



We celebrate the anniversary of liberation of Khorramshahr

From Inside **T**

- Iranian, Qatari foreign ministers exchange views on phone **P2**
- Iran says Israel behind assassination of IRGC colonel **P3**
- Iran deputy FM meets Bulgarian, South African counterparts **P3**
- Iran, Oman to form technical committee for developing joint field **P4**
- Tehran, Havana to form working group on mining cooperation **P4**
- Please do touch! Exhibition for blind opens in Tehran **P6**
- Airlines get OK to launch Iran-Oman flights **P6**
- Investment in top nanotechnology projects to gather pace **P7**
- No cases of monkeypox detected in Iran **P7**
- Tehran animation festival welcomes international filmmakers **P8**
- "Bonus" named best at ISFA Awards **P8**

Report **T**

UK Chancellor joins rich list as Brits face "tough" months ahead

As Britons suffer from record inflation levels, the British Chancellor in charge of limiting the effects of skyrocketing prices of food items and other services has been ranked amongst the UK's most wealthiest.

Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty have joined the UK rich list with a combined fortune of £730 million.

The Chancellor becomes the first frontline politician in the Sunday Times rankings just days after warning consumers that the "next few months will be tough" for them.

As the cost of living intensifies, critics say Sunak is not the man to lead the country out of the economic crisis as he is out of touch with how ordinary households are suffering.

Sunak, a former hedge fund manager, and his Indian heiress wife, Akshata Murty, were named on the Sunday Times rich list as the 222nd wealthiest persons in the UK.

Since the inception of the annual rich list in 1989, Sunak's inclusion as the first frontline politician is likely to increase pressure on the Chancellor to do more to help households struggling with inflation, which hit 9% in April, its highest level in 40 years, and soaring energy bills made worse by the crisis in Ukraine.

The British Chancellor attended a Confederation of British Industry dinner, where he said "there is no measure any government could take, no law we could pass, that can make these global forces disappear overnight. The next few months will be tough. But where we can act, we will."

To make matters worse, Sunak and Murty's entry into the Sunday Times rich list follows revelations last month that the Chancellor's wife had claimed non-domiciled **► Page 5**

Iranian teams victorious in IWBF Asia Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's men's and women's teams defeated their rivals in International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) Asia Oceania Championships on Monday.

The men's team defeated Japan 62-42 in their third match.

Iran, who started the campaign with a 47-44 loss against Australia and a 56-50 win over Korea Republic, will play Thailand on Tuesday.

Australia, Iran, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea will compete in Pool A.

Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq and the Philippines have been placed into Pool B of the tournament.

The top two teams in Pool B will join the six Pool A sides in the quarter-finals of the competition.

The women's team defeated Thailand 55-40 after suffering two losses against Australia (61-30) and Japan (66-34).

They will play Japan on Wednesday.

China won the women's tournament at the last IWBF Asia Oceania Championships, but are absent this year for COVID-19 reasons.

Australia, Japan, Thailand and Iran are contesting the women's tournament.

The competition will be held in Phuket, Thailand from May 20 to 28.



Raisi holds talks with Oman's Sultan in Muscat

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi visited Muscat on Monday morning in a state trip expected to give a boost to the already developing Iran-Oman relations.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Ayatol-

lah Raisi left Tehran for Muscat at the official invitation of the Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq Al-Said.

Raisi's visit to Muscat is the first visit of the President of Iran to the country during the term of the new Sultan of Oman. The visit

also marked the fifth foreign trip by Raisi in the 9 months after the establishment of the 13th administration.

Raisi was seen off at the airport by Deputy Head of the Supreme Leader's Office on International Affairs and **► Page 3**

Iran never condones Israeli bases in the region: IRGC

TEHRAN- Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), asserted on Sunday that the Israeli regime will never be allowed to station troops near Iran.

General Sharif stated that the Zionist regime has publicly stated that they are hostile

to the interests of the Islamic Republic.

The Israeli rulers have openly said that they consider the targeting of "our figures" and the identification of "our bases" seriously, the spokesman said.

To preserve the Islamic Republic's security and

national interests, the top general said, Tehran never tolerates the Israeli bases in the region.

General Sharif warned that if the Islamic Republic of Iran is assured of any wicked deed by the Zionists wherever, it will repeat its previous devastating and crushing responses. **► Page 2**

Iran prepared for dealing with any virus threat: health minister

TEHRAN – Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said the country's infrastructure for producing coronavirus vaccines is so efficient that can be used to deal with any other virus threats.

Iran has proved to be among the very progressive countries in the world in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Some 75 percent of people in the country have received the coronavirus vaccine, which is higher than the 60 percent rate required to create herd immunity," ILNA quoted Einollahi as saying on Monday.

The minister made the remarks at the seventy-fifth World Health Assembly which is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22 to 28. **► Page 7**

cession took its toll on their incomes; many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators faced big dilemmas such as bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

Furthermore, the pandemic has taken a huge toll on the civil aviation sector. For instance, airlines reportedly lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of flight cancellations during the high seasons. **► Page 6**



IPO hosting intl. event on privatization

Iran Privatization Organization (IPO) is hosting the first International Event on Privatization in Iran's Economy at the country's International Conference Center.

The main purpose of the conference, which kicked off on Saturday and will wrap up on Tuesday, is to identify the challenges in the way of privatization and to prepare a comprehensive privatization document that could ultimately improve the quality of government commercial assets.

Iran eases COVID-related restrictions on intl. travelers

TEHRAN – Iran's National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control on Sunday issued a new set of rules for incoming international travelers.

The rules are aimed to ease restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic as the Islamic Republic records low rates of infection for weeks.

"According to the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, foreign travelers to Iran should present either COVID-19 vaccina-

tion proof or a negative PCR test," Mehr quoted the deputy tourism minister as saying on Sunday.

Ali-Asghar Shalbafian explained that previously the incoming international travelers were required to present both COVID-19 vaccination proof and a negative PCR test.

Last November, Iran resumed the issuance of tourist visas following 19 months of suspension. However, months of the steep re-

Report **T**

Iran, Kazakhstan explore avenues of mutual economic cooperation

TEHRAN – A high-ranking delegation from Kazakhstan headed by the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov has visited Iran with the aim of exploring new opportunities for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

During their stay in Tehran, the Kazakh delegates held several meetings with senior Iranian officials including Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Ali Saleh-Abadi, and Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr.

Pursuing joint investment

The Kazakh delegation first visited the industry ministry to discuss mutual cooperation in industrial areas with Fatemi-Amin.

In this meeting, the Iranian minister stressed the significance of the joint investment for the expansion of economic relations between the two countries, saying: "By the strengthening of economic relations between the two countries and the collaboration of Iranian and Kazakh companies, deeper, more stable and broader relations will be formed." **► Page 4**

Report **T**

IAF to screen selection of Iran's Sacred Defense cinema

TEHRAN –The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will be screening a selection of films and documentaries on the Iran-Iraq 1980-1988 war, which is called "Sacred Defense" in Iran.

The three-day program, which opens on Tuesday evening, plans to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr from Iraqi forces on the third of Khordad (May 24), 1982, ILNA reported on Monday.

Entitled "Cinema Khorramshahr", the program will screen "Land of the Sun", "Kimiya" and "Duel" by Ahmadsheh Darvish, "A Boat to the Beach" by Rasul Mollaqaolipur and "The Third Day" by Mohammad-Hossein Latifi.

The lineup also includes documentaries by Mohammad-Hossein Tahaminejad, Hassan Aqakarimi, and Changiz Sayyad.

The southwestern Iranian city of Khorramshahr was captured by Iraqis on October 26, 1980, during the early months of the Iran-Iraq war.

Iran liberated Khorramshahr in a landmark operation code-named Beit-ol Moqaddas on May 24, 1982, putting an end to over 500 days of the Iraqi occupation. **► Page 8**

Iranian, Qatari foreign ministers exchange views on phone



TEHRAN- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, spoke by phone with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdullahian

late on Sunday to discuss the latest agreement reached between the two countries' leaders during Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani's recent visit to Tehran.

Iran and Qatar's foreign ministers also reviewed the newest concerns surrounding the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, comprehensive ties between Tehran and Doha, and the negotiations in Vienna intended to lift sanctions against Iran.

Amir Abdollahian and his Qatari counterpart underlined the need to continue consultations to address issues on bilateral agenda as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Revenge for assassination of IRGC colonel is 'definite': Raisi

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi asserted on Monday that revenge for the assassination of IRGC Colonel Sayad Khodaei is “definite”.

“I have no doubt that the revenge of the pure blood of this great martyr is definite,” Raisi said before setting off for an official visit to Muscat for talks with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said.

Hegemonic powers “have a hand in this crime”

Iran, Uzbekistan to make use of Chabahar potential

TEHRAN — Uzbekistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Furkat Sidikov, who is visiting Tehran for the meeting of deputy foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), held talks with Iranian deputy foreign minister for economic affairs Mehdi Safari on Sunday evening.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest status of cooperation between the two countries in economic, trade and transportation areas.

During the talks, the Uzbek official reiterated Tashkent's interest to use Iranian transit routes, especially the potential of the southern port city of Chabahar.

At the meeting it was also agreed that specialized working committees be activated in

given their failure in the face of Iranian resistance soldiers, he said, adding the terrorist attack fully exposed the enemies' “frustration”.

Offering condolences to the colonel's family and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, the president said, “Pursuing this incident will prove that the hands of the global arrogance is definitely behind this crime.”

this regard.

Sidikov also touched on the upcoming visit by the Iranian president to Uzbekistan for participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit and his official meeting with the Uzbek president, saying the visit will mark a historical event in the relations of the two countries.

Safari also talked about the growing ties between the two countries over the past few years, expressing the Iranian side's readiness for cooperation with Uzbekistan in all existing fields. He also urged both sides to put more efforts into increasing trade exchanges.

In this regard, it was decided that both sides prepare the grounds for holding exclusive exhibitions.

Tehran says has a distinct view on relations with South Africa

TEHRAN — South Africa's Deputy Foreign Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini who has visited Tehran, met with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Sunday afternoon.

During the meeting, the top Iranian diplomat referred to friendly ties between the two countries and said the Islamic Republic sees no limit to ties with South Africa, adding the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, in particular, aims to expand ties with countries on the African continent.

Amir Abdollahian said Iran has a distinct view on relations with South Africa.

He added that the two nations have very good capacities to sharply increase their ties and that the 15th meeting of their joint commission this

Iran, Bulgaria stress expansion of mutual ties

TEHRAN — Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Velislava Petrova who is in Tehran for the third round of consultations with Iran, met on Monday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari.

At the meeting, the Iranian deputy foreign minister expressed pleasure over increase in trade relations between the two sides over the past year and described transit as well as transportation as two advantages of the Tehran-Sofia ties that can help expand bilateral and regional trade cooperation.

Safari pointed to energy as another area in which the two countries can work together.

He then expressed Iran's readiness for

cooperation with Bulgaria in this regard.

For her part, Petrova said the trend of trade relations between Iran and Bulgaria is growing.

Referring to Europe's concerns regarding energy and food security, she declared her country's readiness to expand cooperation with Iran in the two spheres.

Petrova also described the joint session of entrepreneurs from the two countries and the new round of meetings of the joint economic commission as important steps toward increasing trade exchanges.

Trade volume between Iran and Bulgaria in 2021 reached 185 million dollars, which showed a 30 percent increase compared to 2020.

TEHRAN— According to officials from Iran's Interior Ministry, the Israeli regime's agents were responsible for the assassination of an IRGC colonel in Tehran on Sunday. This demonstrates that the Israelis have crossed a red line this time.

Perhaps it is time to remind them that whenever they play with fire, Iran will respond with devastating force.

According to Majid Mir-Ahmadi, secretary of the country's Security Council (SCC), Israel was behind the assassination. “The assassination of Martyr Khodaei was unquestionably carried out by the Zionist regime, and the culprits must brace themselves for a heavy slap in the face from Iran,” he said, according to state news agency IRNA.

Mir-Ahmadi added, “The criminals who committed such a crime must be prepared for a tremendous slap in the face, because our vengeance will be such that they will regret their deed.”

Around 4 p.m. on Sunday, two motorcycle riders shot and martyred Sayad Khodaei, an IRGC colonel who also fought against Daesh in Syria, with five bullets in one of the alleys of Mojahedin-e-Islam Street in downtown Tehran. The assassination occurred near the martyr's home. Three of the bullets struck his skull, while the other two struck his hand.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh condemned the terrorist attack, expressing condolences and congratulating the martyr's family and fellow IRGC servicemen.

The spokesman said, “The sworn enemies of the holy establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again exposed their malevolent nature by assassinating and martyring one of the self-giving IRGC members.”

He added, “This inhumane crime was committed by terrorist elements tied to the global arrogance with the support of and amid the silence



Crossing Iran's red lines will have heavy consequences

of the countries that claim to be countering terrorism.”

Khatibzadeh said Iran has been a victim of terrorist crimes over the past four decades, adding, “The inwardly blind terrorists make attempts, in vain, to block the progress of the great Iranian nation toward the realization of its lofty goals and hamper the people's pursuit of dignity, while they remain ignorant of the fact the blood of these martyrs guarantees the survival and elevation of this nation and country.”

In this regard, in a tweet on Sunday night, Nour News, a media outlet close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said, “The terrorist act on Sunday afternoon in Tehran and the martyrdom of the Revolutionary Guards Colonel #ShahidSayyadKhodaei is the crossing of the red line without making calculations, which will change many equations. The perpetrators of this crime will pay a heavy price.”

Nour News's stern warning was followed by President Ebrahim

Raisi's assurance on Monday that revenge awaits those behind the assassination. He also blamed the terrorist crime on the world's oligarchies.

According to Press TV, the president stated that hegemonic countries “had a role in this crime” because of their failure in the face of Iranian resistance fighters, and that the terrorist act “completely displayed the enemies' frustration.”

He made the statements before departing for Muscat for a high-profile meeting with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said of Oman.

Raisi urged judicial authorities to investigate the assassination thoroughly, emphasizing that vengeance will be exacted on those responsible.

Experience has shown that whenever U.S. and Israeli officials establish unusually close connections, a terrorist attack takes place inside Iran.

Axios revealed a few weeks ago that the U.S. and Israeli national security advisers had explored how

Sanctions have aggravated economic, humanitarian crises in Syria: envoy

TEHRAN - More than a decade of conflict, foreign involvement, terrorism, and occupation have wreaked havoc on the Syrian people, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations has said.

In addition, unilateral sanctions have aggravated Syria's economic and humanitarian issues in recent years, Majid Takht Ravanchi lamented.

“It is irresponsible, immoral, and illegal under international law to use unilateral sanctions to starve Syrian civilians,” Takht Ravanchi told a UN Security Council meeting on “The situation in the Middle East: (Syria)”.

The full text of his statement is as follows:

“Conflict, foreign intervention, terrorism, and occupation have wreaked havoc on the Syrian people for over a decade. Unilateral sanctions have also exacerbated economic and humanitarian crises in Syria in recent years.

Despite the fact that resolution 2585 supports early recovery and reconstruction projects, as well as the provision of basic services, unfortunately, continued unilateral sanctions have stymied the resolution's implementation, impeding Syria's reconstruction efforts and hampered humanitarian aid delivery in various ways, even delaying the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Furthermore, these illegal measures have also hampered the Syrian government's ability to achieve economic and social stability and improve the living conditions of Syrians.

“We reaffirm our commitment to Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence and its efforts to combat terrorism.”

It is irresponsible, immoral, and illegal under international law to use unilateral sanctions to starve Syrian civilians.

These illegal and disruptive measures must immediately end. Claiming to care about the difficult humanitarian situation in Syria while backing and imposing unilateral sanctions against the Syrian people is hypocritical.

We support the Syrian government's full cooperation with the United Nations and numerous humanitarian organizations involved in cross-line aid delivery as a safe and legal method to help the people in need. Under the current circumstances, the provision of humanitarian aid is critical, and political circumstances should not be allowed to stymie humanitarian aid. In this context, full respect for Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity must be observed.

We also reiterate that the cross-border aid delivery mechanism is an exceptional temporary measure imposed by certain circumstances and that humanitarian aid to those in need must be delivered in cooperation and coordination with the Syrian government and from within the Syrian territory. This will help prevent aid from being diverted to terrorist groups.

We applaud Syria's government, UN agencies, and humanitarian partners for continuing to expand the scope and frequency of humanitarian relief operations. In this regard, we commend the Syrian government's efforts in facilitating



the passage of a fourth UN convoy from Aleppo to northwest Syria earlier this week.

We also welcome the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs' three-day visit to Syria on 17 May, as well as her meeting with Syrian officials.

We reaffirm our commitment to Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence and its efforts to combat terrorism.

We strongly condemn Israel's continued occupation of the Syrian Golan as well as its repeated violations of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly those targeting civilians and civilian objects. We demand that the Security Council hold this regime accountable for such acts of aggression and malice.

Moreover, the illegal presence of foreign forces in parts of Syria, which has created ideal conditions for terrorist activities, must end immediately.

And finally, we support the initiatives to facilitate the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons and are willing to provide assistance for the success of such endeavors. Any initiative on Syria must be supported by the Syrian government and the UN and respect Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

the evil Zionist regime everywhere is a cause of insecurity,” he added.

In March, General Salami warned Israel that any more misdeeds against Iran will be met with overwhelming retaliation.

Iran will react because Iranians would not tolerate terrorism against their soldiers, hence retribution is a genuine and serious message, General Salami stated during a ceremony in Dezfoul, Khuzestan province.

He cautioned the Tel Aviv regime about the repercussions of their continuous miscalculations and urged them to put an end to their vicious deeds.



“We explicitly declare and warn that the continuation of such relations are not acceptable at all, and they should know that the existence of

Iran deputy FM meets Bulgarian, South African counterparts

TEHRAN – Ali Bagheri Kani, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, held meetings with his Bulgarian and South African counterparts discussing a variety of issues of mutual interest.

In his meeting with Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Velislava Petrova, Bagheri Kani underlined Iran's willingness to boost relations with Bulgaria particularly in economic and trade fields. "Any problem or obstacle in this regard should be resolved through the mutual efforts of both countries and especially through the follow-up of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs," he said.

Referring to the traditional position of relations and the history of cooperation between the two countries, the deputy foreign minister of Iran stressed the readiness of Iran to improve specialized cooperation and accept Bulgaria's investment in Iran.

The two sides also reviewed regional and international developments and stressed the need for continuous consultation and exchange of experiences in various fields, including issues and consequences of the reception of migrants and refugees.

Referring to the 125-year history of Iran-Bulgaria diplomatic relations, Petrova said that her country's membership in the European Union provides more grounds for cooperation between the two countries in addition to bilateral relations.

She stressed the importance of establishing direct flights between Sofia and Tehran as facilitators of public, commercial and macro relations.



Petrova expressed satisfaction with trip to country with civilizational and cultural history like Iran and announced her country's readiness to hold the 20th joint economic commission of the two countries in the second half of this year in Tehran.

She stressed the areas of culture, sports and youth as the infrastructure of the two countries' long-standing relations, which can also contribute to the development of diplomatic relations.

"South Africa welcomes membership of Iran in next year's BRICS summit"

Bagheri Kani also met with South African Deputy Foreign Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini.

"The horizon of Iran-South Africa cooperation should be transnational and long-term, and diversification of cooperation along with the development of relations should be on the agenda of Iran-South Africa relations," Bagheri Kani suggested.

He also said, "Achieving peace and international stability in

light of poverty, discrimination and injustice around the world is nothing but a mirage."

Bagheri Kani added, "The international role of Iran and South Africa does not threaten the interests of any independent nation, because the cooperation between the two countries is based on the stabilizing, security-building and justice-seeking policies of Iran and South Africa in the international arena."

Referring to the political, economic and strategic capacities of Iran and South Africa, which place heavy regional and international responsibilities on the two countries, Bagheri Kani said, "The development of cooperation between Iran and South Africa is a necessity to counter unilateralism and promote multilateralism."

Citing the persistence and instructiveness of the successful resistance of the South African people against gross oppression and apartheid in the eyes of world, especially independent countries,

the deputy foreign minister said, "Violators of the rights of the Iranian people due to the application and support of unilateral and illegal sanctions are exactly the same violators of the rights of the people of South Africa in the form of support for the apartheid regime."

South Africans, after decades of struggle, won over the apartheid system in the early 1990s. They established a democratic government in 1994.

"Since the diversity of the violation of the human rights of the Iranian and South African nations by Westerners is unparalleled in the world, Tehran and Pretoria can be the global flag bearers for the protection of human rights against Westerners," Bagheri Kani added.

Referring to the outbreak of Corona in the past two years, which has caused more inequalities in global relations, Mashego-Dlamini considered as necessary the acceleration of the development of existing relations and entry into new areas of economic, political and international cooperation between Iran and South Africa.

Emphasizing that South Africa welcomes the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in next year's BRICS summit, he added, "We are trying to get Iran to have better and more economic relations and trade exchanges with other African countries through South Africa than before."

The South African Deputy Foreign Minister also announced the holding of the 15th meeting of the Joint Economic Commission in Pretoria in the autumn of this year.

SPORTS

Fans mark death anniversary of legendary Nasser Hejazi

TEHRAN – Football fans in Iran marked the 11th death anniversary of legendary goalkeeper Nasser Hejazi on Monday.

The custodian lost his battle with lung cancer on May 23, 2011 in Tehran at the age of 61.

Hejazi was a popular footballer in Iran.



He was goalkeeper of Iran national football team in the 1960s and 1970s and won the AFC Asian Cup on two occasions in 1972 and 1976, and Asian Games title in 1974.

Hejazi competed in the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games as well as 1978 FIFA World Cup. He received an offer from Manchester United after the 1978 World Cup, and trained with them for a month, appearing in a reserve match against Stoke City.

He led Esteghlal to title in Iran league in 1998 and also advanced to the final match of 1999 AFC Asian Championship, where the Blues lost to Japanese team Jubilo Iwata2-1 in Tehran.

Last year, Hejazi was named as the best Iranian goalkeeper of the XXth century (1901-2000) by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS).

In 2000, the Asian Football Confederation ranked him the second-best Asian goalkeeper of the 20th century behind former Saudi Arabia keeper Mohamed Al-Deayea.

Nasser Hejazi is survived by his wife, Behnaz, and two children, daughter, Atoosa, and son, Attila.

Iranian woman weightlifter Bajelani banned for doping

TEHRAN – Iranian woman weightlifter Elnaz Bajelani has been banned for three years after admitting an anti-doping rule violation.

She has tested positive for the presence of the prohibited substance Drostanolone.

Bajelani will be ineligible for competition for three years from Dec. 7, 2021 to Dec. 5, 2024.

Bajelani represented Iran at the 2020 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

She finished in sixth place with a total of 202kg in 81kg weight class.

Bajelani is the second Iranian woman weightlifter who to have tested positive for a banned substance.

Pupak Basami had been banned for six months for use of Methamphetamine.

Taremi bags brace against Tondela

TEHRAN – FC Porto defeated Tondela 3-1 at Estádio Nacional to lift their 18th Taça de Portugal, sealing a domestic league and cup double in the process.

To say Os Dragões were heavy favorites going into the final would have been an understatement and so it proved as the recently crowned Primeira Liga champions proved too strong for relegated Tondela.

Two Mehdi Taremi goals as well as a Vitorinha effort proved the difference, Neto Borges netting a consolation goal for Tondela.

The two teams could not have gone into the match with more contrasting fortunes, Porto recently lifting the league title while Tondela agonizingly suffered relegation from the top flight on the final day of the season.

Tondela set up more defensively to cope with Porto's superior firepower and they frustrated their more esteemed opponents in the early stages of the match.

However, Mehdi Taremi opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, converting from the penalty spot after a lengthy VAR consultation finally penalized Tondela's Marcelo Alves' handball in the box.

Porto picked up from where they left off in the second half as they increased the pressure on their opponents, Pepê denied a second goal by a miraculous Niasse save.

Minutes later though Vitorinha capped a fine individual campaign by doubling his side's lead with a well-worked goal, exchanging passes with Pepê before firing low and in at the near post.

The ever-impressive Pepê continued to torment Tondela and won Porto another penalty after being adjudged as brought down by Modibo Sagnan. Taremi this time though was unsuccessful from the spot, seeing his effort rebound off the post and to safety.

In the 73rd minute Tondela stunned the watching crowd by pulling a goal back completely against the run of play, Salvador Agra's cross met by a bullet header from full back Neto Borges.

The one goal margin lasted mere seconds however as Taremi made it 3-1 with Porto's next attack, coolly slotting past Niasse after a superb rebound through ball from Otávio.

Neto Borges almost set up a tense finale in the 81st minute, but the Brazilian was denied a second goal by the crossbar. Tondela gamely refused to give up the ghost thereafter with a spirited end to the match but ultimately Porto closed matters out to claim the cup.

The perfect way for Sérgio Conceição and his side to close out a memorable campaign in Porto's history.

Mehdi Tartar extends deal with Zob Ahan

TEHRAN – Zob Ahan head coach Mehdi Tartar has penned a one-year deal with the Iranian top flight football club.

The 49-year-old trainer was appointed as Zob Ahan coach in last year's August on a one-year deal. Zob Ahan will be headed by the coach in the upcoming season.

Under his tutelage, Zob Ahan are in seventh place in the 2021/22 Iran Professional League (IPL) season.

The local media had already reported that Zob Ahan would part company with Tartar.

Tartar started his coaching career in 2009 in Rah Ahan and has coached many Iranian teams including Saba, Damash, Gostaresh, Naft Masjed Soleyman and Paykan in his 13-year tenure.

Iran to send nine judokas to World Grand Prix

TEHRAN – Iran to send nine judo athletes to the IBSA Judo World Grand Prix Kazakhstan.

The competition will be held in Nur-Sultan from May 25 to 29.

About 200 judokas from 25 countries will take part in the competition.

After the Turkish Grand Prix in Ankara, this is the second competition according to the new IBSA rules, in terms of classification but also in weight categories.

Raisi holds talks with Oman's Sultan in Muscat

From Page 1 ► Communications Hojatoleslam Val-Moslemin Mohsen Qomi, First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber and a number of cabinet members.

In order to expand the fields of economic and trade relations between Iran and Oman, a delegation of 50 Iranian businesspeople and economic actors had travelled to the country last week, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

In Muscat, Ayatollah Raisi was received by the sultan of Oman at the airport. The two leaders then went to Al Alam Palace where Raisi was officially welcomed by Sultan Haitham and accorded official reception.

In the welcoming ceremony, a 21-gun salute was performed in the honor of President Raisi and the high-ranking delegation of Iran.

After the official reception, Raisi and Sultan Haitham held a formal meeting at the Al Alam palace. "During the session, they reviewed aspects of the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields, and ways to support and strengthen the solid friendship between the Omani and Iranian peoples to achieve



more of their aspirations and hopes, in addition to exchanging views on matters and topics of common interest," Oman News Agency reported.

After the open session, President Raisi and Sultan Haitham held a closed session.

Before leaving Tehran, Ayatollah Raisi spoke to reporters about a number of issues, including the goals of his visit to Oman.

Stating that this visit was being made at the official invitation of the sultan of Oman, he said, "There is good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the friendly, brotherly and neighboring country of Oman."

The president said that the current level of

relations between Tehran and Muscat is not favorable, adding, "The decision and will of both countries is to improve the level of relations in the fields of trade, transportation, energy, tourism, especially health tourism."

A memorandum of understanding was to be signed between the two countries during the one-day visit.

"My visit is very important in view of the policies of the Popular Government for development of neighborly relations with neighboring countries and the region," Raisi remarked.

He pointed out that the two countries are currently cooperating constructively in various fields, adding, "A significant point in the region is that dialogue and cooperation between the countries of the region is security-building. The presence of foreign forces in the region does not provide security at all and can even threaten the security of the region."

Ayatollah Raisi expressed hope that his visit would be an effective step towards realizing the policies and goals of his Popular Government in strengthening and deepening constructive relations with neighbors.

Iran says Israel behind assassination of IRGC colonel

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian security official has blamed the assassination of Colonel Hassan Sayad Khodaei on Israel, vowing a "tough revenge" for the slain colonel.

Sayad Khodaei, a member of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), was shot point-blank in his car on Sunday afternoon.

Majid Mir-Ahmadi, secretary of the Security Council of the Country (SCC), said Israel was behind the assassination. "The assassination of Martyr Khodaei was definitely carried out by the Zionist regime, and the criminals must be prepared for a severe slap in the face from Iran," he told state news agency IRNA.

He added, "The criminals who have committed such a crime must be prepared for a severe slap in the face; Because our revenge will be such that they will regret their action."

Iran has strongly condemned the

assassination of Sayad Khadaei.

"Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh condemned the terrorist operation in Tehran on Sunday that led to the martyrdom of Sayyad Khodaei, an honored Islamic Revolution Guards Corps colonel, offering condolences and congratulations to the families of the martyr and his fellow IRGC servicemen," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The spokesman said, "The sworn enemies of the holy establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again exposed their malevolent nature by assassinating and martyring one of the self-giving IRGC members."

He added, "This inhumane crime was committed by terrorist elements tied to the global arrogance with the support of and amid the silence of the countries that claim to be countering terrorism."

Iran hosts ECO meeting

TEHRAN – Deputy Foreign Ministers of member states of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held a meeting in the Iranian capital on Monday to discuss how to boost regional cooperation.

The meeting started on Monday and will last for

another two days. Participants will hold bilateral and multilateral sessions. Important issues such as boosting trade between member countries, strengthening transit and intra-regional transport and effective implementation of the agreements of

the ECO Summit in Ashgabat are on the agenda of this week's meetings at the ECO Secretariat in Tehran.

Participants in the Tehran meeting are also expected to discuss ways to finance major regional projects.

Iran, Oman to form technical committee for developing joint field



TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has announced reaching an agreement with Oman on forming a technical committee for the development of Hengam oil field which the two countries share in the Persian Gulf, Shana reported.

Oji who traveled to Oman recently prior to the visit of President Ebrahim Raisi to the Arab country, said: “During the talks with Omani officials, including Omani Energy and Minerals Minister Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhi, agreements were reached on cooperation on various economic issues, especially in the energy sector.”

“We agreed to form a joint technical committee to develop the next phases of Hengam oil field, which is the only joint field between the two countries, in the form of a joint working group and a joint team,” Oji explained.

The Iranian oil minister stated that integrated development of the field, which is unprecedented in the region, unlike competitive exploitation, will save the joint field’s reservoir from getting damaged, and the production from the reservoir will take place safely, ensuring that the two countries will benefit most from the field development.

The official noted that the two sides have also agreed on exports of technical and engineering services from Iran to Oman.

Oji had also met and held talks with Oman’s Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi on Sunday in Muscat.

During this meeting, the two sides had also discussed ways of expanding cooperation in the field of energy.

Iranian President Ebrahim left Tehran for Muscat on Monday as part of his administration’s push to boost ties with neighboring countries.

Tehran-Muscat trade

On the eve of President Raisi’s visit to Oman, the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Ruhollah Latifi presented a

report on the trade between the two countries to the press.

According to Latifi the values of trade between Iran and Oman in the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20) increased by 53 percent compared to the preceding year.

Latifi said Iran and Oman traded 4.190 million tons of goods worth \$1.335 billion in the previous year, also registering a 27 percent rise in terms of weight, IRNA reported.

According to the official, in the said year Iran exported 2.283 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$716 million to Oman, which was 14 percent more than the figure for the preceding year in terms of weight and 63 percent more in terms of value.

The Islamic republic also imported 1.907 million tons of goods valued at \$619.5 million from the Arab country.

Bitumen, urea, iron products, fruit and nuts, construction materials, foodstuff, sweets and chocolates, and household appliances were among the top items exported from Iran to Oman in the previous years.

Corn, coal, oil and oilseeds, wheat, barley, industrial machinery, road construction machinery, minerals, medical and dental equipment, paper, cardboard and spare parts were among the most important goods imported to Iran.

The official noted that the exports to Oman in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20) stood at 176,203 tons worth \$74,390,296, which despite a seven percent decrease in weight, increased by 103 percent in value compared to the last year’s same month.

Imports from Oman in the mentioned period were 41,328 tons worth \$36,773,866, which compared to the same period in the preceding year increased by 29 percent in weight and 143 percent in value.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, including Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and Head of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak, President Raisi arrived in Muscat on Monday.

During his stay in Oman, the Iranian president is scheduled to meet with senior Omani officials including Oman’s Sultan, Haitham bin Tariq.

As reported, the two sides are expected to sign 12 agreements, documents and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) during Raisi’s visit to the Arab country.

From page 1 ► “Kazakhstan is a mineral-rich country and, like Iran, has large mining companies, and we can meet part of our needs for steel sheets from Kazakhstan,” Fatemi-Amin said, suggesting that Iran could also cooperate with Kazakhstan in other areas like home appliances, medical equipment, and pharmaceutical industries.

Sultanov, in his turn, emphasized the possibility of strengthening the trans-Caspian corridor using Iran’s logistics facilities, and said: “Given Iran’s capabilities and capabilities, the country could become Kazakhstan’s transit hub in the region.”

Cooperation in energy sector

Later on, the Kazakh party was received by the NIOC head and the officials of the two countries held talks on strengthening bilateral energy cooperation.

During this gathering, Khojasteh-Mehr pointed to the long history of cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan in the field of energy and said that Iran intends to activate the potential capacities between the two states in this sector.

Referring to Kazakhstan’s willingness to cooperate with Iran’s oil industry, he added that experts from the two countries are expected to examine the areas of cooperation in various fields, including oil, gas, and petrochemical industries.

“The outcome of the investigations conducted by the experts of the two countries will eventually lead to a memorandum of understanding between Iran and Kazakhstan which will be hopefully signed during the

Iran, Kazakhstan explore avenues of mutual economic cooperation



Kazakh high-ranking delegation headed by the country’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov visit Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin in Tehran on Monday.

visit of the president of Kazakhstan to Tehran,” the NIOC head said.

He highlighted that currently, Iran and Kazakhstan have positive cooperation in the fields of transportation and agriculture, adding that the two states are taking the necessary steps to also use the joint capacities in the field of energy.

Expansion of banking relations

During his stay in Tehran, Sultanov

and his accompanying delegation attended a meeting with Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Ali Saleh-Abadi, in which the two sides discussed issues related to the banking relations between the two countries.

Speaking in this meeting, Saleh-Abadi referred to the close economic relations between the two countries and stressed: “Development of economic cooperation and expansion of banking relations

between Iran and Kazakhstan are complementary and we welcome the readiness of Kazakhstan to increase banking and trade relations with Iran.”

He further emphasized the economic and banking capacities of Iran and Kazakhstan, saying: “With the expansion of banking relations between the two countries, economic cooperation will also increase and reach the desired point.”

Sultanov for his part referred to the official visit of his country’s president to Tehran in mid-June and said: “I have come to Tehran on the personal order of the president to explore various areas for the development and expansion of economic, trade and banking cooperation between Kazakhstan and Iran.”

Underlining Kazakhstan’s readiness for developing economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the official said: “Very good agreements have been concluded in recent months between the various economic sectors and the private sectors of the two countries so that the volume of trade and economic exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan has grown by 50 percent over the last three months to \$200 million.”

He further mentioned the 85-percent increase in trade exchanges between the two countries last year, saying: “Before the pandemic, the volume of economic exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan was over one billion dollars, and returning to this level of cooperation and even exceeding it is also on the agenda of Kazakhstan.”

Tehran, Havana to form working group on mining cooperation



TEHRAN – Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Vajihollah Jafari said his organization is going to form a joint working group with Cuba to explore ways of expanding cooperation in the mining sector.

As reported by the IMIDRO portal, Jafari made the remarks after a meeting with Cuba’s Minister

of Energy and Mines Liván Arronte Cruz.

During this meeting, Jafari referred to the capacities of Iran’s mining and mineral industries in both production and export sectors, saying: “After the formation of a joint working group, studies conducted on the mining and mineral industries of the two sides will be reviewed.”

Later on, a group of Iranian experts will be dispatched to Cuba and based on the needs of the two countries, a memorandum of understanding will be signed and a roadmap for joint cooperation will be developed in accordance with the laws of the two countries, the IMIDRO head added.

Noting that Iran is pursuing a win-win policy in developing cooperation in the mining and mineral industries, the official said: “Iran can export technical-engineering services and technological knowledge in some mining industries to Cuba, and also help explore and extract minerals in this

country.”

“Large companies in the Iranian steel industry also have the capacity to invest in Cuba. Our plan is to supply the minerals needed by our country through the investment in Cuba,” he said.

Cruz for his part, underlined his country’s significant mineral reserves including nickel, cobalt and iron ore and reiterated: “After exploring common areas of cooperation, a group of Iranian specialists and experts will travel to Cuba to review existing capacities and visit a nickel plant.”

He also expressed his country’s willingness to benefit from Iranian experiences and investment for renewing and modernizing Cuba’s cobalt mines.

The official also called on the Iranian side for the transfer of technical and engineering knowledge in the field of mineral extraction and production from the Islamic Republic to his country.

Cultivation started in 5.5 hectares of greenhouses in Gorgan last year

TEHRAN- Cultivation was started in 5.5 hectares of new greenhouses in Gorgan County, the capital of Golestan province in the northeast of Iran, in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), the director of Agriculture Department of Gorgan announced.

Ebrahim Molla-Ali said that new greenhouses in over 28 hectares of land have been ready to start cultivation since the previous year, so 22.5 hectares will be added this year.

Given the potentials of the province, implementation of the greenhouse development plan in all parts of Golestan specially in Gorgan County is on the agenda, the official further noted.

Stating that job creation is one of the most important goals of supporting the mentioned plan, he said: “Last year’s facilities have led to the direct and indirect employment of 75 persons, and this process of supporting job creation continues.”

In recent years, the water crisis has caused serious challenges in Iran’s agriculture sector.

To solve this problem, several solutions, including the implementation of pressurized irrigation project and greenhouse cultivation, have been emphasized by experts and officials in this sector.

Iranian Agriculture Ministry’s Greenhouse Development Program is one of the priority projects of this ministry which aims at increasing productivity, efficiency, and water consumption management in the agriculture sector.

The program was approved in the

Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2017) under the framework of the National Resilient Economy Plan.

The development of the country’s agricultural parks and greenhouses not only is going to create new job opportunities but also increases the country’s non-oil exports and helps preserve the environment and the national water and soil resources.

In last August, Darioush Salempour, the director of the Agriculture Ministry’s Greenhouse Development Program, had mentioned the ministry’s plans for the modernization and renovation of the country’s traditional and old greenhouses, saying: “Our plan in the 10-year horizon is to improve and renovate more than 5,000 traditional, wooden and worn-out greenhouses across the country.”

“We have planned to renovate about 650 to 700 hectares of traditional and worn-out greenhouses each year,” he added.

Due to the growing need of the market for flowers and ornamental plants, as well as off-season vegetables and summer crops, greenhouse cultivation has become one of the most profitable agricultural sectors today.

Cultivation in the controlled space of the greenhouse will have an average of 10 times higher yield per unit area than outdoor cultivation due to suitable environmental conditions.

Significant reduction in water consumption in modern greenhouses is in fact the major advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to

the closed environment, water loss through various evaporation ways is greatly reduced. Also, through mechanized irrigation methods such as irrigation canvas and irrigation tape, water consumption is minimized.

Increased control over pests, weeds and diseases is the other advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to accurate monitoring and control of pests and diseases, especially the use of biological control methods and a sharp reduction in the use of chemical pesticides, we will see an increase in product quality, that will lead to the popularity of the product in the market and increase export capability.

As a result, along with preserving the soil and environment, we will see good foreign currency income.

As announced by the director of the Agriculture Ministry’s Greenhouse Development Program, 3,200 hectares of greenhouses is targeted to be established in the country in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Salempour said that according to the plans and coordination made with the agriculture departments of the provinces, 3,200 hectares of greenhouses will be created in the country, and 686 hectares will be improved and renovated this year.

Greenhouse development in each of the provinces will be done based on climatic conditions and capacities, infrastructure for access to facilities, manpower status, proximity to the target consumer market and export markets, population, development

history and investment in this field, he further explained.

This year, based on the plans and also the mentioned factors, provinces such as Sistan-Baluchestan, Fars, Kerman (south of the province), Tehran, East Azarbaijan, Ardebil, Bushehr, Khorasan Razavi, Hormozgan, Yazd and Isfahan will be given priority in the development of greenhouses, the official added.

The director of the Agriculture Ministry’s Greenhouse Development Program further underlined that despite economic conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, sanctions against the country, and limited credit facilities, 1,510 hectares of new greenhouses, equivalent to 50 percent of the development goal, was established, and 597 hectares of greenhouses, equivalent to 86 percent of the notified plan, was renovated in the past year.

“We try to achieve the maximum goals set in the greenhouse sector this year by coordinating with the provinces, allocating timely and cheap facilities and providing incentives,” the official added.

He also named elimination of production barriers, expansion of government and legal protections, facilitation of licensing conditions, payment of bank facilities, shortening of investment process, empowerment of implementers and experts by holding training courses, and holding specialized exhibitions as some of the programs of the ministry’s Horticulture Affairs Department for greenhouse development.

Inflation rate down 0.5%

TEHRAN – The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on May 21, which marks the end of the second Iranian calendar month Ordibehesht, at 38.7 percent, falling 0.5 percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the first month.

The center put the country’s point-to-point inflation rate at 39.3 percent in the second month, which means families have paid an average of 39.3 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate was 39.2 percent for the urban households, rising 0.4 percent from the previous month, and 40.1 percent for the rural households, increasing 2.9 percent from the previous month.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, which marks the end of the past Iranian calendar year 1400, at 40.2 percent.

The center put the country’s point-to-point inflation rate at 34.7 percent in the last month of the past year, which means families have paid an average of 34.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20 was 39.7 percent for the urban households, and 42.8 percent for the rural households.

The point-to-point inflation rate was reported



to be 34.5 percent for the urban households and 35.8 percent for the rural ones, according to the SCI.

The Statistical Center of Iran had put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20, 2021 (the end of the Iranian calendar year 1399) at 36.4 percent, rising 2.2 percent from the figure for the twelve-month period ended on the last day of the preceding year.

In late November 2021, the head of Iran’s Budget and Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) had said, “Considering the recent data provided by the Statistical Center of Iran the inflation is expected to be curbed in the next Iranian calendar year (begins in March 2022).”

“No Money creation has taken place in the last three months, and a recent report by the Statistics Center of Iran shows that inflation is declining, these are indications that the inflation could be curbed by the next year,” Masoud Mir-Kazemi said at the time.

TEDPIX falls 25,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) dropped 25,010 points to 1.557 million on Monday.

As reported, over 13.495 million securities worth 62.025 trillion rials (about \$238.5 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market’s index fell 23,944 points, and the second market’s index lost 32,995 points.

As stated by Market Analyst Peyman Hadadi, the national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year indicates that the government has a more positive view of the market for this year.

UK Chancellor joins rich list as Brits face “tough” months ahead

From page 1 ► status to legally not pay tax on annual dividends she receives from a £690m stake in the IT company Infosys, founded by her billionaire father.

After a barrage of public outrage, Murty bowed to pressure to pay UK taxes, claiming she realized many people felt her tax arrangements were not “compatible with my husband’s job as chancellor”.

The couple own a property portfolio of four houses worth an estimated £15 million including a £5 million Santa Monica penthouse overlooking the beach.

The development comes as many sectors in British society are struggling to make ends meet, as the cost of living crisis spirals out of control.

Among the most recently affected is staff working for the medical sector where it emerged hospitals in the UK are setting up food banks for National Health Service (NHS) workers.

After being labeled as the “heroes of the pandemic” many healthcare staff now cannot afford to pay rent, food or fuel, while thousands are considering leaving the profession over the lack of any significant pay rise.

As a result, at least six NHS trusts have been forced to set up food banks or food voucher programs to help their staff cope with the rising costs of living.

The chair of healthcare and workforce modelling at London South Bank University, Professor Alison Leary, told British media that he has been approached by several NHS organizations who he said are “very concerned” about the impact of the rising living costs.

“Some are looking into starting food exchanges or food banks, and others are looking at other ways to help, for example with the costs of transport,” he said.

The chair of the Royal College of Nursing’s Trade Union



Committee, Graham Revie, also says health workers are being hit hard by rising fuel prices, and some are “struggling to feed their families.”

He has also warned that every year “thousands” of nurses are leaving their jobs, citing wages as among the key reasons.

“This is an outrageous state of affairs, and a big admission that the NHS knows how its workers are struggling while the government denies them fair pay,” Revie added.

According to the Cavell Nurses’ Trust, which supports nurses, midwives and health assistants in financial difficulties, there has been a 140 percent increase in the number of medical workers seeking help in the first four months of 2022, compared to the same period in 2021.

However, the British Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab, says it was “fantastic” news that Sunak had joined the rich list, and dismissed suggestions that his vast wealth meant he was out of touch with people’s day-to-day struggles to make ends meet.

The UK now has a record 177 billionaires, up six on 2021. Their combined wealth is up 9.4 percent to a record £653 billion.

The head of the Centre for Economic Justice at the Institute for Public Policy Research George Dibbs, says the coronavirus pandemic had allowed already

extremely wealthy people to increase their fortunes while the savings of the poorest people were wiped out.

“As we enter a once-in-a-generation cost of living crisis, the Sunday Times rich list shows us again that vast wealth often begets more wealth. That has proved particularly true during the pandemic, when the wealthiest accumulated more wealth than poorer people, who saved nothing,” he said.

“Now there are more billionaires in the UK than ever before and the collective wealth of the richest has grown again.”

Julia Davies, a founding member of Patriotic Millionaires UK, a group of super-rich people calling for the introduction of a wealth tax, said the list showed an “obscene concentration of wealth while millions struggle with simply living.”

Davies warned “the fact that our chancellor now joins the ranks of the richest people in the UK, while he and the government refuse to consider taxing wealth over work, is a shocking insight into our political system.”

She admits that “we have repeatedly asked the chancellor to raise taxes on us, the wealthiest people in society. His appearance on the rich list makes it very clear why he’s not listening.”

“As the Bank of England warns of apocalyptic food price rises,

two million people are skipping meals, and a third of people can’t afford the essentials. Meanwhile, the rich, as always, are sitting pretty. This disparity has to be fixed. It is political and economic negligence that our politicians are not focused on dealing with the extreme wealth gap at a time of national economic emergency,” she added.

The living cost crisis has recently also been reflected in an alarming rise in the number of homeless British army veterans.

Since March 2020, organizations have reported a 50 percent jump in the number of former Armed Services personnel becoming homeless, or at risk of becoming so.

The already worrying numbers are set to rise further as the cost of living skyrockets.

At least 12 charities have called on government to intervene as part of an initiative dubbed “No Homeless Veterans Campaign”, which calls on authorities to take more responsibility in identifying and helping homeless veterans.

Tina Fairbrass, a mother-of-one has been reported in British media as complaining about the hardship in trying to find a new home for her and her three-year-old daughter.

Fairbrass is said to have joined the Royal Navy in 1989 and became homeless years later after fleeing domestic abuse.

She says “joining the Royal Navy was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made,” but added “I could never have imagined that years later, with a three-year-old daughter in tow, I would end up homeless and alone without any help.”

Dibbs has called on Sunak to take urgent measures and introduce taxes “redistributing the wealth gains of the richest to pay for higher social security benefits for those who most need them.”

Armenia-Azerbaijan joint commission to meet at border ‘soon,’ EU says

The first meeting of a joint commission on the demarcation and security of the borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan will be soon held on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, European Council President Charles Michel said on May 22 in Brussels after talks with the leaders of the two South Caucasus countries.

Michel held bilateral meetings with both Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev before a trilateral meeting in which a peace plan for Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed.

“We discussed humanitarian

issues in detail, including demining, the release of detainees, and the fate of the missing. The first meeting of the joint commission on the border will be held in the coming days at the interstate border, where all issues related to demarcation and ensuring the best security of the border will be discussed,” Michel said, without giving a precise date.

Armenia lost control over parts of the breakaway region in a 2020 war that ended with a Russian-brokered cease-fire that an estimated 2,000 Russian troops have been deployed to monitor.

Nagorno-Karabakh, which

had been under ethnic Armenian control for nearly three decades, is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

Pashinian has faced heavy criticism since he and Aliyev agreed last month in Brussels to begin drafting a peace treaty to resolve the conflict and set up a joint commission on demarcating their common border.

Azerbaijan said in a statement that Aliyev told Michel “that Azerbaijan had laid out five principles based on international law for the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan and for the signing of a peace agreement.”

Pashinian has publicly stated that the elements are acceptable to Yerevan in principle, fueling Armenian opposition claims that he is ready to recognize Azerbaijani sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh.

In Yerevan, Armenian police have detained hundreds of protesters during opposition-led demonstrations seeking to force Pashinian from office.

Pashinian, who said he had agreed to the 2020 cease-fire to avoid further losses, said he would not sign any peace deal with Azerbaijan without consulting ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.



Japan beefs up defense capabilities

Meanwhile, a White House statement said Biden has endorsed Japan’s plan to beef up its defense capabilities, with the two countries committing to work closely to counter what they call China’s “increasingly coercive behavior that runs counter to international law.”

foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that Beijing was ready to defend its national interests over Taiwan.

“Taiwan is an inalienable part of China’s territory,” Wang said, adding, “The Taiwan issue is a purely internal affair for China.”

He warned that “China has no room for compromise or concession,” when it comes to its “core interests of the sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

Wang went on to say that China would always defend its interests using the force of its 1.4 billion population.

“No one should underestimate the firm resolve, staunch will, and strong ability of the Chinese people in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity,” he added.

U.S. President Joe Biden says he would be willing to use force to militarily defend Chinese Taipei if Beijing invades the self-ruled island.

Biden, who is in Tokyo to meet regional allies, made the remarks at a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday.

The U.S. president said China was “flirting with danger right now by flying so close” to Chinese Taipei, promising to defend the island from any military action by its giant neighbor.

“We agree with a one-China policy. We’ve signed on to it and all the intended agreements were made from there. But the idea that it can be taken by force, just taken by force, is just not, is just not appropriate,” he said.

In response to Biden’s threats, Chinese

Afghan female TV anchors forced to cover faces on air

Female program presenters in Afghanistan went on the air Sunday with their faces covered to comply with a fresh decree by the country’s Taliban rulers, according to voanews.com.

Since seizing power nine months ago, the male-only interim Taliban government has subjected women and girls to a series of onerous curbs, drawing international criticism.

Last week, the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, charged with interpreting and enforcing the Taliban’s version of Islamic Sharia law, ordered all Afghan television channels to ensure that female presenters start covering their faces while on screen.

On Sunday, female presenters and journalists aired news bulletins across leading channels, including TOLO news, Ariana Television, Shamshad TV and 1TV, wearing full hijabs and face-covering veils that left only their eyes in view. The Taliban had previously required women presenters to wear a headscarf.

Female staff at the TOLO news said they had initially resisted covering their faces, but the Taliban pressured their employer, asking them to remove those who defy the order.

Khpoltwak Sapai, the TOLO news deputy director, said his channel was told to strictly follow the Taliban order and force staff to comply with it.

“I was called on the telephone yesterday and was told in strict words to do it. So, it is not by choice but by force that we are doing it,” Sapai said.

Male colleagues at TOLO news also wore face coverings in solidarity with female staff.

“We are in deep grief today,” Sapai lamented in a social media post.

Afghan TV channels have already been barred from broadcasting dramas and soap operas featuring women.

The Vice and Virtue ministry spokesman dismissed media claims, however, that the Taliban were against women presenters working in the channels.

“We have no intention of removing them from the public scene or sidelining them or stripping them of their right to work,” said Mohammad Akif Sadeq.

Earlier this month, the Taliban decreed that Afghan women must wear head-to-toe garments covering their faces when in public. Male guardians of those not complying with the decree could be sentenced to jail for three days or more.

The edict empowers authorities to fire women government employees if they fail to follow the dress code while male staff also risk suspension from work if their female relatives fail to comply.

The Taliban have told most women not to return to their workplace or undertake long road trips unless accompanied by a close male relative. Secondary school girls over the age of 12 have not been allowed to resume classes.

The crackdown on women’s rights

has outraged Afghan activists and the international community. Even leaders within the Taliban have begun questioning some of the restrictions, including those related to female education, underscoring growing internal rifts.

The Taliban have defended the measures as in accordance with Afghan culture and Islamic tradition, a position repudiated by some Islamic law scholars who say the gender-specific dress codes are inspired only by rural Afghan norms.

But in a rare public criticism of his government women-related policies, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, a central Taliban leader and deputy foreign minister, said Sunday Afghan women have not yet been given their due rights. His remarks underlined persistent internal rifts on the level of access women should have to education and work.

“No one has yet given women the right to education. Where will women go to learn Islam and Shariat? Obviously, they will learn it in schools and seminaries,” Stanikzai told a big gathering of Taliban leaders in the capital, Kabul.

“Half of Afghanistan’s around 40 million population are women. Women must be given the rights, which the Almighty, the holy Prophet and our Afghan culture have given them,” said the Taliban leader, who negotiated the February 2020 troop withdrawal pact with the U.S.

During two decades of the U.S.-led foreign military intervention in Afghanistan, which ended last August with the return to power of the Taliban, women and girls had made marginal gains in the deeply patriarchal South Asian nation.

Tom West, the U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan, and Rina Amiri, U.S. envoy for Afghan women, girls and human rights, spoke to Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Saturday to convey “unified international opposition to ongoing expanding” curbs on women’s role in society.

West said the dialogue with the Taliban will continue “in support of Afghan people and our national interests.”

Amiri wrote on Twitter that she had raised U.S. concerns regarding the dissolution of several rights bodies by the Taliban and stressed that “this contradicts demands of Afghans for greater accountability & needs to be remedied.”

Last week, the Taliban dissolved the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and four other bodies protecting rights of Afghans, saying they were not needed anymore in the face of a \$500 million annual budget shortfall.

The international community has not recognized the new Taliban government. It requires the group to deliver on its pledges to fight terrorism, rule the country inclusively and uphold the rights of all Afghans, including those of women, before considering Kabul’s calls for granting it diplomatic legitimacy.

for U.S. engagement with Asia.

“It shows that the United States will strengthen its involvement in the Indo-Pacific region no matter what the circumstances,” Kishida said ahead of their bilateral meeting.

U.S. considers reducing tariffs on China

Apart from defense and military talks, Biden also said about pondering tariff cuts on Chinese goods while increasing calls on OPEC to raise oil production as Washington is grappled with a politically damaging wave of inflation.

“I am considering it. We did not impose any of those tariffs. They were imposed by the last administration and they’re under consideration,” Biden said on reducing tariffs on China.

(Source: Press TV)

Iran eases COVID-related restrictions on intl. travelers

From page 1 ► The Islamic Republic is eager to defeat the coronavirus. To that end, Iranian officials continue to work with WHO and other partners to strengthen the country's health system in diagnosing and treating patients with COVID-19. Additionally, the country is increasingly emphasizing mass vaccination campaigns and pushing for booster shots to curtail future spikes.

Some experts believe Iran has the potential to experience a tourism boom after the coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.



The ancient land is a top destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Please do touch! Exhibition for blind opens in Tehran

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – An exhibition aimed at the visually impaired has opened in downtown Tehran, inviting visitors to touch replicas and enjoy pieces they would normally only read or hear about.

A special project named “Touch the History” launched at the prestigious National Museum of Iran on Sunday in a push to make its offerings more accessible and enjoyable for the blind.

The opening ceremony was attended by a host of blind and partially-sighted people from all age groups in the presence of some officials from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

“The significant point and what makes this exhibition different from similar events is the cultural sequence of its objects that range from nine thousand years ago to the Islamic period,” said Jebrael Nokandeh, director of the National Museum, addressing participants at the opening ceremony.

“In this exhibition, blind visitors are offered to feel the identity and culture of Iran by touching numerous models of historical sites and relics.”

The works have been made exclusively to help the blind to understand the form from the one hand, and perceive embossed motifs and decorations from the other hand, the official explained.

Moreover, Nokandeh talked about

the event as an example of social responsibility, saying “Such an event shows the social responsibility of museums towards people with disabilities.”

The museum director reminded the attendees of the International Museum Day, saying “Simultaneously with this year’s theme ‘The Power of Museums’, the National Museum of Iran hopes its new mission will encourage the awareness of the audience and visitors more than before.”

Moreover, the museum is going to install Brail labels beside some of its relics, he said.

“This allows the blind to use the museum on an equal footing with other visitors, and ordinary audiences. Especially children

and adolescents will be able to experience a different sense of touch to have a deep connection with objects by touching these models.”

It is estimated that approximately 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment or blindness, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), a billion of who have either not had their condition addressed, or whose impairment could have been prevented.

According to Iran’s health ministry, there are around 30,000 visually-impaired children and some 7,500 blind children in the country. Furthermore, it is estimated that Iran is home to more than 80,000 blind people of 50 years old and above.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Airlines get OK to launch Iran-Oman flights

TEHRAN – Iran’s flag carrier Homa, known internationally as IranAir, and Karun Airlines will soon launch flights to Oman’s airports after the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of the sultanate approved their operations on Sunday, the Times of Oman reported.

“The Civil Aviation Authority has issued its initial approval for Iran Air and Karun Airlines to operate direct flights between the airports of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the airports of the

Sultanate of Oman, and the two airlines will launch their flights soon,” CAA said in a statement.

Last December, Oman simplified its travel rules for Iranian nationals who want to stay in the sultanate for up to 14 days.

Last year, Oman announced it would drop visa fees for visitors from 103 countries, including Iran, New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, China, India, and Turkey.

Ancient Shiraz to host WCC General Assembly

TEHRAN – The ancient city of Shiraz has been chosen to host the 39th General Assembly of the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in May 2023.

“At the suggestion of Iran, Shiraz is selected to host the 39th General Assembly of the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region by member states’ representatives in a meeting held in Bukhara, Uzbekistan,” Iran’s deputy tourism minister said on Sunday.

The proposal was approved by representatives from Thailand, Kuwait,

Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Australia, China, and Indonesia, Pouya Mahmoudian added.

According to the World Crafts Council, Shiraz embraces 80 main fields and 55 sub-fields of handicrafts such as traditional textile, ceramic, tiles, leatherwork, metalwork, woodwork, traditional embroidery, glassware, and traditional musical instruments, and enamels to name a few.

Shiraz has a remarkable amount of handicraft pioneers. With an average age of

70, some of these pioneers are still active at their workshops. The occupational records of about 100 pioneers are collected and are annually praised by the custodians of the WCC General Office.

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

First Announcement



1
1317772

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN TENDER NO. : 08-21-0040008

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods:

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	CASING , API GRADE L-80 , SEAMLESS “VAM” , “N.VAM” MAX LENGTH : 40.5 FT) AS PER API 5CT /ISO11960 5-1/2 IN. , 20 PPF	2000 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender are requested to send their “ Intention To Participate” letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no.2, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **65,040 EURO** or **17,217,533,338 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab
ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC’S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC’S MATERIAL APPROVAL
NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir
تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۱/۲/۳

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL SINGLE-STAGE TENDER No: 1400/108-103/03

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :

Leasing 4MHz bandwidth capacity on AM7 Satellite for 3 years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:

From **Wednesday 25 May 2022 (1401/03/04) 09:00 a.m** until **Tuesday 31 May 2022 (1401/03/10) by 02:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:

Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:

Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:

The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 12/100 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 3/630/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:

The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Saturday 02 July 2022 (1401/04/11)** at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:

The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Saturday 02 July 2022 (1401/04/11) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes:

The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 03 July 2022 at 05:00 p.m (1401/04/12)** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.

The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.

Fore more information please see :

www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and <http://iets.mporg.ir/> Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL SINGLE-STAGE TENDER No: 1401/103-04/03

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :

Broadcasting the TV channel Alkawthar TV on Eutelsat7wa Satellite for 3 years in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:

From **Wednesday 25 May 2022 (1401/03/04) 09:00 a.m** until **Tuesday 31 May 2022 (1401/03/10) by 02:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

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Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:

The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 25/000 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 7/500/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:

The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Saturday 02 July 2022 (1401/04/11)** at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

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Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

Investment in top nanotechnology projects to gather pace

TEHRAN – The Nanotechnology Innovation Council and the Technology and Innovation Exchange Network (InnoTEN), in collaboration with the private sector, have announced a call for funding top nanotechnology-based energy industry projects.

Nanotechnology, with its transdisciplinary nature, has broken the boundaries of various sciences and provided the basis to increase the quality of life. Therefore, the private sector, with the support of the Nanotechnology Innovation Council and InnoTEN, seeks to support projects and commercialize the products.

It has many applications with the aim of creating cleaner and more efficient energy sources, and also in the field of energy consumption can create more cost-effective systems. Many of these applications may not directly affect the energy conversion process, but have the potential to reduce the need for fossil fuels and electricity.

Optimal energy production and consumption, and therefore no need to transfer energy over long distances, can reduce the amount of construction, maintenance, and repairs required in the energy cycle and thus greatly reduce the cost of energy consumption.



Submitted projects will be assessed and evaluated based on several criteria; then the selected ones will receive cash prizes. The best one is accepted for private sector investment and contracting in order to attract funds, ISNA reported on Monday.

Nanotechnology improvement
One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years, proving the country's scientific development, is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the world's fourth place.

Currently, nanotech products are produced and marketed in more than 15 industrial fields based on domestic technologies and are being exported to 49 countries from five continents.

Over the past year (ended March 20), the total sale of Iranian nanoproducts has been equal to 115 trillion rials (nearly \$425 million).

The expansion of nanotechnology export programs in recent years and the establishment of bases for exporting nanoproducts to China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq have provided the opportunity for the entry of Iranian nanotechnology goods, equipment, and services into global markets.

Some 42 percent of the products in this field are related to construction, more than 17 percent to the field of oil, gas, and petrochemicals, 13 percent to the field of automobiles, and over 10 percent to the field of

optoelectronic.
Some 270 companies are active in the nanotechnology field and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly \$310 million), Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari, announced.

Iran's ranking in nanotechnology articles citation in 2019 has significantly improved compared to 2018, as it moved 26 levels higher, according to the StatNano's statistics collected from the WoS database.

Based on a report Nanotechnology Publications report, Iran ranked 38 worldwide for the average number of times the nano-articles have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports in 2019, while in 2018, it was placed 64.

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

Over the past year (ended March 20), the total sale of Iranian nanoproducts hit 115 trillion rials (nearly \$425 million).

Interior Ministry, Housing Foundation to expand rural development

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Interior and the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Revolution signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance rural development, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Under the MOU, creating a positive and constructive interaction between the Municipalities and village administrators and the Housing Foundation in the field of rural development is considered, Mehdi Jamali Nejad, deputy minister of interior for urban and rural development, said.

Reviewing and implementing rural development plans with priority on less developed cities are among the fields of cooperation, he added.

He mentioned the improvement of the quality of rural constructions and the promotion of indigenous and Islamic-Iranian architecture as other areas of cooperation in this memorandum.

Rural development, migration reverse

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

In Iran, where villages account for generating 20-23 percent of the value-added in the country, the development of rural areas has been always a top agenda of the government's activities.

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while



decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, said in November 2020 that for the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero.

Since 2003, some 37,919 village administration offices have been established nationwide, offering services to about 95 percent of the country's rural population.

Iran prepared for dealing with any virus threat: health minister

From page 1 ► Reducing the COVID-19-related fatality to single-digit has surprised international health experts, as the United States and some European countries are still grappling with high rates of fatality despite all their resources, he stressed.

Previously, Einollahi said the successful experience of the

Islamic Republic of Iran in controlling the coronavirus pandemic will be made known at the World Health Assembly.

The death toll from the coronavirus in Iran fell to seven on Monday.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern

Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

“At the outset of the COVID-19

epidemic, the Islamic Republic of Iran made its primary health care system a core part of its national response. This PHC infrastructure allowed systematic outreach activities for early case detection, contact tracing, and triage for hospital referral (if necessary) by community health workers.

No cases of monkeypox detected in Iran

TEHRAN – No cases of monkeypox have so far been reported in Iran, the head of the public relations of the Ministry of Health, has said.

Since 13 May 2022, cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO from 12 Member States that are not endemic to the monkeypox virus.

The Ministry of Health is examining suspects to identify possible monkeypox infection. Also, a guideline has been prepared for the prevention and treatment of this disease, which will be provided to universities, IRNA quoted Pedram Pak-Aeen as saying on Sunday.

Due to its low transmission pace, it is less likely to cause an epidemic and is not worrisome, he stated.

Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms very similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. It is caused by the monkeypox virus which belongs to the orthopoxvirus genus of the Poxviridae family.

The virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets, and contaminated materials such as bedding. The incubation period of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days



but can range from 5 to 21 days.

Monkeypox is usually self-limiting but may be severe in some individuals, such as children, pregnant women, or persons with immune suppression due to other health conditions. Human infections in the West African clade appear to cause less severe disease compared to the Congo Basin clade, with a case fatality rate of 3.6% compared to 10.6% for the Congo Basin clade.

As of 21 May, 92 laboratory-confirmed cases, and 28 suspected cases of monkeypox with investigations ongoing, have been reported to WHO from 12 Member States that are not endemic to the monkeypox virus. No associated deaths have been reported to date, according to the WHO.

Tribes in Iran

Part 10

The Little Lor tribes live in the ostan of Lorestan and Ilam (a separate ostan since 1353/1974), i.e. the region between the Dez river in the south and east, the Iraqi frontier in the west, and the ostan of Kermanshah in the north-west and west.

Many of these tribes are now sedentary, but some still migrate seasonally in search of pasture between the lowlands north and west of Andimeshk and the highlands in the north and west of the region.

As a result of the compulsory sedentarization policy of the years 1313/1934-1320/1941, these Lor tribes were to some extent fragmented. Parts of a single tribe can now be found living in different districts.

The territory of the Bala Geriva tribe covers the bakhsh (district) of Malavi southwest of Khorramabad and lies between the Kuh-e Hash-tad Pahlū to the north, the Khorramabad-Dezful highway to the west, and the Dez river to east and south.

The two districts of the Weysian, around Kargah in the north and the Alvar-e Garmsiri in the south of Malavi, can perhaps be appropriately classified as belonging to the Bala Geriva.

Settled in this territory is the principal remnant of the Dirakvand tribe, which was formerly made up of four tayefas called Baharvand, Qalavand, Mir, and Zaynivand.

Various remnants of the Mir, now mostly sedentarized, are to be found in Seymareh, Kargah-e Bala Geriva (Malavi), and the Alvar-e Garmsiri area. A section of the Baharvand tayefa, which is said to have originally comprised two tiras called Morad Alivand and Khord Alivand, still roams between the Alvar-e Garmsiri area and Khorram-

abad; but several tiras and offshoots, such as the Khord Alivand, Rashnu, Shalvand, and Najafvand, have become independent units and settled around the Ab-e Chulhul.

The Zaynivand tayefa has been sedentarized at Saymareh near Darrashahr. Two tayefas of the Judaki tribe, namely the Aqa Reza'i and the Aqa Mirza'i, have settled around the Ab-e Chulhul and Kargah, and fragments of the Mir tayefa and the Qalavand tayefa in the Dasht-e Lala (plain of the wild tulips).

In past times this plain was part of the territory of the Papi (= servant) tribe, and the sedentarized Mohammad Ja'fari tayefa of the tribe still lives there. The Manasari section of the Papi tribe, comprising the tayefas of the Moradi, the Ya'qubvand, Madhuni, Malziri, Keshvari, Liria'i, and others, lives in the east of the shahrestan of Khorramabad.

The area in the Pish(-e) Kuh zone lying roughly between the Kuh-e Safid in the south and the summits of the Kuh-e Gari in the north is called the Selsela. It includes the fertile plain of Alashtar.

The tayefas and tiras of the Selsela comprise the Hasanvand, Yusofvand, Kowlivand, Karam-Ali, Falak-al-dini, and some more small tiras. Almost all are now sedentary. Their language is Lori.

The area called Heru consists essentially of the bakhshes of Chaghalvandi and Zagha in the east of the shahrestan of Khorramabad. Chaghalvandi is the abode of the important Beyranvand tribe, Zagha that of the Bajulvand tribe which is made up of tayefas called Sagvand, Dalvand, and Qa'ed Rahmat.

These two tribes are said to have moved from Fars to Lorestan long ago.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran pioneer in cancer innovation, research among Islamic countries

Iran has the most research and innovation in the field of cancer both in the region and among Islamic countries, deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh has stated.

Referring to the great progress in cancer research, he said that “We have been able to play a role in this area globally.”

He added that one of the hopes for early detection of cancer is the use of urine and blood tests for people who are susceptible to cancer.

“We have conducted researches in the field of blood and urine biomarkers, which will help control cancers in the country,” he said.

Pointing out that there are about 250,000 cancer patients in the country, Malekzadeh noted that 50,000 people die each year from the disease and 125,000 new patients develop cancer, so that the number of people with the disease increases each year.

ایران بیشترین نوآوری و تحقیقات سرطان را بین کشورهای اسلامی دارد

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری وزیر بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی گفت: ایران هم در منطقه و هم بین کشورهای اسلامی بیشترین میزان تحقیقات و نوآوری ها در حوزه سرطان را داشته است.

دکتر رضا ملک زاده روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه مادر زمینه تحقیقات سرطان پیشرفت های خیلی خوبی داشتیم، گفت: ما در سطح جهانی هم توانستیم در این حوزه نقش آفرین باشیم.

وی افزود: یکی از امیدهای خیلی روشن برای تشخیص زودرس سرطان، استفاده از آزمایش ادرار و خون برای افرادی است که استعداد سرطان را دارند.

معاون وزیر بهداشت گفت: در ایران تحقیقات خیلی خوبی در زمینه بیومارکرهای ادراری و خونی در دست اجرا داریم و امیدواریم با این کار، امکان کنترل سرطان ها در کشور میسر شود.

ملک زاده با اشاره به اینکه در حال حاضر تعداد ۲۵۰ هزار مبتلا به سرطان در کشور داریم، گفت: هر سال حدود ۵۰ هزار نفر بر اثر این بیماری می‌میرند و ۱۲۵ هزار بیمار جدید اضافه می‌شوند. در نتیجه هر ساله تعداد مبتلایان این بیماری بیشتر می‌شود.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 23

New cases	268
New deaths	7
Total cases	7,230,321
Total deaths	141,281
New hospitalized patients	68
Patients in critical condition	649
Total recovered patients	7,035,798
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,031,785
Doses of vaccine injected	149,729,751

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MAY 24, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:01 Evening: 20:28 Dawn: 4:09 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:52 (tomorrow)

Arabic literature in Iran

Part 2
Persians also made their presence felt in poetry. Not long after the conquest of Khorasan we hear of the first Persians who mastered the intricate rules of Arabic prosody, and their number gradually increases as time goes by.

Eventually, such poets as Bassar ibn Bord (d. 783-84), a blind Persian of humble Khorasani origin, and Abu Nowas (d. 813), a half Persian master poet in handling Arabic poetical forms and inserting Persian words into them, would lend their weight to the modernist movement seeking to reform the Bedouin themes inherited from pre-Islamic times.

Abu Nowas is considered as one of the greatest masters of Arabic poetry; his ascetical poems (zohdiyat) alternate with his much better known wine poems (khamriyat), the latter being of course his real contribution to Arabic literature (M. Minovi, “Yaki az Farsiyyat-e Abu Nowas,”).

Outstanding among later Persian poets who wrote in Arabic is Mahyar Daylami (d. 1037), a Shia poet with a wonderful command of prosody.

This capacity of the Persians to excel in the creation of Arabic odes of rare beauty and depth continued well into medieval times. We have only to recall the famous Lamiyat al-Ajam (“The Ode of the Persians Rhyming in ‘L’”) of the Isfahani poet and vizier of the Seljuks, Abu Esmail Hosayn Toghray (d. 1112-22), which is an ode describing the hard times of his day in masterful Arabic; it was composed at a time when New Persian, by producing monumental works such as the Shahnameh, had long established itself as the medium of poetry throughout Iran.

It has the same kind of aphoristic wisdom that we find in the Lamiyat al-Arab (“The Ode of the Arabs Rhyming in ‘L’”) of the pre-Islamic Bedouin poet Shanfara.

Sadi (d. 1292), the renowned author of the Gulistan in Persian, also left behind a number of Arabic odes, but they do not show the genius of his Persian compositions.

After his days it is rare to find Persians who can write Arabic poetry with any degree of inspiration, perhaps due to the thoroughness with which Persian letters had taken over the culture of Iran, leaving very little for Arabic to do.

Persians also had a hand in other literary genres. Thus, Ibn Qotayba (d. 889-90), a great master of Arabic belles-lettres, wrote his Oyun al-akhbar (The sources of stories), an anthology of anecdotal narratives drawn from both Persian and Arabic materials, as an example of a work that went beyond the exclusivism of both Arabs and Persians.

He wrote it in a simple but strong literary style, somewhat like the one he uses in Adab al-kateb, which in later generations became one of the basic texts for mastering Arabic.

Ibn Qotayba defended the Arabs against the sho’ubiya of his fellow Persians; though the question of the sho’ubiya would exercise a number of individuals’ pens after his days, he went a long way in creating a literary reconciliation between the two cultures.

Among anthologists we find the famous Shia scholar from Isfahan, Abul-Faraj Esfahani (d. 966-67), author of the Kitab al-aghani (The book of songs), a fundamental work in Arabic literature in many volumes that embraces pre-

Islamic and early Islamic poetry.

Not only does it give an excellent selection of poetry, but every poem is accompanied by anecdotal historical observations replete with chains of authority, and since the poetry was meant to be sung, there are a certain number of musical notations for the accompanists.

When giving biographical or other details in his work, the author’s style is fast-paced, as is the dialogue between the principal actors under consideration; indeed, his conversational style is one of the liveliest and most realistic in the Arabic literary tradition.

His aim was to entertain the reader, not to burden him with needless literary devices or serious types of poetry.

Hence, he pruned his literary style down to the bone and eliminated the more religious or ascetical or mystical forms of poetry, which gives to his book a worldly touch, a piquant quality that he expressly sought.

When his anthology was presented to the Buyid vizier Saheb ibn Abbad, an eminent Persian master of Arabic prose, the latter ceased traveling with a caravan full of books, as had been his wont, and began instead to take with him the Kitab al-aghani, which sufficed him.

Another important anthology compiled by a Persian, Abu Mansur Talebi (d. 1038) of Nishapur, is Yatimat al dahr fi mahasen ahl al-asr, which gives us a very good idea of the state of Arabic letters in eastern Iran at the time of the Samanids.

Practically all of the poets cited in it were Persians, some of whom excelled in both Arabic and Persian. While not all of them can claim to be inspired, enough of them wrote well enough to permit us to say that Arabic literary culture in the area was effervescent and fairly strong, and this at a time when Persian letters had come into their own.

The Yatimat al-dahr would have a number of imitators and continuators in other lands and future generations as time went by, thus establishing it as a sort of prototypal work.

Versatility in both Arabic and Persian literature was not unusual among cultivated Persians of the 0th century. One of those Persians who mastered both mediums of expression is the famous creator of the literary genre called the maqamat (assemblies), Ahmad Badi al-Zaman Hamadani (d. 1007), who was also known for his extraordinary skill in improvisation, moving from one tongue to the other with great facility.

His fame, however, reposes on his Maqamat, a series of adventure stories in rather ornate rhymed prose dealing with a wandering, clever, and unscrupulous hero who lives by his wit, his flashes of rhetorical brilliance, and his learning.

The hero is constantly running across his narrator, who describes the hero’s adventures. Each maqama is an independent piece containing prose and poetry; its sole object is not so much to narrate an adventure as to tell it with superb Arabic rhetorical art.

Hamadani’s Maqamat became the model for later creations by other authors, the one written by the Arab poet and philologist al-Hariri (d. 1122) being the most famous of all and one of the masterpieces of Arabic letters.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Tehran animation festival welcomes international filmmakers

TEHRAN –Animated movies by overseas filmmakers from 84 countries will go on screen at the 12th edition of the Tehran International Animation Festival, organizers announced at a press conference on Sunday.

The films were chosen from over 400 animations from all over the world submitted to the festival, with the most entries coming from France, said Mehdi Ali-Akbarzadeh, the managing director of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA - Kanoon).

Several workshops, meetings, and online webinars are planned to be held on the sidelines of the festival, the official added.

The animations come from South Korea, Chile, Poland, the Netherlands, Czech, Japan, China, France, Austria, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Brazil, and dozens of other countries, he mentioned.

Films by Iranian filmmakers will also be screened in different sections of the festival, he noted.

Among the animated movies on

A poster for the 12th Tehran International Animation Festival.

the festival’s feature films lineup are “Lajka” by Czech director Aurel Klimt and “The Nose or Conspiracy of Mavericks” by Russian director Andrey Khrzhanovskiy, while “My Generation” by French director Ludovic Houplain is a highlight of the shorts.

Klimt’s movie shows that life is not easy for Laika, a dog on the outskirts of a big Russian city. She

is caught and forcibly retrained to become a pioneer in astronautics. Soon after her lift-off into space, a number of animals follow that are hurriedly launched from Houston and Baikonur. The animals manage to colonize a faraway planet. After a short period of harmonious, undisturbed co-existence with indigenous life forms, however, the first human cosmonaut runs

ashore on their planet, and they are suddenly in jeopardy.

“The Nose or Conspiracy of Mavericks” is a cheerful grim look at the follies of the twentieth century, anchored in Gogol’s proto-surrealist novella, “The Nose”, and Shostakovich’s opera of the same name.

“My Generation” is a panoramic vision of Pop Culture as a landscape, divided by a never-ending road where art, politics, sport, finance, generalized surveillance, and ubiquitous computing are all entangled.

“Good Intentions” by Anna Mantzaris is another highlight of the lineup. It is a small thriller about people that are not always the best at making decisions. After being a woman who was responsible for a hit and run, spooky things start to happen to her.

The festival will take place from May 29 to June 2, after a one-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. The event was scheduled first to be held in March, but it was canceled due to an increase in COVID-19 infections in the country.

IAF to screen selection of Iran’s Sacred Defense cinema

From Page 1 ► The Iraqi army invaded Iran on September 22, 1980, setting the stage for eight years of war. With support from certain

Arab and Western countries, Saddam Hussein ordered an attack on Iran nearly 19 months after the Islamic Revolution.

The war drew to a close in August 1988. The United Nations declared Saddam as the initiator of the conflict.

“Bonus” named best at ISFA Awards

Hutan Shakiba acts in a scene from Iranian director Reza Nejati’s “Bonus”.

had received nominations in nine categories.

The film also brought Puyan

Aqababai the award for best cinematography, while the award for best set design was given

“Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” on stage at Tehran theater

TEHRAN –American playwright Edward Albee’s “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” went on stage at Tehran’s Divare Chaharom Theater on Thursday.

Seyyed Hamidreza Hosseini is the director of the play which is starring Atefeh Kushki, Puya Ansari, Behdad Ruzgar, and Nilufar Khorasani.

Published in 1962, the play tells the story of a middle-aged couple named Martha and George and their complexities in marriage. One evening, following a university faculty party, they receive an unwitting young couple, Nick and Honey,

and draw them into their bitter and frustrated relationship.

“Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” won both the 1963 Tony Award for Best Play and the 1962–63 New York Drama Critics’ Circle Award for Best Play. An adaptation of the play was released in 1966. It was written by Ernest Lehman, directed by Mike Nichols, and starred Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, George Segal, and Sandy Dennis.

The play will remain on stage until June 10.

Iranian short to compete at U.S. film festival

TEHRAN –Iranian short film “On the Beach” by Abolhassan Keyvan will go on screen at Manhattan Film Festival,

Honaronline reported on Monday.

The film tells the story of a young man whose fiancé has migrated abroad and the man

has been waiting for her on the beach for days. His brother visits him every day, brings him food and water, and sometimes

blames him for his condition.

Manhattan Film Festival will be held in New York from June 9 to 23.

A review of “Good Old Times”

“Good Old Days” is a historical and political novel by Mahdi Khalili. The story begins with Reza Shah’s reign and continues with significant events such as the 15 Khordad and 28 Mordad rebellions, but the main focus is on the Mirza Agha’s family, who are looking for good times in the middle of the chaos.

The book has an exciting story because it contains historical research, content, and memoirs that have been narrated over time and collected by the author and addressed risky and special days in Iranian history.

The novel succeeds in telling the story, and the presence of a family as the main characters has helped it in the narration of the historical events; a family whose generation has lived through different periods of Iran’s 100-year history, and continues the story. An interesting point about the family of the story is their Iranian-Islamic lifestyle. This family’s culture is similar to that of all Iranian families,

but what’s unique about it is that the author purposefully created each family member to represent a different Iranian group.

As a result, it is reasonable to state that the author intended to tell a stream of the Islamic Revolution’s history through the presence of a family representing all Iranian families in the heart of history.

Considering the book’s interesting story and the author’s vast knowledge of anthropology and historical research, it can be said that “Good Old Times” was a success, and reading it will make you feel as if you have traveled through Iran’s hundred-year history.

However, the book’s most serious flaw is its textual structure, which could be fixed with the help of a professional editor, making the book more coherent and powerful in its narration. The problem is that there is no name of the editor in the book ID, indicating that the book has not been edited.

In general, “Good Old Times” reminds us of the difficult days that have passed in this country with its people, and you may wonder who can truly be held responsible for oppression and who can comprehend the suffering of those who have not had happy times.