# WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM Straight Truth HRANTIN | Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 44th year | No. 14218 Tuesday | MAY 17, 2022 | Ordibehesht 27, 1401 | Shawwal 16, 1443 **Yet Another Attempt** to Jeopardize Vienna

Talks by U.S. Page 3

## Report T Sweden, Finland intend to join NATO in historic policy shift

Since the end of the Second World War, Finland and Sweden, have maintained strict policies of neutrality between Russia and NATO, viewing membership of The North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a provocation to Moscow.

Both Sweden and Finland also took a neutral stance throughout the Cold War.

With Finland already set to hand in its application, Sweden's prime minister Magdalena Andersson is now all but certain to launch a formal application within days.

The developments come despite opposition from Turkey, warnings of retaliation from Russia, and domestic protests against the move in Sweden.

The announcements abandon decades of military non-alignment by the two countries whose governments will now present their proposals to their respective parliaments and are expected to formally submit a joint membership application to the 30-member alliance as soon as the decisions are ratified.

Finnish President Sauli Niinisto hailed the decision as a "historic day" for the Nordic country (which shares an 810-mile - 1,300km - border with Russia) saying "the government's foreign policy committee have agreed that after consulting parliament, Finland will apply for Nato membership,"

Niinisto spoke to his Russian counterpart, Putin, on the phone and informed him that his country aimed to join Nato, in a conversation he described as "direct and straightforward".

According to a readout of the call released by the Kremlin Putin reportedly responded to Niinisto's call by saying Nato membership "would be a mistake, since there is no threat to Finland's security". > Page 5

# Iranian military chief visits Dushanbe

### Iran's annual petchem export stands at over \$15b By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran exported petrochemical products valued at more than \$15 billion in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), the managing director of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) announced.

Morteza Shahmirzaei made the remarks in a press conference held on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022) on Monday.

The official said that of the mentioned \$15 billion petrchem revenues, over \$12.5 billion was injected into the Forex Management Integrated System, locally known as NIMA.

# Iran on par with developed countries in children's health

TEHRAN – Many diseases have been eradicated through mass vaccination programs in Iran, and the children's health is equal to that of developed countries, deputy health minister Kamal Heydari, has said.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Immunization Week 2022, celebrated annually in the last week of April.

With the efforts of all officials and those involved in the development of vaccination, many diseases that were once considered a serious threat to the people's health have now been eliminated, and the health of Iranian children is at the level of developed countries and in some indicators are exceeding the region and the world, he explained.

Eradication of diseases such as rubella, measles, and polio in Iran has been approved by the World Health Organization, he noted, expressing concern over the outbreak of these diseases in some neighboring countries including. Pakistan and Afghanistan.

# Sleep under the stars: where to pitch a tent in Iran

Damavand

Kordestan

gros Mountains.

TEHRAN – Many people travel to Iran to cheaper than other accommodation centers. visit ample spaces of prehistorical, ancient, and Islamic sites. Of course, it's a great motivation to visit a country, another trump card is its pristine, natural landscapes.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial

role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petro-

chemical export is the second-largest source of

revenue for the country after crude oil. Petro-

chemical exports already constitute nearly 33

The NPC's managing director further

The official said that 69 production units

(including three service units which provide

services such as water, electricity, and steam

for the production units) are now active in

the petrochemical industry of Iran, which

play some significant role in bringing foreign

currency for the country.

stressed that petrochemical industry is a value

and job-creating industry, which has no risk.

percent of the country's non-oil exports.

You can savor being in the most picturesque and awe-standing views here and also take amazing shots.

Spending some time in camping spots in Iran, you can explore more of the Iranian wilderness and also save money as it's very convenient.

There's not any specific organized camping site in Iran, but simply choose a scenic green destination and fasten your tent.

In recent years, several historical mansions and rural houses across the country have been repurposed into eco-lodge units to attract more domestic and foreign tourists.

The houses represent the indigenous culture, local customs, traditions, and stories, while the guests are served delicious food with local ingredients.

The growing tendency of tourists to ex-

Annual petchem production capacity reaches 90m tons

Shahmirzaei further announced that the country's petrochemical production capacity reached 90 million tons in the past year.

He said that the real production is 65 million tons, and the difference between the two figures is due to some reasons, one of them is the overhaul operations of the petrochemical units. which stop their activities, accidents is the other reason which stops the units' activities, also in the cold seasons, the gas supplied to the industrial units, including the petrochemical ones, is reduced as more gas is supplied to the household sector. > Page 4

Here is a list of camping spots in Iran:

The highest volcanic mountain in Asia and

the highest mount in Iran, Damavand, lies in the

foothills of the Alborz mountain range. It's lo-

cated near a northern city called Amol, south of

the Caspian Sea. If you want to hike in Iran and

have physical readiness for it, you have the op-

tion to camp in the magnificent Mount Dama-

In this mount, different plants and trees like sa-

lix, pistachio, hazel, beech, and oak can be found.

Many rivers with brown trouts flow. The famous

frozen waterfall of the mount called Abshar-e

Yakhi, which never melts. In springs, the slopes

Kordestan can be another suitable camp-

Its rural district of Uramanat is a well-known

tourist destination. The unique feature is that

ing spot in Iran. It's a mountainous area full

of natural attractions, surrounded by the Za-

are covered with flowers and singing birds.

vand and savor exploring its beauties.

TEHRAN - Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, a London-based professor, says that the world order is changing and moving "towards an apolar order".

> "The world order has radically changed. The shifts are historic. Essentially we are moving towards an apolar order, where no power can dominate any region on their own," Adib Moghaddam tells the Tehran Times.

> "It is not even multipolarity where you have several superpowers determining world politics. Today, no one can," Adib Moghaddam adds.

> The professor is also of the opinion that now the focus should be on the existential threats to human existence rather than questions of power.

> "We are losing the planet to nefarious ideas, wars and the destruction of the environment. Every journalist, intellectual, citizen, and individual needs to be attentive of this potential fatality for humankind," he argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

#### Biden's critics question Biden's mental health. To what extent this can affect the results of upcoming elections? What about Trump's emotional and psychological health?

I have studied psychology, both as medical science and political instrument. I think the narrative about the mental health of both candidates is a psychological mirage. It is meant to garner votes. It is certainly not based on any sound psychological research or profiling, which is difficult to rely on in any case as the discipline has been rightly indicted for inventing pathologies and syndromes. > Page 5

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# World moving towards 'apolar' order: professor

#### By Mohammad Mazhari

# Interview 🦵

TEHRAN - Iranian Armed Force chief Mohammad Bagheri visited Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Monday by leading a high-level military delegation.

His visit is intended to promote defense and military cooperation between Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan.

Major General Mohammad Bagheri and his high-ranking military delegation were welcomed by Major General Imam Ali Saberzadeh, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces and First Deputy Defense Minister of Tajikistan, and other high-ranking Tajik military officials.

Upon his arrival, Bagheri said strengthening military and defense cooperation between the two countries is the main objective of the visit.

General Bagheri added Iran and Tajikistan are located in an important "geopolitical region" so that "events and incidents" in each of these two countries will affect the other.

Referring to the policy of the Iranian government to develop relations with neighbors, General Bagheri said, "In line with improving security and calm in the two countries, we will have bilateral meetings during the trip with military and political officials."

Reportedly, during his stay in Dushanbe, Bagheri is to meet with the president of Taiikistan and visit the military and scientific centers of country's Armed Forces.

Therefore, everyone should pay attention to vaccination coverage and include their children in the full coverage of vaccines that are offered in health centers. ► Page 7

perience indigenous and local cultures has made them want to get closer to natural and indigenous living conditions, experiencing the old-fashioned way of life, considering that staying in these eco-lodge units is much

the roof of each lower house is the courtyard of the upper house. This architecture combines with nature and makes eye-catching landscapes, where campers stand in awe and can't get enough of watching. ► Page 6

### Iranian scholar delves into Hiroshige's paintings to explore Edo era Japan

TEHRAN – Iranian scholar Seyyed Ayat Hosseini has examined Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige's woodblock prints to discuss social conditions in Japan during the Edo period, which fell between 1603 and 1867.

Hosseini, a professor of Japanese at the University of Tehran,

the same title. > Page 8 Azizi Khadem handed two-year ban from football activities

TEHRAN – The Ethics Committee of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) has announced that Shahabeddin Azizi Khadem has been banned for two years from all football activities.

Azizi Khadem was found guilty of "various acts of misconduct over a year".

Members of the federation's board of directors held an extraordinary meeting in February in which Azizi Khadem was temporarily removed from the presidency of the federation in accordance with ar-

ticle 35, paragraph 14 of the FFIRI Statutes

has carried out his studies based

on "The Fifty-Three Stations of

the Tokaido", Hiroshige's series

Accordingly, the Iranian pub-

lisher Parandeh has published

Hosseini's studies in a book of

produced in 1833–1834.

He faced controversy since taking charge of the position and the members criticized the legal and economic ambiguities in the contracts related to the football federation.

Mirsahd Majedi was appointed as acting president of the federation until an extraordinary assembly is held on May 31.

Given that, Azizi Khadem has no chance of returning to presidency of FFIRI

# Ayatollah Fatemi-Nia, the man of ethics,

# passes away

Ayatollah Abdollah Fatemi-Nia, who was mostly known by the public for his teachings of ethics, died on Monday. He was 76. Fatemi-Nia was diagnosed with cancer four years ago and was under intensive care in a hospital since March this year.

# POLITICS

## MAY 17, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

# Blinken and Le Drian talk about return to full JCPOA implementation

TEHRAN - U.S. Secretary of State Antony sanctions. U.S. and Iraqi Shia militias Blinken and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in a meeting in Paris on Sunday held talks about efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, known officially as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The two... talked about efforts to achieve a mutual return to full JCPOA implementation with Iran," the U.S. Department of State said on its website.

The statement by the Department of State came a few days after European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the stalemate in the nuclear talks in Vienna has been broken.

Borrell made the remarks immediately after his deputy Enrique Mora, who acts the coordinator of the nuclear talks, returned from Tehran to Brussels on Friday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G7

chief diplomat said, "The negotiations were blocked and they have been unblocked and that means there is the prospective of reaching a final agreement."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that Tehran is waiting for "political decision" by the United States.

"If the U.S. takes its political decision and announces it, we can take important steps in line with advancing negotiations," Khatibzadeh told a regular news briefing.

The spokesman added Iran presented "special initiatives" during Mora's visit to Iran.

#### "Biden must defuse Trump's Iran nuclear deal sabotage"

Ryan Costello joined the National Iranian American Council in April 2013 as a Policy Fellow and currently serves as Policy Director.

Ryan Costello, who joined the National Iranian American Council in April 2013, has suggested that the Biden administration must put an end to the Trump legacy and revive the JCPOA.

"The Biden administration stands poised between diplomatic victory with Iran and disaster," Costello said in commentary posted on The National Interest.

#### Following is an excerpt of the article:

It has been more than a month since of the nuclear agreement

all but finalized. But the

supported by Iran had been operating in close proximity in Iraq to retake ISISheld territory, with a tentative truce still holding. Senior military and intelligence officials warned that designating the IRGC as terrorists would break that truce and directly threaten U.S. troops and personnel, and cautioned against the move.

Many who would go on to become key officials in the Biden administration also recognized the danger at the time. Biden's Secretary of State Antony Blinken penned an op-ed in the New York Times warning about the risks of an FTO designation of the IRGC in 2017, noting that prior administrations declined to designate the IRGC because "the potential blowback outweighed the benefits" and could push the United States and Iran toward war. Likewise, National Security Action—led by now-National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and former Obama advisor meeting in Germany on Friday, the EU's Ben Rhodes—condemned the designation

as "another dangerous and "President Biden sett-deleating tactic the self-defeating tactic that serves nothing but the Trump administration's goal of destroying the Iran deal."

well-

Despite the founded concerns, Trump administration." ignored these military and intelligence officials.

> Opponents of Iran diplomacy urged the White House to designate the IRGC as an FTO as part of a strategy to block a Democratic successor to Trump from restoring the JCPOA. They found allies in Mike Pompeo and John Bolton, who convinced Trump to ignore the warnings of security officials and dial up the pressure to ten.

The defense and intelligence community's concerns, along with those of current Biden administration officials, proved prescient.

Iran had matched America's economic war with a shadow war of its own, which nearly boiled over into full-blown war when Iran downed a drone in June 2019 and when the Trump administration assassinated Iran's famous general Qassem Soleimani in January 2020.

Now, with the nuclear deal all but resolved except for the FTO sticking point, inertia risks setting in. The Biden administration can and should see if any non-nuclear concessions can be secured from Iran in exchange for the delisting. But it would be a profound mistake to choose multilateral negotiations in Vienna broke a Trump-era designation that ignited the amid a celebratory mood, with the text shadow war between the United States

and Iran over the Obamaera accord. The FTO added almost nothing in terms of additional pressure and was a major net-negative for regional security. It isn't a major concession to remove the FTO designation and may even serve U.S. interests

# Foreign Ministry says Washington has not yet responded to Iran's new solutions

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday the Iranian side proposed some initiatives to advance the nuclear talks when Enrique Mora, the European Union's nuclear talks coordinator, visited Tehran last week.

Mora visited Tehran to reenergize the Vienna talks that started in April last year. The talks in Vienna had stalemated in Vienna since March as the Biden administration has failed to take political decision to take a number of steps, including removing the name of the IRGC from foreign terrorist organizations.

American side.

negotiations.

specific

in Vienna.

final agreement."

"If they respond appropriately,

we can be in a position where all

parties can return to Vienna," he

said, asserting that if the United

States announces its "political

decision". which Iran has not yet

received, all parties can take an

important step forward in the

Mora's agenda was very

While in Tehran Mora held

intensive talks with Iran's

chief nuclear negotiator Ali

Bagheri Kani. After his return to

Brussels, Borrell said the stage

has been set for resuming talks

Speaking on the sidelines of

the G7 meeting in Germany on

Friday, the EU's chief diplomat

said, "The negotiations were

blocked and they have been

unblocked and that means there

is the prospective of reaching a

Khatibzadeh said, "Mora came

to Tehran with a specific agenda.

Of course, the negotiations

in Iran were accompanied by

special initiatives specifically by

Iran. Since the beginning of the

new negotiations, Iran has used

these innovations several times

to address the shortcomings

However, while Mora was in Tehran the Zionist regime of Israel created a commotion over his visit.

"Whenever there is an initiative and a diplomatic move, the fake regime of Israel carries out its movements against diplomacy and this is nothing new," Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a weekly press briefing.

Mora visited Tehran following contacts between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the spokesman said. In the phone conversations Amir Abdollahian and Borrell agreed that message be exchanged in person this time, he added.

"When Mr. Mora came to Tehran, very serious and resultoriented negotiations were held with 'special initiatives' by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He had several long conversations with Mr. Bagheri," Khatibzadeh said, adding that some of the solutions that have been proposed have been told to the



and lack of political decisions of the other side. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for a political decision in Washington.

He added that sometimes there are rumors from Washington that could be interpreted as a "blame game".

"This is a repetitive tactic that constantly repeats repetitive sentences as a blame game, and thank God they do not get tired of repetition. Everyone knows the truth of the matter. What Iran wants is its own rights and it has not asked for anything more than its rights and has not asked for more than what is promised in United Nation Security Council Resolution 2231. The terms you sometimes hear regarding post-JCPOA, from the first day of the negotiations, wherever they did not want to agree, they labeled it as a post-JCPOA demand in order not to fulfil their obligations," he added.

The spokesman stated that what Iran has said over and over is clear.

"All parts and components of the maximum pressure campaign and everything that the previous U.S. administration, namely Trump, has put, and these bolts must be unscrewed. The Biden administration must once again decide whether it wants to keep Trump's legacy, or abide by its commitments under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA, and leave a new legacy for the United States under international law," he reiterated.

#### Russia's position on Vienna talks can be found in Lavrov's words

Responding to a question about a recent tweet by Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, Khatibzadeh said that the Foreign Ministry does not look at "sporadic" tweets of one diplomat, and looks at the Russian foreign minister for official positions.

"Russia's role in the Vienna talks was constructive and positive. I'm not talking about the sporadic tweets of one certain diplomat. The voice that we hear is the voice that everyone heard during the meeting between Lavrov and Amir Abdollahian, and Lavrov announced in behind the podium that if an agreement is reached today, Russia has no problem. This is the official position of the Russian government. Iran will protect of the interests of the people in this regard," the spokesman stated.

He went on to that it is natural that Russia's mediatory role in regard to the JCPOA and the Vienna negotiations is being reduced to the Ukraine war the tensions between Moscow and the West over the war.

However, he said, interpreting Russia's behavior "may be a bit early."

### Iran, Cuba should work together to oppose unilateral U.S. sanctions: FM

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's foreign minister, has condemned the broad and unilateral sanctions of the U.S. against Iran and Cuba, saying the two nations should use their expertise to oppose the draconian measures.

The statements were made during a Saturday meeting between Amir Abdollahian and Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, who is in Tehran for the 18th session of the Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Committee

The foreign minister called Cuba an important strategic partner of Iran and called for closer collaboration in a variety of areas.

The joint economic committee, according to Iran's top diplomat, would allow the two nations to examine measures to improve economic and commercial connections as well as political collaboration

to implementing prior agreements and signing new contracts with Cuba.

Cabrisas, for his part, praised Iran's unwavering support for Cuba despite U.S. sanctions.

The Cuban official stated that the economic committee would assist the two nations in strengthening strategic connections and that utilizing bilateral economic capacity would benefit both countries.

For more than 60 years, the United States has imposed a severe economic, financial, and commercial blockade on Cuba. The blockade has been declared illegal by the United Nations General Assembly in a number of resolutions. Washington, on the other hand, has regularly Foreign Ministry.

Iran accused the U.S. and other Western countries of intervening in Cuba's domestic affairs in July, urging Washington to halt its unilateral sanctions against Havana and other countries immediately.

During his campaign, U.S. President Joe Biden promised to change some of his predecessor Donald Trump's Cuba policies that "have inflicted harm on the Cuban people" but he has failed to follow through.

In violation of international law, the United States has also imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran.

After leaving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

should render ineffective trap set by the Trump

thorny bilateral issues that remain constitute a key part of the trap set for President Joe Biden by the Trump administration. If the president does not move decisively to break the stalemate and save

the nuclear deal, a largely symbolic designation may sink Biden's Iran policy and push the United States and Iran toward a devastating military conflict.

The main issue at hand is the Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which was enacted by the Trump administration in April 2019 and which Iran has demanded be removed in any nuclear deal. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for any Iranian political leader to sign off on a deal that leaves the IRGC in the same category as non-state actors like Al Qaeda and ISIS. The Biden administration has appeared to waffle on its willingness to rescind the designation while pushing for non-nuclear deescalatory concessions in exchange for the delisting, with no visible progress for several weeks. As such, a stalemate has set in, with the Biden administration appearing to fear the political costs of reaching the finish line.

The FTO designation was hugely controversial under Donald Trump. Iran was still complying with the nuclear deal months after the United States had unilaterally withdrawn and snapped back

"A largely symbolic designation may sink Biden's Iran policy."

Still, the administration risks letting politics stand in the way of policy. Republicans have been just as inflexible as they were in 2015, with the exception of Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) who has criticized his own party's hostility to diplomacy with Iran. A handful of Democrats have joined them in an illadvised campaign to pressure Biden against making the kinds of concessions he will need to make to roll back Iran's nuclear program. But the vast majority of the Democratic party wants this deal back and quickly, well before the midterm elections. As Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) urged the administration, "If there's a good deal on the table ... the Biden administration has to sign that deal. Let us do the work of selling that deal in Congress. We'll get it done, we'll get the votes for it."

A good deal has been drafted and appears to be on the table. The political fight on the deal will be won, as Democrats control each chamber and the vast majority support the agreement. But it will take political will to reach the finish line. Biden will have to remove one last shackle put on him by Trump in order to save the deal and avert a march to war. He should do it while he still has the chance.

Amir Abdollahian said that Tehran and Havana have a good level of collaboration in the health and treatment sectors, notably in the joint manufacture of the COVID-19 vaccine, and that the Iranian administration is committed

voted against UN resolutions.

"For more than six decades, Cuba has been facing extensive sanctions imposed by the U.S., which have complicated the country's economy and living conditions of its people, especially at the time of the coronavirus pandemic," said Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman of the Iranian

Action (JCPOA), the U.S. began unilaterally imposing sanctions on Iran in May 2018.

Under former president Donald Trump, the U.S. launched a "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran, imposing the "toughest ever" sanctions on the country.

# Iran FM visits UAE to pay respect to late leader



TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian tribute to the United Arab Emirates' late ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who died on Friday.

Just hours after his death, Amir Abdollahian expressed condolences over the death of Sheikh Khalifa in a message to his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

In a message late on Friday,

visited Abu Dhabi on Monday to pay Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi also said "the news of the demise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, caused grief and sorrow."

> Iran and the UAE have taken steps to repair ties affected by the years-long war in Yemen and other regional issues.

Ali Bagheri Kani visited the UAE in November, when he said the two countries had agreed to open a new chapter in bilateral relations.

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh, speaking in a weekly news briefing, also welcomed the appointment of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the country's new president.

#### Iran's deputy Foreign Minister

### Iranian, Greek top diplomats hold phone call

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias spoke over the phone on Saturday on bilateral issues and the latest status of Iran sanctions talks in Vienna.

During the call, the Iranian top diplomat mentioned the two countries' numerous opportunities to deepen trade and economic cooperation, as well as the need to safeguard long-standing bilateral ties from the influence of some third parties.

Amir Abdollahian also discussed the current developments in the Vienna talks, emphasizing Iran's desire to secure a good and durable agreement.

The Greek foreign minister, for his part, emphasized the importance of relations between Tehran and Athens, as well as the need to maintain high-level interactions between the two nations.

The two sides then emphasized the need to continue cooperation in international forums,

citing Iran-Greece historical ties.

On the advice of European Union foreign policy leader Josep Borrell, the eighth round of the Vienna talks on lifting sanctions, which began on December 27, 2021, entered a third phase on March 11, 2022, when the negotiators went to their capitals for political deliberations.

Borrell's deputy Enrique Mora visited Tehran last week to re-energize the talks between Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA as well as the U.S.

# **Yet Another Attempt to** Jeopardize Vienna Talks by U.S.

TEHRAN— In continuation of the efforts to sabotage the ongoing talks in Vienna intended to remove the illegal sanctions on Iran, yet again the United States is blatantly interfering in Iran's domestic affairs.

The negotiations in Vienna had been stalled for about two months, until Enrique Mora, the EU's representative and the coordinator for the Vienna talks, visited Iran last week

After Mora returned to Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that the deadlock in the talks have been reopened.

However, in continuation of the United States' efforts in running with the hare and hunting with the hounds, Washington has resorted to sabotaging the talks by angering Iran. The Biden administration is very well-aware of the fact that Tehran does not appreciate any country messing with its internal affairs, but it has decided to behave differently.

Raisi's administration has taken a bold risk and begun rolling out fresh economic reforms that have long been shunned by previous administrations for their possible painful fallouts. President Raisi is basically on the belief that Iran must be de-dollarized.

The administration is all in for the new economic measures. And it has the support of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei. "The measures the [Raisi] administration is taking today are important and that everyone should help including the [government] branches and the



long overdue in responding to Iran's

On the sidelines of his weekly

press briefing, Saeed Khatibzadeh,

spokesman for Iran's Foreign

Ministry, faced with a question from

the Tehran Times correspondent

regarding the interference of the U.S.

administration in Iran's domestic

"Of course, this over-indulgence

of the U.S. government and the tweet

that you mentioned show that what

the government has done" and this

economic reform plan to administer

justice "in the economic field is

something that they are concerned

What Khatibzadeh rightly pointed

out is that the United States is

seeking to make Iran's economy

conditional and dependent on the

signing of the agreement in Vienna,

a process which is on the verge of

evaporation due to Robert Malley's

affairs.

about," he noted.

legitimate demands in writing.

various apparatuses as well as the people so that the administration, God willing, achieve [positive] results," the Leader said in a recent speech delivered in a meeting with workers.

Aside from the economic impacts of reforms, the administration's decision to proceed with its economic measures could have implications at political and diplomatic levels. Painful reforms are being implemented while talks over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal is due to continue with barely any silver lining in sight, as the U.S. misses the deadline to respond to Iran's demands in writing.

Iran has time and again reiterated its readiness to abide by the agreement in Vienna, if and only if the White House honors its commitments to the original agreement struck in July 2015. However, the Biden administration is Iran's requests. "The government's path to

neutralize sanctions, to separate Iran's economy from the dollar, and to maximize immunity is a definite path," Khatibzadeh added in response to the Tehran Times.

procrastination in responding to

"No matter how much the United States suffers, our people have caused the 'maximum pressure' campaign to fail.

possible.

Instead of always interfering with embarrassment in other countries' affairs, it is better for the United States to respect the national sovereignty of nations, and just for once, try to learn to respect nations and governments," he outlined.

Misusing the painful economic reforms while Iran continues to be under an immense pressure from the heavy sanctions could also signal that the differences currently obscuring the talks are here to stay.

President Raisi has said time and again that he is not going to tie the economy to what comes out of the Vienna talks. He made it clear that his management of the national economy will by no means be impacted by the Vienna talks. And current reforms are a translation of that position on the ground.

However, as pointed out by the Iranian diplomat, the big bully of the world must once and for all learn to respect the national sovereignty of other countries.

# Iran criticizes U.S. for abusing human rights

TEHRAN- Saeed Khatibzadeh, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said Sunday slammed Washington for using human rights as a tool to achieve its objectives.

The United States is exploiting human rights as a weapon to achieve its interests, according to the spokesperson, who asserted that the sublime concept has been degraded to a plaything by Washington.

"Unfortunately, this approach has degraded the sublime concept of human rights to a plaything," Khatibzadeh underscored while addressing a conference of Iranian nongovernmental organizations with consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Iranian diplomat went on to say that human rights is one of the most significant victims of international relations at this aligned countries.

very time.

"Due to the approach adopted by the centers of power in the world, the issue of human rights has been turned into a political tool to advance those centers' goals," he noted.

"The United States uses human rights as a tool in its foreign policy toolbox in order to achieve its goals," Khatibzadeh continued, slamming the U.S. for its distorted approach to human rights.

Iran has often warned the U.S. and its Western allies against using human rights as a tool to undermine independent countries.

In relevant remarks last week, the secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi blasted the U.S. and Western European bloc for politicizing human rights and using it as a tool to exert pressure on non-

"The Western European countries and the United States have this selective approach, unfortunately," Kazem Gharibabadi pointed out.

"So, the countries that are not allied to these states are under political pressure in international human rights mechanisms and structures because they are going to abuse human rights as a political tool to achieve their own foreign policy goals," he underlined.

The United States has a long history of domestic and international human rights violations.

Despite major protests around the country following the deaths of African-American men George Flovd and Daunte Wright by white police officers last year, a report released in late December indicated that the number of Americans murdered in confrontations with U.S. police has not dwindled.

#### **Mount Everest** The government, along with the TEHRAN – Iranian woman mountaineer Afsaneh Iranian nation, is obliged to carry out Hemati reached the summit of Everest, world's this reform plan to the fullest extent highest peak, on Saturday.

In a video message published on her Instagram account, Hemati thanked the people who helped him to climb the summit.

Iranian woman

Hemati climbs

Farkhondeh Sadegh, a graphic designer, and Laleh Keshavarz, a dentist, are the first Iranian women to reach the peak.

They hoisted Iran's tricolor flag on the summit in 2005.

Mount Everest is indisputably the world's highest peak - approximately 8,850 meters.

## Iran defeat Kyrgyzstan at 2022 CAFA U16 Championship

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan 2-0 in the 2022 CAFA U16 Championship on Monday.

The team were held to a 2-2 draw by Uzbekistan in the opening match on Friday.

The eight-day competition has brought Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan together.

The 2022 CAFA U16 Championship takes place in the Republic Central Stadium in Dushanbe, Taiikistan.

## **Paykan defeat** Nakhon Ratchasima at Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN - Iran's Paykan defeated Nakhon Ratchasima QminC VC from Thailand 3-1 (25-23, 23-25, 25-18, 25-13) in Pool A of the 2022 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship at Azadi Hall here on Monday.

Paykan will play Iraqi team Erbil on Wednesday in the competition's quarterfinals.

Paykan, the most decorated Asian club, started the campaign on Saturday with a win over Iraqi side South Gas and beat Japan's Suntory Sunbirds on Sunday.

The 2022 Asian Men's Club Volleyball

Australia, England and Brazil in the competition held in Salou, Spain.

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## Iran's women volleyball team lose to Serbia U21 Team

TEHRAN - Iranian women volleyball team lost to Serbia U21 team 3-0 (25-23, 29-27, 27-25) in a friendly match.

Alessandra Campedelli's women had defeated their Serbian opponents ŽOK Ub (3-2) and OK Tent (3-2) in their training camp in Serbia.

The friendlies were part of Iran's preparation for the 2022 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship.

The Asian championship will be held in the Philippines from August 30 to September 6.

# **Dragan Skocic** returns to Tehran

TEHRAN - Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic returned to Tehran on Monday.

The Croat underwent successful surgery in early May in his own country for suffering a gastrointestinal illness.

He will reportedly announce Iran's squad for friendly match against Canada, slated for June 5 at Vancouver's BC Place.

Iran are in Group B along with England, the US, and one of Wales, Ukraine or Scotland.

Canada will play in Group F alongside Belgium, Serbia, and Morocco.

## President congratulates Iranian athletes on good performance in **Deaflympics**

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi praised the country's athletes for bringing joy to the nation with their fine performance in the 2021 Deaflympics after the Iranian caravan finished third in the games.

In a message on Sunday night, Raisi said the Iranian athletic delegation's success to take third place in the Deaflympics has given the Iranian nation joy and glory.

He also noted that Iran's success in promoting four places compared to the previous edition of competitions by gaining 40 medals reveals the Iranian young athletes' determination and capabilities.

# Iran asks West Asian countries to take environmental problems seriously

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

IRAN IN FOCUS



TEHRAN \_ Iran's foreign says ministrv spokesman environment in West Asia is in a situation that everyone must take seriously.

In response to a question about the issue of Iran's water rights from the Helmand River, Saeed Khatibzadeh stated, "The region of West Asia suffers from a lack of environmental standards due to years of war and bloodshed and special climatic conditions and pressures on ground and underground water resources in the region."

He asked reporters to talk to environmental experts about this issue.

"Make sure to talk to those who

are familiar with this problem. The issue of the environment is an issue that everyone in the region should pay attention to together."

He also informed reporters that in July Tehran will host the environment chiefs of the regional countries to discuss water, environment and sand and dust storms.

"We have binding treaties with some countries, including Afghanistan. We do not sign pacts with governments, or with governing bodies and short-term or long-term systems. We sign pacts with political structures of government. The systems will agree independently or sign bilateral treaties," he added.

The spokesman noted that in 1973, a binding agreement was signed between Iran and Afghanistan, and this agreement has an arbitration clause and binding parts for anyone who is ruling Afghanistan.

"Of course, we always tried to move forward with our neighbors. Referral to the relevant authorities or the clauses included in the arbitration ruling is the last resort and we hope not to move in that direction at all," he noted.

welcomes Turkey's Iran cooperation in addressing environmental issues

Responding to a question by the Tehran Times that the Turkish foreign ministry spokesman

has said Iran's remarks about Turkey's dam buildings are not scientific, Khatibzadeh took these remarks with a pinch of salt, but welcomed Turkey's cooperation in this regard.

"We entrust science to scientists and help each other solve common environmental problems," he said, adding, "I welcome Turkey's cooperation. We must try to take an executive step for the region and jointly solve the problem of water, environment and sand and dust storms."

Iran and some other countries, including Syria and Iraq, have faulted construction of many dams in Turkey partly responsible for dust storms.

Championship is the 22nd edition of the Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, an annual international men's volleyball club tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF).

The tournament is taking place in Tehran, Iran from May 14 to 20.

The winner of the tournament will advance to 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

## Iran runners-up at 2022 IFCPF Men's World Cup

TEHRAN - Iran lost to Ukraine 1-0 in the final match of the 2022 IFCPF Men's World Cup on Sunday

Ivan Donenko struck in the 13th minute of the match to give Ukraine the advantage.

The effort proved decisive as Ukraine sealed a 1-0 win to claim the world title for the seventh time.

Ukraine had been supported to attend the event by the IFCPF, due to the Russian invasion of their nation.

Russia, the defending champions, were excluded from competing at the tournament.

Brazil became third, beating the U.S. 2-0 in bronze medal match.

Iran started the campaign with a 2-2 draw with the U.S. and earned three successive win over

The president sincerely thanked all athletes, coaches and crew of Iran's sports teams in the Deaflympics.

On Sunday, Iran finished in third place in the 2021 Deaflympics, held in Caxias do Sul in Brazil.

Iran won 40 medals in total containing 14 gold, 12 silver and 14 bronze medals.

Ukraine dominated the games with 137 medals in total, winning 61 gold medals, 38 silver and 38 bronze. The US came second with 19 gold. 11 silver and 25 bronze medals.

## Iran advance to 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship

TEHRAN – Iran claimed the title of the U16 FIBA Asian Championship WABA gualification and booked their place at the 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship.

Iran defeated Iraq 95-53 in their last match.

The Persians had previously defeated Syria (99-50), Lebanon (72-67) and Jordan (88-43) in the tournament held in Amman, Jordan.

The 2021 FIBA U16 Asian Championship (also known as the 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship) is an upcoming qualifying tournament for FIBA Asia at the 2022 FIBA U17 Basketball World Cup.

The tournament will be held in Doha, Qatar from June 12 to 19.

# Israeli atrocities will elicit strong reactions: parliament speaker

TEHRAN- Palestinians and all who support the Palestinian cause, according to Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bager Qalibaf, would respond indignantly to the Zionist regime's crimes.

The Zionist occupiers' intensification of brutality in the occupied territories would elicit more serious responses from those who support the Palestinian cause, Qalibaf stated in an open session of the parliament on Sunday.

"Nakba Day is reminiscent of more than seven decades of occupation, massacre, genocide, cruelty, and crime by the Zionist regime and the displacement of Palestinians, and the occupation of their lands," he stated, alluding to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948.

Qalibaf went on to say that the murder of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by the criminal Zionist regime only days before Nakba Day exposed the regime's barbarism to the world.

He also denounced the crime and expressed condolences to all Palestinian supporters and resistance figures on the killing of Abu Akleh.

Shireen Abu Akleh, an Al Jazeera journalist, was fatally shot by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank last week.

She was hit by a live bullet while reporting Israeli incursions in Jenin, and was transported to the hospital in severe condition.



# ECONOMY

## MAY 17, 2022 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

# Iran's annual petchem export stands at over \$15b

From page  $1 \rightarrow$  "In line with completing the value chain in the petrochemical industry, that its products are used in almost every sector, we will achieve the annual production capacity of 200 million tons", the official further underlined.

He also announced that six projects will be implemented this year, adding five million tons to the country's petrochemical output.

#### Domestic production should be completely realized in petchem sector

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shahmirzaei stressed that domestic production should be realized in all sectors of the petrochemical industry

A small part is still remained, so that this target will be achieved, he added.

Petrochemical Research and Technology Company and Research Institute of Petroleum Industry in addition to the other related institutes and centers are taking all efforts in this due, the official added.

West Eslam-Abad He mentioned



petrochemical project as one of the projects that all of its parts will be domestically produced.

"We should apply five technical knowledge for this project, which require some special preciseness and effort", Shahmirzaei noted. "During a visit to the project last week, I saw that some good steps have been taken in this

due", the NPS' managing director stated. It is planned that all catalysts used in the petrochemical industry will be domestically produced by the end of the current government's incumbency, the official further announced.

#### the end of the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2026), the managing director of the company announced. Making the remarks in a press conference held on the sidelines

Bv Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iranian Central

Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) is

implementing a major zero-

cubic feet (mcf) of flare gases per

of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022) on Monday, Mehdi Heidari said that flare gas recovery is one of the projects that his company is seriously following up.

"We have defined several projects in this due, and some capable domestic companies have taken the projects through tenders", he added.

The official also announced that according to the mentioned plan, the ICOFC will add 100 million cubic meters (mcm) to its gas production, and 80,000-100,000 million barrels to its oil output per dav.

The company produced 70 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas, 20



ICOFC to recover 1.5mcf of flare

gases per day based on a 4-year plan

million barrels of oil, and 16 million barrels of gas condensate in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), he added.

The official further said that in line with the policies of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), ICOFC has preserving the production level through reducing the time of overhaul operation on the agenda.

By reducing the overhaul time, more time can be spent for production and supply, he stated.

He added that pressure boosting stations to prevent from pressure drops are also paid special attention in this due.

The official further underlined that his company is moving from

being a just production company toward a production-development one.

He also mentioned the motto of the present Iranian calendar year, which is "Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating Production", and said that to materialize this motto, the R&D Department of the company has close cooperation with the knowledge-based companies and hold continuous meetings with them and with the producing companies, during which the lists of required items, to be produced domestically, are offered and

It should be also mentioned that Iranian Central Oil Fields Company and Oil and Gas Industry Innovation and Technology Park signed a

discusses.

cooperation memorandum of understanding at the end of the Monday press conference.

Heidari also highlighted the role of his company in terms of gas storage in the country, and said that ICOFC's performance in the strategic projects of Sarajeh and Shourijeh has been honorable.

Iran has two major natural gas storage facilities in Sarajeh and Shourijeh, in which every year the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) stores the gas received from gas refineries all over the country to be used in the colder months of the year.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the managing director of ICOFC mentioned attracting investors as the main purpose of his company to attend Iran Oil Show and said that ICOFC offers attractive models of investment making.

Iranian Central Oil Fields Company is one of the five oil and gas producing companies and the second producer of gas in Iran.

The company is developing offshore fields in Lorestan, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Markazi, Qom, Ilam, Khorasan, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Ardebil, Fars, Bushehr, Hormozgan, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari and provinces.

# Iranian refining industry ready to export technical services



TEHRAN - Head of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) Jalil Salari said on Sunday that the country's refining industry is ready to export technical and engineering services to other countries, Shana reported.

Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022), Salari said: "Today, we are capable of exporting technical and engineering services and supply equipment for refining industries to other countries. "Effective measures have been taken in this

regard, which will be announced in the near future," he added.

The deputy oil minister emphasized the need to take new measures to update the refining industries based on the time requirements and said: "We are trying to move from a fueloriented approach towards a profit-oriented one by following new perspectives in this industry; this requires a change in the company's structure from a service entity to a development company."

"It is necessary to enter international markets in line with the domestic development with the participation of the private sector and using the technical knowledge of domestic companies," Salari stressed.

# **TPO dispatches trade delegation to Muscat**

TEHRAN - Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), in collaboration with the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce, has sent a trade delegation to Oman as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi is due to visit the Arab country, the TPO portal reported.

As reported, TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak led the 30-member trade-marketing delegation which arrived in Muscat on Monday.

The head of the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) and the deputy head of the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) accompany Peyman-Pak on this trip.

Upon arrival, the Iranian delegation was welcomed by the representative of Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, and Iranian Ambassador to Muscat Ali Najafi Khoshroudi.

Attending an Iran-Oman business forum, negotiating with Omani trade parties, examining the Arab country's market and assessing ways of export development, as well as identifying obstacles and operational problems in developing trade relations between the two countries are among the most important goals of this visit.



Meeting with the Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion and the President of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, attending the opening ceremony of the International Exhibition of Oman Construction Industry (Project Oman 2022) and visiting the Iranian pavilion in this exhibition, meeting with banking, maritime, and transport officials of the Arab nation are also among the programs of the Iranian delegation during their stay in Oman.

Back in February, Iran and Oman signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expanding economic cooperation in a variety of

Tehran, Baku opening a new chapter in bilateral relations

areas at the end of the two countries' 19th Joint Economic Committee meeting.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, who co-chaired the joint meeting.

Fatemi-Amin visited Oman's capital Muscat on top of a high-ranking trade delegation to attend the 19th Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee meeting which was held during February 8-9.

During his visit, the minister also met Oman's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamood Al Busaidi to discuss ways for expanding ties between the two countries.

Fatemi-Amin also met with the private sector and political and economic officials of the Kingdom, including the minister of Health, the minister of Economy, Foreign Affairs, Energy, and Minerals and the minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology of Oman and the heads of Oman's free and special economic zones to discuss the latest state of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

# **NISOC to boost oil production capacity**

TEHRAN - Head of National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) has said his company is planning on increasing the production capacity of the oilfields developed by the company to 3.3 million barrels per day (bpd), Shana reported.

Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of Iran Oil Show 2022, Alireza Daneshi put the NISOC's current oil production capacity at three million bpd, saying that the 300,000-bpd increase in the production capacity of the company's oil fields is going to be realized within five years. Pointing to the great potentials of the Iranian oil industry and the capacities of domestic companies, the official said: "Knowledge-based production has been considered a priority in National Iranian South Oil Company because focusing on this issue can help the country's oil industry achieve new horizons."



"Nowadays, countless derivatives are extracted from oil and gas around the world, so that only 5,300 products are obtained from oil and 700 products are obtained from natural gas, but in our country, we have not achieved much in this regard and we mostly sell oil in the crude form. We must try to rectify this situation in a favorable way," Daneshi stressed.

TEHRAN – Having deep historical roots, Iran and Azerbaijan have been seeking the expansion of economic, commercial, scientific, and cultural ties over the past two decades and the two countries' presidents have been encouraging the governments to forge closer ties.

In this regard, Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in November 2021, on the sidelines of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit in Ashgabat, to open a new page in relations between the two countries.

In that meeting, the presidents discussed various issues including the development of the North-South and Zangezur corridors.

Following the mentioned meeting, on March 11, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between

Azerbaijan and Iran on the creation of new communication lines between Zangezur in East Azarbaijan Province in Iran and the Republic of Nakhchivan.

Based on the mentioned MOU. four bridges, two asphalt routes, and two railway lines as well as communication and energy infrastructures will be constructed on the mentioned path.

Iran and Azerbaijan share 765 kilometers of land border, which



allows for deepening relations. In that sense, cooperation in transportation between the two countries can be set as an example to other countries in the region.

# **TEDPIX climbs 10,000 points on Monday**

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 10,820 points to 1.583 million on Monday.

Over 12.202 billion securities worth 66.294 trillion rials (about \$220.98 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 11,972 points, and the second market's index gained 9,272 points.

As published on the website of TSE, 58.919 billion securities worth 351.381 trillion rials (about \$1.171 billion) were traded at the exchange during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday, May 13).

As reported, 27.161 billion securities 178.394 trillion rials (about worth

\$594.646 million) had been traded at the TSE, which is Iran's major stock exchange, during the week ended on May 6.

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 April 25, 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 the country's automakers and offering their shares in the market.

"There is still optimism about the nuclear negotiations, and this could be a major factor

in removing sanctions and improving the activities of companies, which will greatly improve the capital market transactions, the market analyst stressed.

Noting that the capital market will react to real changes in macroeconomic indicators, he said: "Companies are experiencing good profitability under the influence of increasing access to international markets, and this indicates that economic growth is on the horizon for the country."

"In the next one or two years, we will experience good economic growth, which is in favor of the capital market and we will see its positive impacts in the market as well", Mir-Moeini added.

# World moving towards 'apolar' order: professor

#### From page 1 > What are the main differences between Biden and Trump in foreign policy, especially when it comes to the Ukraine crisis?

Trump doesn't have the mental capability to strategize. Therefore, he is impulsive and erratic. This explains sudden decisions such as killing General Soleimani or meeting Kim Jong-un in North Korea. I have written about this in "What is Iran" published last year. Exactly because of his inability to think complex issues through, I thought him to be the most dangerous man on earth when he became President. With reference to the Ukraine situation, he even suggested that the United States should paint Chinese flags on its F-22 planes and then use those planes to bomb Russia in order to provoke a war between Russia and China. I was very disappointed that Noam Chomsky recently said that Trump would be the right man to negotiate peace between Ukraine and Russia. Biden isn't the answer to this conflict either, as he is using the war to rally Europe behind the United States, once again, and to



buttress the importance of NATO. The poor people of Ukraine are suffering because there is no strategy for peace that requires a diplomatic opening that Europe and the J.S. seem incapable to provide.

Don't you think that a new wave of ultra-right movements will emerge in Europe and the world at large if Trump returns to the White House?

It would be a disaster for humanity. We are battling existential

crises, including the environmental catastrophe that is unfolding around us. Trump would be bad news to everyone who seeks solutions to our global problems. Don't you predict the European states would adopt more inde-

pendent policies after the U.S. weakness both domestically and internationally?

This has already happened and is irreversible. That said, the Russian invasion of Ukraine reinvigo-

rated NATO, and gave it a mission. Putin was foolish to assume otherwise. In the current international order, wars may deliver a pyrrhic victory. But they don't translate into strategic success exactly because they are pyrrhic.

How do you see the future of the U.S. and its position in the world in comparison to China and Russia? What are the main challenges that threaten America's global hegemony?

The world order has radically changed. The shifts are historic. Essentially we are moving towards an apolar order, where no power can dominate any region on its own. It is not even multipolarity where you have several superpowers determining world politics. Today, no one can. The shift of focus needs to be on the existential threats to our human existence and not questions of power. We are losing the planet to nefarious ideas, wars and the destruction of the environment. Every journalist, intellectual, citizen, and individual needs to be attentive to

this potential fatality for humankind

# Israeli actions threaten to ignite 'religious war' in region: Arab League

The Arab League warns about the consequences of the Israeli regime's deliberate actions targeting the status quo at the al-Aqsa Mosque's compound.

The regional grouping's Secretariat General issued the warning on Sunday, the anniversary of the Nakba (Catastrophe) Day. Thousands of Palestinians and their supporters hold monumental rallies each year to mark the 1948 occasion, which saw the Israeli regime claiming existence following a heavily-Western-backed war against regional territories.

Israeli settlers storm the compound, Islam's third-holiest site, on a daily basis under the protection of Israeli forces. They often attack Palestinian Muslims and Christians, who converge on the compound to perform their religious duties.

"These attacks amount to great violation of the international laws, and stand in the way of international efforts aimed at establishing 'peace," the Arab League statement read.

The Israeli assaults threaten to fan the flames of insecurity and instability in the region, and "can drag the [entire] region into violence and initiate a religious war," it added.

The Secretariat noted that around seven decades had passed since the Nakba, but the Palestinians were still dealing with the repercussions of the occasion," and are subject to violations that threaten "their existence, soil, rights, and sanctities."

It enumerated some instances of the regime's wanton aggression as its destruction of Palestinians' homes, forcing Palestinians into leaving their homeland, and carrying out "field executions" against them, including its recent gruesome murder of Shereen Abu Akleh, a distinguished Palestinian journalist.

The body urged the United Nations Security Council to intervene in support of the Palestinian people, and in favor of implementation of the UN resolutions that condemn the Israeli regime's occupation and aggression.



"The Security Council should expeditiously take the necessary measures that would bring pressure to bear on the occupying Israeli authorities to end their violations against the Palestinian nation," it asserted.

Such, the statement noted, is the Council's legal and moral duty towards preservation of international peace and security, and implementation of international resolutions.

(Source: Press TV)

# Ukraine war: Global wheat prices jump after India export ban

The price of wheat has jumped on international markets after India banned the export of the staple cereal.

The benchmark wheat index rose as much as 5.9% in Chicago, the highest it has been in two months.

The export ban comes after a heatwave hit India's wheat crops, taking domestic prices to a record high.

The cost of everything from bread and cakes to noodles and pasta has risen in recent months as wheat prices soared on world commodity markets.

would worsen the crisis," German food and agriculture minister Cem Ozdemir said

The G7 is an organisation of the world's seven largest so-called "advanced" economies, which dominate global trade and the international financial system. They are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States.

Although India is the world's second-biggest wheat producer, it has not previously been a major exporter as most of its crop is sold on domestic

global demand. They echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that "India was ready to feed the world".

So, the ban does seem like a major policy U-turn. It also hints at the government's concerns over rising prices at home. But the decision could cause what one expert described as a foreign policy challenge for India. Delhi had been making noises to get a waiver from a World Trade Organization rule that makes it difficult for countries to export grains that - as the Indian government routinely does - are bought at a fixed price from farmers for official reserves. And some countries seemed willing to help India find a way to export wheat to the world.

The country is also a major producer of cereals such as maize and wheat, which have risen sharply in price too. The UN said that global food prices eased slightly in April but remain almost 30% higher than the same time last year.

Rising food prices, along with a jump in the cost of energy, have been pushing up inflation around that world. That has forced major central banks, including the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of England, to raise interest rates in an attempt to rein in rising prices.

That, in turn, has triggered concerns that the higher cost of borrowing could hit global economic growth, with some high-profile commentators warning of a recession.

# Sweden, Finland intend to join NATO in historic policy shift

INTERNATIONAL

From page 1 > Likewise, Russia's deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov has said that "this is another grave mistake with far-reaching consequences, the general level of military tensions will increase."

Ryabkov warned the two countries "should have no illusions that Russia will simply put up with their decision. It is a pity that common sense is being sacrificed for some phantom ideas about what should be done in the current situation.

The Kremlin had also previously warned Helsinki and Stockholm against joining the bloc and promised an appropriate response should they make such a move. In the wake of the announcements, the Kremlin has said the decisions represented a hostile move that threatened Russia, warning vaguely of "retaliatory steps, both of a military-technical and other nature".

Turkey has expressed dissatisfaction over any Finnish and Swedish membership, which requires the unanimous approval of the alliance's members. The Turkish foreign minister says that "Sweden and Finland must stop supporting terrorist groups in their countries and provide clear security guarantees."

Speaking after a Nato foreign ministers' meeting in Berlin, the Turkish minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Turkey was "not threatening anybody" but that while Finland's approach was conciliatory, Sweden was not being so constructive.

Ankara is said to be particularly concerned about Sweden's support for the PKK Kurdish militant group, designated as a terrorist group by Turkey.

Sweden's ruling Social Democrats party say they back the country joining the Western military alliance NATO, abandoning decades of opposition to the move.

In a statement, the Social Democrats said the party board held a meeting on May 15, 2022, and "decided that the party will work toward Sweden applying for membership in NATO,"

Swedish Prime minister, Magdalena Andersson, told a news conference "we believe Sweden needs the formal security guarantees that come with membership in Nato."

She admitted her country's non-alignment policy had served Sweden well but claims it 'will not do so in the future".

However, the move has divided her own party, with some members arguing that the decision has been rushed through.

The increasing sense of inevitability over the NATO application process has caused fury among some in the Social Democrats.

Last year's party congress backed retaining Sweden's traditional policy of non-alignment while in December the Social Dem



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Mikael Andersson, also criticized the Swedish process saying it has been "far too fast for such a complex issue. I am critical of the fact that it has been forced forward," he told Swedish media.

Anders Lindberg, the political editorialist at Aftonbladet, an independent social-democratic daily argues "It's not Sweden deciding the timeline. it's Finland because they share a 1,300-km border with Russia"

Experts say there has never been any Russian threat to Finland or Sweden. Moscow has repeatedly warned both countries against joining NATO, saving such a move would oblige it to "restore military balance" by strengthening its defenses in the Baltic Sea region, including the deployment of nuclear weapons.

An organization called "SAY NO TO NATO" has staged a demonstration against Sweden's potential membership of North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the capital Stockholm.

Protesters argued the Swedish government's main task should be protecting the country's independence and peace and that joining NATO would run counter to that task and escalate the current situation.

Crowds of protesters laid slogans on ground reading "North Atlantic Terrorism Organization"

Ulf Sparrbage, an organizer of the demonstration says "we don't think that NATO is an organization for peace. NATO has been making wars without any native countries have been attacked militarily. Still, they have destroyed a large part of West Asia, Afghanistan, and so forth.'

He added that "NATO go out their own jurisdiction to fight other countries, and it has caused a lot of problems in the world. We don't want be an enemy with Russia. We believe in dialogue and try to make an agreement and so forth. We want to stay neutral with no alliance."

Marcus McBay another protester in attendance says "I think it's a good opportunity to show that there is a lot of people, especially youth, that are against this because we are the generation that's going to be most affected by this."

Nato's secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg,

naias government said it would still allow exports backed by letters of credit that have already been issued, and to countries that request supplies "to meet their food security needs".

Government officials also said the ban was not permanent and could be revised

However, the decision has been criticised by agriculture ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) nations meeting in Germany.

"If everyone starts to impose export restrictions or to close markets, that markets

But Ukraine's wheat exports plunged after the Russian invasion. And with droughts and floods threatening crops in other major producers, commodity traders were expecting supplies from India to make up for part of the shortfall. Before the ban, India had aimed to ship a record 10 million tons of wheat

this vear. Just a week ago, senior officials from

India's commerce ministry said that they were bullish about increasing the country's wheat exports to meet the surge in

The same countries are now likely to be upset.

Global food prices hit a fresh record high in March after the Ukraine war caused a "giant leap", according to the United Nations (UN).

That came as the conflict cut off supplies from the world's biggest exporter of sunflower oil - Ukraine - which means the costs of alternatives also climbed.

On Sunday, Lloyd Blankfein, the senior chairman of Wall Street investment banking giant Goldman Sachs, said there is a "very, very high risk" of recession in the U.S., the world's biggest economy.

Blankfein's comments on CBS's Face the Nation came on the same day as Goldman Sachs economists cut their U.S. economic growth forecasts for this year and next.

ocrat-led government refused to back an opposition demand for a "Nato option" in its security policy

At Social Democrat party meetings across the country, many MPs have reported huge resistance to Nato membership, the pace of the decision-making – and often both.

The vice-chairman of parliament's defense committee, Niklas Karlsson who is also a Social Democrat MP for the southern Scania region says there was a "strong majority" among his local party members to maintain non-alignment, despite concerns and hesitation caused by Russia's offensive.

"There is criticism that this is far too short a time to discuss such a complex issue," he said. "I will address this at the party board... If the decision is to extend the time for the discussion, I will be happy.

Meanwhile, the Social Democrat chairman in the southern city of Helsingborg,

has regularly said both countries would be "welcomed with open arms" and that the accession process would be quick.

Once vetted by NATO allies, approval of membership for both countries could come in just a matter of weeks. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken says Washington "would strongly support the NATO application by either Sweden or Finland should they choose to formally apply to the alliance," adding he heard "almost across-the-board very strong support" for the NATO bids. "I'm very confident that we will reach a consensus," he said.

The irony is that Ukraine has not been "welcomed with open arms" by NATO and it's accession process has been condemned by Kyiv for being far too slow.

With Russia's conflict in Ukraine sending economic and diplomatic shockwaves across the globe, experts have argued further expanding NATO toward Russian borders will not help ease the tensions.

## Israel has detained one million Palestinians since Nakba in 1948: advocacy group

A prisoners advocacy group says more than one million Palestinians have been detained by Israel since the 'Nakba' in 1948, which marked the loss of the Palestinian homeland.

The director of the Palestinian Center for Prisoners Studies Riad al-Ashgar said on Sunday the Israel Prison Service (IPS) has been committing brutal crimes against Palestinian prisoners, including women, children, and the elderly.

Palestinian prisoners are subjected to severe physical and psychological torture during the arrest, at interrogation centers, and in jails, he said, according to Press TV.

According to the center, nearly 230 Palestinians have been killed as a result of torture and medical negligence in Israeli jails over the past decades.

Israeli jail authorities keep Palestinian prison-

ers under deplorable conditions lacking proper hygienic standards, the center said. Besides dismal sanitary conditions, the prisoners are subjected to other inhumane and degrading circumstances, including administrative detention, solitary confinement, and bans on family visits.

Currently, some five thousand Palestinian political prisoners are being held in as many as 23 Israeli prisons and detention centers.

Hundreds of them have apparently been incarcerated under the so-called administrative detention. Some prisoners have been held in administrative detention for up to 11 years.

Palestinians and human rights groups say the administrative detention violates the right to due process since evidence is withheld from prisoners while they are held for lengthy periods without being charged, tried, or convicted.

The detention takes place on orders from

a military commander and on the basis of what the Israeli regime describes as secret evidence.

Rights groups describe Israel's use of administrative detention as a "bankrupt tactic" and have long called on the regime to bring the practice to an end.

Senior Palestinian officials say Israel must be held accountable for its persecution of Palestinian people, including its mass and arbitrary detentions.

On May 15, 1948, Israel was established as a Jewish-majority state at the expense of the forced expulsion of nearly 800,000 Palestinians. The day has been commemorated annually as the 'Nakba'. It also refers to the systematic ethnic cleansing of two thirds of the Palestinian population by Zionist paramilitaries between 1947 and 1949.

## Taliban stops Karzai at Kabul airport from leaving for UAE

Afghan Taliban on Saturday prevented former President Hamid Karzai to leave the country, BBC Pashtu reported on Sunday.

As per details, the former Afghan President wanted to attend the funeral prayer of the UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, but Taliban officials stopped him at Kabul airport and not allowed him to leave the country.

Taliban has yet to comment on the incident, but in the past, they claimed that there is no ban on any former Afghan officials to

go abroad.

Karzai decided to live in Kabul and not leave the country at the time of the collapse of the Ashraf Ghani's government, and the entering of the Taliban into the Afghan capital.

Karzai served as President of Afghanistan from 22 December 2001 to 29 September 2014. He was the first elected President of Afghan history.

(Source: mmnews.tv)

# TOURISM

### MAY 17, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES**

# Photo exhibit explores everyday life in UNESCO-designated Uramanat

- A photo exhibition, featuring TEHRAN everyday life in the UNESCO-designated Uramanat, opened its doors to the public in Sarvabad, western Iran.

The opening ceremony was attended by several local officials, cultural figures, and travel insiders on Saturday, CHTN reported.

According to organizers, the photo collection is scheduled to go on show in Tehran as well.

Uramanat region is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore. Stretched on a steep slope of Sarvabad county, it is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

As mentioned by UNESCO, Uramanat is an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition of the semi-nomadic agropastoral way of life of the Hawrami people, a Kurdish tribe that has resided in the Zagros Mountains for millennia.

"This outstanding cultural tradition is manifested in the ancestral practices of transhumance, the mode of seasonal living in Havars, steep-slope terraced agriculture, soil and water management, and traditional knowledge for planning and constructing steeply terraced villages, and rich diversity of intangible heritage, all reflecting a harmonious co-existence with nature."

Archaeological findings dating back about 40,000 years, caves and rock shelters, ancient paths and ways along the valleys, motifs and



Uramanat is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one.

inscriptions, cemeteries, mounds, castles, settlements, and other historical evidence attest to the continuity of life in the Uramanat region from the Paleolithic to the present time.

Kermanshah, formerly Bakhtaran, the capital of Kermanshah province, was founded in the 4th century CE by Bahram IV of the Sasanian dynasty. Conquered by the Arabs in 640, the town was called Qirmasin (Oirmashin). Under the Seljuk rule in the 11th century, it was the chief town of Kordestan. The Safavids (ruled 1501–1736) fortified the town, and the Qajars repulsed an attack by the Turks during Fath Ali Shah's rule (1797-1834). Occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 during World War I, it was evacuated in 1917. The construction of a road in the 1950s over the

# Sleep under the stars: where to pitch a tent in Iran

Iran.

sites in Iran.

their stay.

Ardabil

Ardabil

magnificence.

Golestan National Park, which

shares borders with North Khorasan

province, is one of the best camping

Visitors have a chance to observe

province

Sprawling on a high, windswept

plateau, Ardabil is well-known

for having lush natural beauties,

hospitable people, and its silk and

carpet trade tradition. It is also home

to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh

Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine

everyone with its rich culture and

rare species of the wilderness during

From page **1** > Set up your tent near area along the Caspian Sea. It's this wonderful village and get a taste of its generous nature. Watch the stars in the pure sky of night, sip on a cup of Persian tea and clear your mind of any issue

#### Lorestan

Famed as the land of waterfalls, Lorestan is a top option for backpackers.

After trekking and hiking some rolling mountainous roads, and watching the beautiful scenery of the snowy peaks of Zagros Mountain, marvelous Lake Gahar appears. The glittering surface and pure turquoise color of the lake are stunning and picturesque.

The lake is situated near Oshtorankouh in the Zagros mountain range.

#### Golestan

Ensemble. Golestan province is a flourishing



The province is very cold in winter located in the northeast region of and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year.

#### Deserts

One of the attractions, not easily found in many other countries, is deserts. Iran has pristine desert areas of special nature.

Local tour guides can take you to camping spots in the tranquil deserts and introduce you to different charms there.

Pure dunes, fresh air, and star gazing at night are all unique experiences. In some deserts like Varzaneh and Mesr, off-roading and camel-riding are available.

#### Isfahan

Isfahan province is full of different natural and historical charms. A diversity of mounts, hills, lakes, and deserts. Many campers come to see these eye-opening phenomena and take amazing shots to show the feast of nature.

The province offers a unique experience of visiting oasis villages with all their natural and cultural beauties. While traveling from Isfahan to Yazd, one of the best things you may do is spend a night in the central desert of Iran.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

# Ancient potteries discovered in underground shelter

amazes

TEHRAN – Locals have recently discovered potteries while cleaning an underground shelter in northern Iran.

A cleaning project has uncovered several cultural elements in an underground shelter in northern Gilan province, Iranian archaeologist Shahram Ramin said on Monday

The discovery includes several simple and glazed pottery dating back to the Islamic era, Ramin said.

The structure is approximately 300 meters in the heart of a hill with the east-west axis and is about 120 by 100 meters in size in a natural soil bed mostly made of sand that has been hardly fused with silt and lime, he explained.

The hill's outer part and top are flattened in the form of three platforms and on them are several thatched buildings belonging to the local villagers, he added.

Once the archaeologists have researched and analyzed such structures, they could attract tourists to the region, he mentioned.

Experts say such tight labyrinthine underground "cities", which were used as defensive shelters in



wartime, still boast lots of charms as destinations for domestic and foreign travelers.

The handmade troglodytic architecture is a distinctive method, which does not require major construction materials and consequently very low environmental load since its creation is majorly by extraction of space rather than the addition of mass. The Architecture by subtraction rather than addition provides many opportunities that call for comprehensive research and analysis.

As there is no obligatory method in making spaces

rather than material cohesion, there is no priority in constructing a troglodytic structure, either from the roof or from the floor. Dealing with stone blocks, rocks, and piles of the earth requires a variety of tools such as an ax, hammer, chisel, and sledgehammer to shape the interior space. Based on the academic findings, the creation of

handmade troglodytic architectural sites depends on several factors including climatic and geographical conditions, defense, security, durability, and religion, which were deeply tied with the cultural, political, social, and economic circumstances. This architecture can be classified into various formal types in terms of their external form, internal space, and function (religious, tombs, residential, and shelter).

In Iran, many magnificent cases of this architecture have taken place in different regions due to its various climates. This unique architecture is at odds with the conventional settlement patterns and construction methods and is always can take advantage of the mountains and valleys on the floor or wall, which is a good way to control climate fluctuation in different regions.

# Tea festival to promote tourism in northern Iran

TEHRAN – The first edition of a tea festival was held in the town of Amlash, northern Gilan province in a bid to promote tourism in the region, the provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

The festival that came to an end on Monday aimed to properly introduce the tourist attractions and investment packages of Gilan province, Vlai Jahani explained, CHTN reported.

The tea industry employs more than 200,000 people in the northern part of the country seasonally, and there are 175 factories in the province that support economic development in cities that can grow tea, the official added.

tons of tea annually and the difference between production and consumption is provided by imports, he noted

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local



Recovered relics to go on show in Ardabil



TEHRAN - Collections of recovered relics will go on show at a special exhibition in the city of Ardabil, northwest Iran.

The relics have been seized from illegal excavators (and smugglers), the provincial tourism chief Nader Fallahi said on Sunday.

In addition, the exhibit is set to feature metal detectors and other equipment seized from the excavators in Ardabil province.

Arranged by the provincial tourism directorate, the exhibition will commence in near future at the ornamented facades and interiors, and, above all, an atmosphere of peace and tranquility have all made a must-see stopover while traversing northwest Iran.

It is named after Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili (1253-1334), who was a Sufi philosopher and leader of Islamic mystic practices. It embodies the essence of Sufi traditions by having a microcosmic 'city', which embraces a mosque, a madrasa, a library, a cistern, a bathhouse, kitchens, and a hospital, as well as religious houses amongst others. The place also boasts a remarkable collection of antique artifacts.

Developed between the early 16th century and the end of the 18th century, this place of spiritual retreat enjoys principal elements of traditional Iranian architecture to make the best use of existing space for accommodating a variety of functions.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, whose altitude averages 3,000 meters above sea level, Ardebil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in

age-old Khorasan track added considerably to the importance of the city.

UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

The Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble is a microcosm of Sufism where arrays of harmonious sun-scorched domes, well-preserved and richly- the country in winter.

A total of 30,000 tons of tea is grown each year in the country, and the country consumes 80,000

TEHRAN

authorities

dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local

<u>Hamedan to hold fam tour for travel insiders, media persons</u>

cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action - it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

# Historical core of Bushehr undergoes restoration

TEHRAN – The second round of restoration work has recently commenced on the historical texture of southwestern Bushehr province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 100 billion rials (\$345,000) has been allocated to the project, which is being carried out under the supervision of the experienced restorers and cultural heritage experts. Esmaeil Sajadimanesh explained on Monday.

The project aims at reviving and restoring the texture to attract more tourists to the region, the official added.

Back in January, a province's tourism official said that the historical texture of Bushehr holds the potential to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

However, before developing a dossier, the historical texture needs to be revived and restored properly, the



#### official added.

Such places, which are usually significant tourist attractions as well, are meant to keep culture and customs alive around the world, he noted.

The historical texture of Bushehr is one of these unique areas and with the full cooperation of its residents and related organizations and departments, it would be qualified to be registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in the future, he explained.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praving centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.



Sunday. Tourism

> "To restore tourism in the post-corona era, this tour has been organized to encourage people to travel to this region, since the province's tourism sector has suffered stagnation and serious damage due to the pandemic," the official added.

During the visits to various religious, historical, and natural attractions with specific programs, tour participants will gain

deeper understanding of the infrastructure and accommodations, souvenirs and handicrafts, customs, and culture of most cities in the province, he noted.

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.

of Hamedan province plan to hold a familiarization tour in a bid to promote traveling to the west-

central province. Journalists, tour operators, photographers, influencers, and travel bloggers from all over the country have been

invited to the tour, which will be held from May 17 to 20, the deputy provincial tourism chief Ali Khaksar said on

# Has Iran entered a 30-year dry spell?

# SOCIET

navirus, and kills one to five percent of the pa-

World Immunization Week 2022, celebrated from

April 24 to 30, aims to highlight the collective action

needed and to promote the use of vaccines to pro-

'Long Life for All - Vaccines, in the pursuit of a

WHO works with countries across the globe to

raise awareness of the value of vaccines and immu-

nization and ensures that governments obtain the

necessary guidance and technical support to im-

plement high-quality immunization programs. The

ultimate goal of World Immunization Week is for

more people – and their communities – to be pro-

tected from vaccine-preventable diseases.GHT:

Concerns about the spread of measles in the coun-

try are growing as the Afghan population grows.

tients," Zahraei said on May 9.

World Immunization Week

tect people of all ages against disease.

long life well lived' is the theme of this year.

MAY 17, 2022 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES** 

#### By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN - If the trend of rising temperatures and water consumption continues, the severity and effects of the drought will intensify, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management has said.

While rejecting the country's entry into the 30-year dry spell, he said that drought is not limited to a 30year or 10-year period, as rainfall has gradually declined over the past five decades.

The rainfall rate is still declining and has gone through a downward trend compared to the past 50 years; the precipitation does not decrease year by year, and there is a fluctuation in rainfall, he stated.

In general, according to statistics, the average rainfall in the country in the last 50 years has been 270 mm, which has decreased by 230 mm, in other words, over the past 5 decades, the average rainfall has dropped by 40 mm, he explained.

He went on to say that precipitation fluctuates. For example, last year the annual rainfall was 134 mm and this year it has increased by 156 mm compared to the previous year.

It cannot be said that we have entered a 30-year period of drought and that it will end. If the trend of rising temperatures and water consumption continues, the severity and effects of the drought will intensify.

In addition to drought, we are also facing the issue of rising water consumption, and even if the rainfall was normal, there was still a shortage of water. Nature does not have the ability to supply water to humans, he further lamented.

#### Drought causes \$107m damage to environment

Drought has so far incurred a loss of 28 trillion rials (about \$107 million)



to the environment, Hassan Akbari. deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, said on May 8.

Unfortunately, over 70 percent of the country is suffering from severe drought. The severity of the drought is devastating in areas such as the Zagros, which is both a source of water and natural habitats, he lamented.

Perhaps the first and most important damage of drought is the weakening of vegetation, which seriously disrupts the wildlife food chain.

Iran faces a range of environmental challenges from high temperatures, pollution, flooding, and vanishing lakes. In April 2021, the Iranian Meteorological Organization warned of an "unprecedented drought" and rainfall levels that were substantially below long-term averages.

From the beginning of the current crop year (September 23, 2021) until April 18, precipitation has dropped by 29 percent compared to a year ago, Sadeq Ziaeian, director of the national center for drought and crisis man-

agement. affiliated with the Meteorological Organization, said.

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

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

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the longterm average.

#### 4.8 million people at medium to high risk of drought

The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins from September 2020 to July 2021 was, in most places, substantially lower compared with the year-earlier period. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

According to current assessments, parts of Iran are facing a rainfall anomaly which has had an observed impact on vegetation and agriculture. Of particular concern is that these drought impacts have been observed in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

It reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven - South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi - have been severely affected by the drought. The lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, and income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.

Iran on par with developed countries in children's health

From page **1** > Therefore, everyone should pay attention to vaccination coverage and include their children in the full coverage of vaccines that are offered in health centers.

Concerns about the spread of measles in the country are growing as the Afghan population grows, so the measles vaccination operation for non-Iranian people, including Afghans, was put on the agenda and implemented, he noted.

Measles mostly infects children under the age of 10, and all families need to get their children vaccinated between the ages of 12 to 18 months, he said, adding that vaccination will be free of charge.

The measles vaccination program in Iran started in 1984 when 34 percent of the population was vaccinated in the first year and 90 to 95 percent of the population after 6 years. Also in 2003, 33 million people were vaccinated with a national program to eradicate measles in the country.

Then it was managed to minimize the measles incidence rate in three years and increase vaccination coverage to 95 to 98 percent. In 2019, the World Health Organization approved the elimination of measles and rubella in Iran

Some 64 percent of the infected people are Afghans, 3 percent are Pakistanis and the rest are Iranians. The disease causes severe symptoms in people with malnutrition, including blindness, pneumonia, and brain infection.

The disease is much more contagious than coro-

## **Tribes in Iran**

#### Part 4

The abodes of the Kuch and Baluch and the Jat peoples are placed by early Islamic geographers in the province of Kerman. Ebn al-Faqih (p. 206) refers to the cities called Qofs and Bolus, and Mas'udi (op. cit., p. 254, ed. Pellat, sec. 1119) writes of the Qofs and Baluj and the Jatt. Estakhri (p. 163-64) and Ebn Hawqal (pp. 309-10, tr.

Kramers, pp. 303-05) state that there were seven tribes in the mountains of the Qofs and that the Baluch occupied the skirt of the namesake mountains. These reports are repeated in writings of the 7th/13th century (Yaqut, I, pp. 732-33, IV, p. 147, 150; Abu'l-Feda, Tagwim al-boldan, Pers. tr., pp. 380-81; Mohammad b. Najib Bakran, Jahan-nama, p. 58).

Although the big Turkish immigrations into Iran did not begin until later, the presence of Turks is occasionally mentioned in writings of the early Islamic centuries. Mas'udi (ibid.) mentions Guz (i.e., Gozz) and Kharlokh Turks around Bestam and Bost in Sistan, and Estakhri (pp. 245, 253, 281) mentions Khalaj who lived in the southern districts of Khorasan and the lands between Sistan and India and "had the build, appearance, and clothes of Turks

#### quented by Turks coming from Kharazm.

According to Ebn Bakran (p. 72) the original abode of the Gozz had been in the district of Tarab on both banks of the "Jayhun of Chach" (i.e., the Sayhun or Syr Darya). Later a large group of them passed through the province of Balk into the district of Khottalan (north of the Amu Darya), whence they burst out in the mid 6th/12th century and invaded Khorasan, penetrating ultimately to Kerman.

The same author also mentions the Mangeshlaq Turks around the Kuh-e Siah near the Abaskun (Caspian) Sea and the Yazer Turks around Shahrestana and Farava (two outposts of Khorasan on the edge of the desert sands of Kharazm) and a fortress called Hesar-e Taq (ibid., pp. 72-73).

The available evidence shows that the great expansion of nomadism in Iran was not a conseguence of either the Arab or the Saljug Turkish invasions, but began with the Mongol conquests in the 7th/13th century (Lambton, in El2 III, p. 1096).

In the subsequent history of Iran, Turkish and Turkman tribes played leading parts. The tribal regimes of the Saljugs and the Mongols were followed in the 9th/15th century by those of the Timurid and then



TEHRAN – The preclinical studies on the Razi Cov Pars vaccine have been published in the Frontiers in Immunology as one of the world's leading journals of immunology

Ranked first in the world for citing immunology, the journal is ranked Q1 and published as open access, in which the article of Razi Cov Pars was published with an impact factor of 7.6.

The article, entitled "safety and efficacy of combined intramuscular/intranasal Razi-Cov Pars vaccine candidate against SARS-CoV-2: A preclinical study in several animal models", is compiled by Seyed Reza Banihashem, Ali Es'haghi, Mohammad H. Fallah Mehrabadi.

In this article, how to achieve the injectable dose

combinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by producing antibodies.

It is developed in 3 doses. The first two doses are injectable and the third dose is intranasal. The second dose of the vaccine will be injected into the volunteers 21 days later and the third dose will be inhaled 51 days later.

At the end of the second phase of clinical trials, Cov Pars proved 80 percent immunogenicity.

A number of countries have requested to purchase the Cov Pars vaccine for COVID-19, and negotiations are underway to take the necessary measures for export, Mohammad Hossein Fallah, spokesman for the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute said in December 2021.



So far, three Iranian vaccines against coronavirus published the results of their clinical studies in prestigious journals. An article on the first two clinical trial phases of

and also the high immunogenicity of the vaccine are specified.

This article will be published online next week and will be available in all regions of the world.

The results of phases one, two, and three of the vaccine will also be published in the most prestigious journals of the world in the coming months.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, Razi Cov Pars is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27, 2021.

The vaccine is protein-based, which employs re-

The vaccine employs recombinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by

producing antibodies.

COVIRAN - the first homegrown vaccine for coronavirus - was published in "BMJ Open", a leading multidisciplinary medical journal.

The study of the Pastu Covac vaccine trial has been accepted by a prestigious international scientific journal, to be soon published, Alireza Biglari, head of the Pasteur Institute, has announced.

Moreover, the results of pre-clinical studies of "Pastu Covad" vaccine, the first Iranian-made coronavirus vaccine based on adenovirus, have been published in one of the prestigious international journals.

and all spoke Turkish

From the accounts of Estakhri (loc. cit.) and Ebn Hawgal (pp. 419, 426, 452, tr. Kramers, pp. 407, 413, 437), it would seem that the Khalaj had long been established in that region. These two writers (Estakhri, p. 214; Ebn Hawgal, p. 383, tr. p. 373) also state that in the province of Astarabad (i.e., Gorgan) there was a rebat named Dehestan which lay on the frontier with the Gozz Turks and was fre-

the Qara Qoyunlu and Aq Qoyunlu Turkmen.

The Safavid dynasty (907/1501-1135/1722) won and kept power with the aid of an army consisting primarily of Qizilbash Turkman tribes (uymaqat) such as the Shamlu, Ostajlu, Dhu'l-qadr, Qajar, Afshar, Rumlu, and Tekelu.

> Source: Encyclopedia Iranica To be continued

## **COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 16**

New cases	383
New deaths	8
Total cases	7,228,434
Total deaths	141,232
New hospitalized patients	65
Patients in critical condition	755
Total recovered patients	7,022,911
Diagnostic tests conducted	51,808,446
Doses of vaccine injected	149,515,460

# **ENGLISH IN USE**

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامهریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچر خهسواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه بر گزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران ، موضوع توجه به دوچر خه سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تاکید قرار گرفته است.

# EHRAN TIMES



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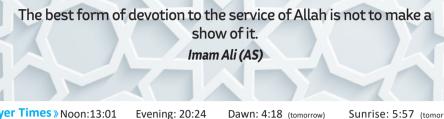
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#### MAY 17, 2022

#### GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



#### Prayer Times » Noon:13:01 Evening: 20:24

Sunrise: 5:57 (tomorrow)

# Arabic language: Iranian loanwords in Arabic

#### Part 2

Loans from New Persian can be identified only when the NPers. forms differ from the Mid. Pers. ones. Thus the following can be assumed to have been borrowed from New Persian: khana "box, column" (NPers. khana "house," Mid. Pers. xanag); shira "juice" (= NPers., cf. the earlier loan siraj from Mid. Pers. shirag); kushk "kiosk" (= NPers., cf. jawsaq from Mid. Pers. koshk, cf. Syr. Gwshq'); zir "soprano, treble" (= NPers.; Mid. Pers. zeer).

Indirect borrowings took place via Aramaic or Syriac, cf.: kanz "treasure" (Aram. gnz from Old Pers. ganza-); fetkar "idol" (Aram. ptkr "relief, sculpture," from Old Pers. patikara-); zarnikh "orpiment" (Aram. zrnyk, from Old Pers. zaranyaka-, a Median form, beside genuine Old Pers. daraniya- "gold"); dashen, plur. dawashen "gift" (Aram. dshn', from Old Pers. dshna-, cf. Mid. Pers. dash(i) n); but also via Turkish, cf.: tazja "joiner's bench" (Turk. tezgiah, from NPers. dastgah); tarzi "tailor" (Turk. terzi, from NPers. darzi); shorrab "stocking" (Turk. chorab, cf. the older loanword jawrab, both from NPers. jurab).

The Iranian loans in Arabic were of course adapted to the Arabic phonology. Phonetical changes include the following. Vowels: The Mid. and classical NPers. majhul vowels ee and o appear as i, ay, or aa and oo or aw, e.g., dibaj "silk brocade" (Mid. Pers. deebaag, NPers. diba); firoozaj or fayroozaj "turquoise" (Mid. Pers. peerozag, NPers. f/pirooza); baal "spade" (Mid. Pers. beel, NPers. bil); sheraas "glue" (Mid. Pers. @sreesh, NPers. serish); rasas "tin, lead"; mooq "shoe" (Mid. Pers. mog); rawshan "window" (Mid. Pers. roshn "light," NPers. rowshan).

Consonants. Iranian p, ch, and g, which are sounds foreign to Arabic, are replaced by f or b; s (s), sh or j; and j or q (in late borrowings also k). Ir. p, cf.: fostaq (fostoq) "pistachio" (Mid. Pers. pistag, NPers. peste); faluzaj, sweetmeat of flour, water, and honey (Mid. Pers. paludag); babush or babuj "slipper" (NPers. papush); ferjar or ferkar (berkar) "pair of compasses" (NPers. pargar); fishfaraj and shofaraj "sweetmeats" (Mid. Pers. Peshparag). Ir. ch, cf. sanj "harp" (Mid. NPers. chang, Parth. shang); sarm "hide, leather" (Mid., NPers. charm); saruj and sharuq "mortar" (Mid. Pers. charug); sehrij "cistern" (Mid. Pers. chahreg); jass "gypsum" (Mid., NPers. gach); sawbaj and shawbaq "rolling pin" (Mid. Pers. chobag "wand"); shawzar "veil" (Mid. Pers. chadur); shatranj "chess" (Mid. Pers. chatrang); in tashmizaj, a medicinal black grain (NPers. chashmizag), we have t through dissimilation; in some late loans we find j, cf.: jank "harp" (cf. sanj, above); janki "harp player;" jarkah, the name of a musical mode (NPers. chargah); jormuq and (older?) sarmuja "boot" (Mid. Pers. charmmog "leather shoe"; seraj "lamp" has s instead of s (Parth. charag, NPers. charagh, Aram. Shrg', Mid. Pers. charah). Ir. g, cf.: jawhar "substance, jewel" (Mid. Pers. gohr); jond "army" (Mid. Pers. gund); jo'zar "calf" (Mid. Pers. godar); jamus, plur. iawamis "buffalo" (Mid. Pers. gawmish); jond and qond "testicle" (Mid. Pers. gund); jorboz and qorboz "sly, cunning" (NPers. gorboz); qashniz "coriander" (Mid. Pers. gishniz, NPers. geshniz;); in final position: korbaj (qorbaj) "shop, tavern" (Mid. Pers kurbag); namaq and namaj "letter, writing" (Mid. Pers. namag); muq "large boot" (see above); dokah, sekah, cf. jarkah above (NPers. dogah, segah).

(tazroj) "pheasant" (from Parth. tadarg cf. Mid. Pers. tadar(w), NPers. tazarw); tabag "frying pan" (Mid. Pers. tabag); sayhuj "partridge" (Mid. Pers. tehog, NPers. tihu); tabar "axe" (Mid., NPers. tabar); shatranj.

Ir. k, cf.: korbaj and qorbaj; qayrawan "caravan" (Mid. Pers. karvan); qafiz, a measure (Mid. Pers. kafiz); gabi "partridge" (Mid., NPers. kabk); qaba, "outer garment" (Mid. Pers. kabag); khandaq "ditch, moat" (Mid. Pers. kandag).

Ir. s is sometimes replaced by the emphatic s, and Ir. sh occasionally by s. Ir s, cf.: sejjil, "lumps of baked clay" (Mid. Pers. sag "stone" + gil "clay"); serjin "dung" (Mid. Pers. sargen); bostan "garden" (Mid. Pers. bostan); sard "cold" (Mid., NPers. sard); fesfes "clover" (Mid., NPers. aspast); shass "fish-hook" (NPers. shast); Ir. st is occasionally replaced by zd, cf.: rostaq, rosdaq, and rozdaq "district" (Mid. Pers. rostag); rozdaq "row" (Mid. Pers. rastag). Ir. sh, cf.: shiraz "curdled whey" (= NPers.); shajerd (Mid. Pers. hashagird, NPers. shagerd ); shahdanaj "hemp seed" (Mid. Pers. shahdanag); khoshknan "dry bread" (= NPers.); serwal "trousers" (Mid. Pers. shalwar); siraaj "sesame oil" (Mid. Pers. shirag); mesk "musk" (Mid. Pers. mushk, NPers. moshk and meshk); dast "plain" (Mid., NPers. dasht); tast and tass "bowl" (Mid., NPers. tasht).

Ir. kh is occasionally replaced by h, Ir. kho by kh or khw. Ir. k: khana "box, column"; hobb, "earthern vessel" (Mid. Pers. xumb); the name of the Sassanid king khosrow, Kesra, is borrowed from Syriac Kwsrw. Ir. kho: khordig, a kind of broth (Mid. Pers. xwardig "food"); khewan or khowan "tray, table" (Mid. Pers. xwan).

Loanwords have sometimes been altered to conform with the triliteral (and quadriliteral) root system of Arabic and with the so-called "forms" (galeb), thus the final consonant of monosyllabic words was often geminated: jass "gypsum" (Mid., NPers. gach); joll "rose" (Mid. Pers. gul ); qazz "silk" (Mid., NPers. kaz); consonant groups were simplified: foranaq "army leader" (Mid. Pers. parwanag); fehres "summary, register" (Mid. Pers. pahrist; NPers. fehrest from Arabic?); initial or final syllables were dropped: samanjun "sky blue" (NPers. asmangun); marestan "hospital" (Mid. Pers. wemarestan, NPers. bimarestan); shofaraj (fishfaraj) "sweetmeats" (Mid. Pers. peshparag); koshtoban "thimble" (Mid. Pers. angushtban, cf. Aram. Gwspnq'); daydab and dayzaban "watcher, guard" (Mid. Pers. didban). The complete integration of loanwords sometimes led to new formations, e.g.: 1. names of trades (fa'al ): jassas "plasterer, gypsum seller," sarram "seller of hides," qazzaz "silk manufacturer" (from jass, sarm, kazz). 2. Broken plural forms of Iranian loans: mawanid "tax debts," from mand (Mid., NPers. mandan "to remain"). 3. Back formations on the basis of forms interpreted as plur.: fadan "palace" from afdan (Old Pers. apadana-, Syr. 'pdn' ); ferdaws 'Paradise" from faradis (from Gk. paradeisos, Olr. paridaiza-); jamus "buffalo" from jawamis (from jawamis, Mid. Pers. gawmish ); nebr "warehouse" from anbar (= Mid., NPers.). 4. denominative verbs: razaqa "provide nourishment," from rezq (if from Mid. Pers. rozig "daily bread"); zaraqa "to be greenish," from zarqun, dashana "to give," from dashen; taja "to put on a crown," from taj; namaga "to write a book," from namaq; mahara, mahhara "to seal," from mohr (= Mid., NPers.).

# Iranian scholar delves into Hiroshige's paintings to explore Edo era Japan

Frome Page **1** > Hiroshige produced the series in 1833 during a journey on the imperial road called the Tokaido, which ran from Edo (modern Tokyo) to the emperor's palace in Kyoto.

The road was originally built for the ruling shogun, based in Edo, to bring offerings to the emperor. The government set up 53 stations along the Tokaido as stopping points for travelers.

By Hiroshige's time, the road was a popular scenic route, marked by many temples, shrines, shops and inns, which he made famous through his prints.

The scenes are a blend of the grandeur of a noble feudal lord's (daimyo's) lifestyle, realistic images of daily life and ordinary people like merchants or workers, and a refined depiction of nature, which was very important to the Japanese.

Hiroshige was familiar with European painting and often

"A Marriage Proposal" was performed at the

The reading was performed in Gilaki accent,

spoken in the northern Iranian province of

Gilan, by a cast comprising Farhad Besharati,

Mozaffar Qorbannejad, Fariba Dastvareh,

Azim Musavi adapted the play for the

performance, and this loose modern

adaptation was staged by him at Tehran's

Sangalaj Theater in 2017, director Reza

This adaptation is about the ceremony for

a marriage proposal in the village. The guests

talk about everything except the marriage

"By performing this reading I intended to

make the Art Bureau recognize this genre of

dramatic art. Although, the bureau was once

the favorite haunt of people interested in such

Sureh Hall of the Art Bureau on Monday.

Hamidreza Tubai and Hamidreza Moradi.

Gilanpur said in a press release.

proposal issue at the ceremony.



"Nihonbashi, Leaving Edo" from Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige's series "The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido".

introduced perspective into his would-be travelers. prints, although the ultimate effect of his scenes is the distinct linear character of his designs.

Wright was granted to the Dallas Museum of Art by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Marcus in 1984. Inexpensive in their day, The collection is comprised these prints served as travel souvenirs or as enticements to of 55 prints, one of each of

The complete series once

owned by architect Frank Lloyd

the stations plus two for the beginning and endpoints.

Hosseini has captioned all the monuments, people, objects and events Hiroshige illustrated in his woodblock prints.

The book has been offered by the publisher at the 33rd Tehran International Book Fair underway at Imam Khomeini Mosalla.

"Nihonbashi, Leaving Edo" is one of the prints from the series "The Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido".

This print marks the starting point of the Tokaido route from Nihonbashi (Japan Bridge) in Edo. Upon close examination, one can see a diverse range of characters making up the scene. There are daimyos (feudal lords), flower sellers, young Buddhist disciples and an array of animals in a lively display. The colors of the sky here are a simple and effective way to indicate an early sunrise scene at the start of the journey.

Anton Chekhov "A Marriage Proposal" adapted for Tehran stage

TEHRAN – A stage reading of a loose performances," Gilanpur noted. adaptation of Anton Chekhov's comic play

The one-act farce, written in 1888–1889 and first performed in 1890, follows a young man Lomov who comes to propose to his neighbor Natalya but they both keep on fighting on various topics.

"A Marriage Proposal" has been hugely popular in Iran, and consequently, it has been staged by numerous troupes across the country

An Iranian troupe directed by Shahin Ramezani performed it in English at the Iran Tamasha Theater in Tehran in 2019.

Actor and director Hassan Majuni, the founder of Hamun Theater in Rasht, inaugurated the hall with a performance of "A Marriage Proposal" in 2017.

"The Proposal" was successful in its first runs in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and quickly became popular in small towns across Russia.



A poster for a stage reading of Anton Chekhov's "A Marriage Proposal" at Sureh Hall.

Tsar Alexander III liked the play when he had it performed for him. Chekhov himself thought farces were not really worth much as literature; before its success, he called "The Proposal" a "wretched, boring, vulgar little skit."

## New Persian translation of Orhan Pamuk's "Silent House" published

TEHRAN – A new Persian translation of Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk's second novel "Silent House" has recently been published by Cheshmeh in Tehran.

Mohammad Fahimi is the translator of the book originally published in 2013.

The novel is the moving story of a family gathering the summer before the Turkish military coup of 1980.



In an old mansion in high school student drawn to the

Front cover of the Persian edition of Orhan Pamuk's novel "Silent House".

school dropout, and fervent right-wing nationalist, who will draw the visiting family into the growing political cataclysm, in this spellbinding novel depicting Turkey's tumultuous centurylong struggle for modernity.

At least, four Persian translations of "Silent House" have previously been published in Iran

Pamuk visited Iran in May 2018 at the invitation of his Iranian

Ir. t and k are sometimes replaced by the emphatic taj and q ; k occasionally also by kh. Ir. t, cf : taj, tut "mulberry" (NPers. tut); tadroj

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Cennethisar (formerly a fishing village, now a posh resort near Istanbul), the old widow Fatma awaits the annual summer visit of her grandchildren: Faruk, a dissipated failed historian; his sensitive leftist sister, Nilgun; and the younger grandson, Metin, a

fast life of the nouveaux riches, who dreams of going to America.

The widow has lived in the village for decades, ever since her husband, an idealistic young doctor, first arrived to serve the of those early years. But it is poor fishermen.

attended by her faithful servant Recep, a dwarf – and the doctor's illegitimate son.

Now mostly bedridden, she is

Mistress and servant share memories, and grievances, Recep's cousin Hassan, a high

publisher Qoqnus.

Several of his books, including 'The Red Haired Woman'', "My Name Is Red", "Secret Face", "Istanbul: Memories and the City", "Other Colors" and "A Strangeness in My Mind", have been published in Persian.

## **The Guardians**

#### An interview with the author of the book "The Guardians"

"The Guardians," written by Nasrin Sadatian and published by Soore Mehr, is a collection of 50 narratives from 50 Iranian guards at a prison camp for Iragis.

#### \* Did you have any previous writing experience prior to writing this book?

Yes. Despite having a bachelor's degree in biology, I have a master's degree in dramatic literature and have written some screenplays. It was because of this interest in writing that I changed my major and began seriously pursuing writing.

#### \* Could you elaborate on the title "Guardian" of the book?

The stories' narrators were all those who had some sort of contact with the prisoners, which broadened the scope of the subject. Commanders, camp officials, medical personnel, aid workers, and others.

#### \* What challenges did you face during the interviews?

I began writing the book on March 8, 2017,

with the expectation of finishing it by the end of the summer of 2018. But, for three years, we faced challenges due to a variety of factors, including the interviewee's failure to show up, old age, commuting, and, most importantly, their unwillingness to be interviewed. Besides, some of them had lost pieces of their memories and had to talk for hours to recall them. Eventually, I spent 128 hours interviewing these 50 people in order to write their memoirs.

#### \* Which facts stood out to you the most in these memories?

The Iraqi Ba'athists had so brainwashed their soldiers that even in captivity, they wanted to follow their own rules and power, making it difficult for the guards. As a result, the guards couldn't always use military force to calm them down, so they had to go talk to them without weapons.

#### \* How truthful are the stories? Do you think the audience believes the guards did not use as much force and power as they could?

I can confidently state that the story is free

of exaggeration and censorship.

They were not permitted to act violently because of the condition, especially after Imam Khomeini's remark that Iraqi prisoners are our guests. For that when an Iranian soldier slaps an Iraqi soldier, the commander standing in front of the prisoners slaps our soldier.

#### It must have been difficult for the guardsmen and you to go over the memories. How did you keep the situation under control?

We cried a lot during the work. I broke down in tears easily and handed the narrator a tissue to make him feel better and wipe away his tears, and I didn't really try to control all our emotions.

#### What feedback did your book receive from readers?

Many people were surprised that I chose the subject of war, and I was surprised as to why certain people with certain ideas and appearances were required to do so. I explained to them that war is a significant and valuable issue for a country's citizens, regardless of their beliefs or lifestyles.