture is to be accelerated in the country, and innovative ideas and plans of individuals and companies applying to achieve this goal will be supported.

Biotechnology Development Council called on all companies and teams with innovative ideas or plans that can help promote the concept of smart agriculture, and food se-

Some 30 knowledge-based companies are working to integrate the agricultural industry with innovation and creativity by producing 120 technological products.

curity to cooperate.

Topics such as "Agriculture Management, Water and Soil Chemistry", "Pesticide Consumption Recommendation Platform", "Agriculture and Horticulture Management Platform", "Livestock and Poultry Management Platform" and "Aquaculture, Shrimp and Fisheries Management Platform" are given priority.

Iranian knowledge-based companies have so far produced 120 technological products in the field of agriculture, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Some 30 knowledge-based companies are working to integrate the agricultural industry with innovation and creativity by producing 120 technological products so that the new generation of agriculture will be realized in the country.

With the growing population, declining food and agricultural resources, and declining food security around the world, countries need to move toward using modern agriculture to help speed up crop production.

This work covers everything from the cultivation to the harvest and sale of crops and can play an effective role in the development of the new generation of agriculture and the promotion of productivity and sustainability of crops.

Agriculture and nanotech

According to the latest statistics, 265 compa-

Tehran, Ankara seek enhanced environmental co-op

From page 1 ► has created many problems for our citizens, and we hope to move towards mitigation with the regional integration and convergence, he noted.

To deal with the environmental challenges of the region and the world, it is important to expand interactions and cooperation with neighboring countries, including Turkey, he highlighted.

Örs also for his part said that Turkey will do its best to form this platform of cooperation and to be present in the future with a more comprehensive plan, IRNA reported.

The issue of the environment knows no borders and there must always be continuous interaction and cooperation, the Turkish government welcomes interactions and collaborations with Iran in this regard, he emphasized.

Iran's environmental approach

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman in the south.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), has praised Iran's approach toward environmental protection.

Environmental measures and protection of natural resources, waste management, and other measures show Iran's environmental approach, she further noted.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, human activities have led to alarming degradation of ecosystems, deletion of genes, species, and biological capabilities; Human threats to biodiversity have accelerated the most over the past 50 years over the entire history of human life.

Out of 1,300 species of animals in the country, 130 of which are endangered and threatened, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, said in December 2021.

Efforts to protect natural resources, wildlife, and ecosystems in Iran

Part 2

Pollution

In the major cities of Iran air pollution has become an accepted part of everyday life, and the media have repeatedly stated that Tehran is among the most polluted cities in the world. Emission inventories demonstrate that 70 percent of Tehran's air pollution is from motor vehicles.

Structural measures to improve traffic, the use of natural gas in homes, industries, and vehicles (especially taxis, and the expansion of public transport to include a subway and additional buses) were among the measures proposed, begun, or implemented in the mid- to late-1970s.

The increased pollution of the 1980s created political pressure for remedial action, and by the early 1990s some of these measures had been undertaken;

however, the project for the conversion of taxis to gasoline has yet to be broadly implemented.

But the capital's population had doubled in the previous dozen years to about 9 million, and abating the truly hazardous pollution had become increasingly difficult. More than a million pre-revolutionary vehicles were still on the road; simply requiring proper servicing of these vehicles would probably reduce pollution by more than the sum of all other efforts.

Although industrial air pollution is so far only a problem near particular plants, it threatens to become critical on a national level if existing regulations are not enforced and standards of monitoring and site selection are not firmly imposed.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued



nies are active in the field of agriculture, biotechnology, and the food industry and have produced knowledge-based products.

Agriculture is one of the fields in which nanotechnology has been able to develop, as over 50 widely used nanoproducts have been launched in the agricultural sector of Iran.

Although the use and effectiveness of nanotechnology are often associated with future

advances in medical and chemical technology, its usage is far subtler and wide.

The potential of nanotechnology in agriculture is high, but there are still a few things to consider, such as increasing the scale of production processes and reducing costs, as well as assessing production risk. Nanotechnology use in consumer products has also raised some ethical and social concerns in some countries, from environmental health and safety to consumer perceptions and intellectual property rights.

Currently, over 7,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran gets ready for two-week coronavirus closure

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control will implement a plan, according to which all occupations, except for emergency services and basic food suppliers, will be closed for two weeks in more than 100 cities in an attempt to curb the coronavirus.

Alireza Reisi, a spokesman for the Headquarters, said that "the plan will go into effect on November 21."

The plan divides cities into three levels of alert, according to which, if a city is in a state of high alert, all other occupations will be closed, except for the most essential jobs, which are related to the provision of basic necessities, security, and health.

اجرای طرح تعطیلی دو هفته ای سراسری برای مقابله با کرونا هفته آینده

ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا در ایران طرحی را اجرا خواهد کرد که بر مبنای آن بیش از ۱۰۰ شهر از جمله تهران با وضعیت هشدار بالای کرونا به مدت دو هفته تعطیل خواهند بود.

به گزارش ایسنا، علیرضا ریسی سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: این طرح از اول آذرماه آغاز می شود. این طرح شهرها را به سه سطح هشدار تقسیم بندی می کند که بر اساس آن، اگر شهری در وضعیت سطح هشدار بالا قرار گیرد به جز مشاغل خیلی ضروری که مربوط به تهیه مایحتاج ضروری مردم، امنیت و سلامت می شوند، بقیه مشاغل همه تعطیل هستند.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON APRIL 27

New cases	1,009
New deaths	17
Total cases	7,219,433
Total deaths	141,041
New hospitalized patients	251
Patients in critical condition	1,043
Total recovered patients	6,975,147
Diagnostic tests conducted	50,965,869
Doses of vaccine injected	148,788,615

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is no greater wealth than wisdom, no greater poverty than ignorance; no greater heritage than culture and no greater support than consultation.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:13:02 Evening: 20:07 Dawn: 4:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:15 (tomorrow)

Omar Khayyam: As mathematician

Part 1

Three mathematical treatises of Omar Khayyam have come down to us: (1) a commentary on Euclid's Elements; (2) an essay on the division of the quadrant of a circle; (3) a treatise on algebra; he also wrote (4) the treatise on the extraction of the nth root of the numbers, which is not extant.

(1) The commentary on Euclid's Elements

Khayyam's commentary on the difficulties of certain postulates of Euclid's work (Resala fi sharh ma ashkala men mosadarat ketab Oqlides) was completed in the end of December 1077.

In this treatise Khayyam intends to amend and rectify what he considers to be the most important difficulties found in the Elements of Geometry, or simply the Elements, a work in thirteen books attributed to Euclid of Alexandria (fl. ca. 300 BCE).

The first part of Khayyam's commentary deals with the theory of parallel lines, the second with the concepts of ratio and proportionality, and the third with the compounding of ratios.

Theory of parallels: Euclid (Oqlides) had expounded the theory of parallels in the first book of the Elements. In it he defined parallel lines as "straight lines which, being in the same plane and being produced indefinitely in both directions, do not meet one another in either direction".

Yet an important part of the theory was based on a statement that Euclid had postulated in the beginning of the same book, that is, the Parallel Postulate: "That, if a straight line falling on two straight lines makes the interior angles on the same side less than two right angles, the two straight lines, if produced indefinitely, meet on that side on which are the angles less than the two right angles".

For nearly two thousand years, mathematicians were dissatisfied with this statement, which they always considered as a proposition to be demonstrated rather than a postulate to be admitted.

The first criticisms of the Euclidean theory of parallels have been preserved in the Commentary on the First Book of Euclid's Elements by the Neo-Platonist philosopher Proclus Lycius (410-85).

Lycius remarks that Posidonius of Rhodes (135-51 BCE) had defined parallel lines as "lines in a single plane which neither converge nor diverge but have all the perpendiculars equal that are drawn to one of them from points on the other", that is, as equidistant straight lines.

Proclus also mentions an attempt by Ptolemy (fl. ca. 125-61) to prove Proposition I.29 of the Elements, the first proposition in which Euclid had made use of the Parallel Postulate, but without resorting to it.

Proclus himself attempts to prove this postulate. He says that anyone who wants to prove it "must accept in advance such an axiom as Aristotle [De Caelo 1.5.271b 28 ff.] used in establishing the finiteness of the cosmos: If from a single point two straight lines making an angle are produced indefinitely, the interval between them when produced indefinitely will exceed any finite magnitude".

By means of this axiom, Proclus is then able to prove the Parallel Postulate, but assuming that the distance between two parallel lines is of a finite magnitude.

In a passage preserved in the commentary of Abul-Abbas Fazl ibn Hatem Nayrizi (fl. ca. 287-900) on the Elements, the Greek philosopher and commentator Simplicius

(first half of the 6th century) quotes a proof of the Parallel Postulate made by his colleague Aghanis, possibly the Athenian philosopher Agapius, who flourished about 511.

Aghanis first defines parallel lines as "those in one plane [such that] if they are extended with an endless extension, without limit, in both directions, together, the distance that is between them is always one distance".

This definition of parallel lines as equidistant straight lines will then enable him to prove Proposition I.29 of the Elements, as well as the Parallel Postulate.

The first Arabic mathematician who dealt with the Euclidean theory of parallels is Abbas ibn Sa'id Jawhari (fl. ca. 215/830), in a treatise, now lost, devoted to Euclid's Elements.

But his attempt to prove the Parallel Postulate has been preserved by Nasir ad-Din Tusi (1201-74) in his treatise al-Resala al-shafia an al-shakk fi al-khotut al-motawazia) that relieves from the doubt regarding parallel lines. Jawhari notably proves that parallel lines are equidistant; but he assumes implicitly that if a straight line falling on two straight lines makes the alternate angles equal to one another, then any other straight line which falls on the two straight lines will also make the alternate angles equal to one another. He then proves the Parallel Postulate.

After him, Abul-Hasan Sabet ibn Qorra (826-901) made two attempts to prove the Parallel Postulate. In his treatise on the proof of Euclid's celebrated Postulate (Maqala fi borhan al-mosadara al-mashhura men Oqlides), he admits as a principle that if two straight lines cut by another straight line diverge in one direction, they will converge in the other direction.

This will enable him to prove that in case the alternate angles are equal, the two straight lines will be equidistant. He then proves the Parallel Postulate by means of the so-called "Axiom of Archimedes."

In the treatise on "The fact that two lines produced according to less than two right angles will meet (Fi anna al-khattayn eza okhreja ela aqall men zawiatayn qa'ematayn eltaqaya), Sabet ibn Qorra introduces the concept of motion.

He notably admits as a principle that any point on a solid that moves according to a uniform and rectilinear translation will describe a straight line. This enables him to produce two equidistant straight lines.

Abu Ali Hasan ibn Hasan ibn Haysam (d. after Sept. 1040) defines parallel straight lines through the concept of equidistance. In order to achieve this, he attempts to prove that if a finite straight line moves perpendicularly to a fixed straight line, then its extremity will describe a straight line parallel to the fixed line; this will enable him to prove the Parallel Postulate.

Khayyam considers that the attempts of his predecessors to prove the Parallel Postulate were not satisfactory, in that each one of them had postulated something that was by no means easier to admit than the Postulate itself.

He elaborates in particular on Ibn al-Haysam's attempt, rejecting categorically the introduction of the concept of motion into geometry.

Khayyam's intention is to prove eight propositions, notably Proposition I.29 of the Elements, and the Parallel Postulate. What makes his attempt particularly interesting is his philosophical position on this matter.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Top Iranian scholar Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodushan dies at 97

TEHRAN – Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodushan, a top Iranian poet, writer, critic and lawyer, died on Monday at his home in Canada at the age of 97.

"He left this earthly life yesterday," his widow, Shirin Bayani, told the Persian service of ISNA on Tuesday.

"He had been weak with complications related to old age over the past five years and departed from us after a two-day illness," she said.

"Mohammad-Ali lived a nice, comfortable and honorable life and left the world very peacefully," she added.

Bayani said that his funeral will be held in Canada based on Islamic traditions.

Born in Nodushan, a town in Yazd Province, he left his hometown for France to study private international law. He then returned home and began a teaching career in law, literary criticism and comparative literature at the University of Tehran.

He spent his life studying the scientific and literary works of Iranian writers and translating books by the world's great writers, all of which have been published in over 50 books.

"Iran's Conscience: Ferdowsi, Rumi, Sadi, Hafiz" is one of his wonderful books. This book covers a series of lectures Eslami Nodushan gave at the Book City Institute in Tehran in the late 1990s.

His studies on Persian poet Hafez are among the most useful sources of information for Persian literature scholars. Among them are "Endless Story of Hafez" and "Contemplation on Hafez".

Some of his massive studies on the Shahnameh (The Book of Kings), the epic masterpiece of the Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi, are contained in the books "The Story of Stories: Rustam and Esfndiar in the Shahnameh" and "Heroes' Death and Life in the

A file photo shows top Iranian scholar Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodushan holding a copy of his autobiography "Days".

Shahnameh".

"Days," his autobiography covering his life story from age 4 to 53, was turned into a bestseller in 2016 when it was first published by the Yazan publishing house.

"Testimony for Progeny", which contains helpful advice for the younger generation in Iran on how to find their ways in life in the future, was published in 2019 and turned out to be his last book.

A street in Tehran's District 6 was named after Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodushan on November 7, 2020, and a bust of the Iranian scholar was set up at the intersection of that street with Vesal Shirazi St.

A boulevard in the central Iranian city of Yazd was also named after Eslami Nodushan at the same time. The City Council in his hometown Nodushan had previously named a square after him.

Asghar Farhadi on jury of 2022 Cannes Film Festival

Director Asghar Farhadi attends the 74th Cannes Film Festival on July 14, 2021, to promote his latest film "A Hero". (Reuters)

TEHRAN – Two-time Oscar-winning director Asghar Farhadi has been selected as a member of the jury for the 75th Cannes Film Festival.

“Radiograph of a Family” wins grand jury prize at Seattle film festival

TEHRAN – Iranian filmmaker Firuzeh Khosrovani's "Radiograph of a Family" has won the grand jury prize in the documentary competition of the 48th Seattle International Film Festival.

In "Radiograph of a Family", which is a co-production of Iran, Switzerland and Norway, Khosrovani investigates her parents' unusual marriage in this documentary steeped in bittersweet history. Hossein, a radiologist, is secular and sophisticated, while his young bride Tayi is a devout Muslim, shocked by her new husband's Western tastes.

Khosrovani creates a poetic portrait of a fraught but loving relationship set against 1960s Switzerland and revolutionary-era Iran using family photos,

"Radiograph of a Family" by Firuzeh Khosravani.

other archival materials, recreated and imagined dialogue, and the geographical dimensions of her childhood home.

Winners of the festival were announced on Sunday as "Klondike", a 2022 Ukrainian drama film directed by Maryna Er Gorbach, received the grand jury prize in the official competition.

The film stars Oxana Cherkashyna as a pregnant woman living near the Ukrainian-Russian border during the War in Donbas and the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

Andrea Brusa and Marco Scotuzzi from Italy won the

women and men by speaking to them of their common wounds and joys. Culture helps the human soul to rise and hope for tomorrow," he added.

Farhadi has been a frequent visitor to the Cannes Film Festival. His latest drama "A Hero" won the Grand Prix (ex aequo) at Cannes 2021.

Starring Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem, his Spanish-set "Everybody Knows" won both the Grand Prix and the François Chalais Prize at Cannes 2018.

The 2022 Cannes Film Festival will take place from May 17 to 28. Saeid Rustai's drama "Leila's Brothers" starring Taraneh Alidoosti and Payman Maadi will be contending for the Palme d'Or in the official completion.

In addition, the Iranian drama "Imagine" will be screened in the 61st edition of La Semaine de la Critique – Cannes Critics' Week, which will be held in Cannes from May 18 to 26 during the Cannes Film Festival.

grand jury prize in the New Directors Competition for their film "Lonely Voices".

In the Audience Awards section, the best film went to "Know Your Place" directed by Zia Mohajerjasi from the USA.

"The Territory", a Brazil-Denmark-USA co-production directed by Alex Pritz was selected as best documentary.

The best short film award in this section was given to "Long Line of Ladies" directed by Reyka Zehtabchi and Shaandiin Tome from the USA.

American actress Dale Dickey won the best performance award for her role in "A Love Song" and the award for best director went to Horacio Gomez Alcala for "Finlandia", a co-production between Spain and Mexico.

Soore Mehr Publication in 178 pages, is the story of many oppressed people who were imprisoned or killed by the Komalah and Democratic parties during the early days of the revolution between Kurdistan and Kermanshah's roads and cities.