

Report
Action by foe will be met with decisive response

TEHRAN— Assassinating an IRGC colonel in downtown Tehran is not an act that could be neglected; therefore, the Islamic Republic will remind the perpetrators of this crime that “hit and run era is over.”

Around 4 p.m. on Sunday, two motorcycle riders shot and martyred Sayad Khodaei, an IRGC colonel who fought Daesh in Syria, with five bullets in one of the alleys of Mojahe-din-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.

In a message issued late on Monday, Iran’s Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said, “The blind enemies, who have become incapable of confronting the patience, resistance and self-sacrifice of this nation, have resorted to such humiliating actions, which are beyond international and humanitarian standards.”

He underscored that such actions will undoubtedly have no effect on the Iranian people.

Qalibaf continued, “Martyr Sayyad Khodaei, after years of struggle for the ideals of the Revolution and Islamic values, achieved martyrdom to prove that the proud and brave children of the heroic nation of Iran, as always, are ready to sacrifice their goals and aspirations for the Islamic Revolution.”

He stressed that it is necessary for security and intelligence agencies to take the necessary measures to identify and punish the perpetrators of this terrorist act.

The Khodaei assassination once again showed the depth of anger of the enemies of the Iranian nation against the IRGC, which has sincerely provided security for West Asia. ▶ Page 2

Report
Global economic outlook faces “tough year ahead”

The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says the war in Ukraine has worsened the global economic outlook and a recession may loom for more vulnerable countries.

Kristalina Georgieva predicted that 2022 would be a tough year and refused to rule out a global recession if conditions drastically worsened.

Speaking on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Georgieva said a global recession was not being forecast by the IMF “at this point,” but added, “It doesn’t mean one is out of the question.”

The IMF managing director says the organization had recently downgraded the growth prospects for 143 of its member states, which represent 80 percent of global output.

“The horizon has darkened,” she said, pointing out that the impact of the war in Ukraine was being intensified by a tightening of financial conditions “2022 is going to be a tough year.” She said.

Along with other attendees at Davos, the IMF head highlighted the risks of soaring food prices. Georgieva said that over the past week there had been a sense that the global economy was heading into tough times saying “food prices continue to go up, up, up, up.”

She said: “We can shrink the use of petrol when growth slows down but we have to eat every day. The anxiety about access to food at a reasonable price, globally, is hitting the roof.”

The IMF is now predicting global growth of 3.6 percent this year, and Georgieva says there is a long path for that to change for the better.

“What we may see is recession in some countries that are weak, to begin with. They haven’t recovered from the Covid crisis. They’re highly dependent on imports from Russia, of energy or food, and they have a somewhat weaker environment already.” ▶ Page 5

Iran Seeks to Fix Dust Crisis Despite Turkish Negligence ▶ Page 3



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RAI inks co-op MOU with Kazakhstan national railway

TEHRAN – The heads of the railways of Iran and Kazakhstan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to increase transportation cooperation and set preferential tariffs between the two countries in order to increase the transit of goods passing through Iran.

The MOU was signed on Monday during a meeting between a high-ranking delegation from Kazakhstan headed by the country’s

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov and the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), IRNA reported.

RAI Head Miad Salehi and Nurlan Sauranbayev, head of Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ) which is the country’s national railway company, signed the MOU documents.

Based on this MOU, part of the cargo pass-

ing through the China-Russia-Europe railway corridor will be transported through Iran via the China-Kazakhstan-Iran-Europe railway corridor.

During the meeting, the two sides also agreed that the first China-Kazakhstan-Iran-Turkey container train would arrive in Iran in less than a month. ▶ Page 4

Report
Canada, Iran friendly up in the air

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Iran national football team manager Hamid Estili says that “nothing is certain yet”. He talks about the friendly match with Canada in Vancouver and it seems the World Cup prep is up in the air.

The ‘Persian Leopards’ are supposed to play Canada on June 5 as part of preparation for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Iran were also supposed to play Ecuador on June 11 in Toronto but the match with South American team has been called off after Ecuador football federation announced that they will not travel to Canada.

Last week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke out against the soccer game, saying he didn’t think it was a very good idea to play Iran in Canada but that it was Canada Soccer’s decision to make. ▶ Page 3



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Funeral procession held for martyred IRGC colonel

TEHRAN — A funeral procession was held in Tehran to pay tribute to a member of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) assassinated in a terrorist attack in the Iranian capital. The terrorist attack on Colonel Sayyad Khodaei happened in Tehran at around 4 p.m. local time (1130 GMT) on Sunday when two motorcyclists shot him five times while he was in his car, and fled the scene.

Publicizing Hamedan’s glory neglected for years: expert

TEHRAN – Efforts to globally introduce the splendor of Hamedan, which its history of civilization dates thousands of years, have largely been neglected for years, a senior cultural heritage expert said on Monday.

“Unfortunately, considerable effort has not been made in previous years to introduce Hamedan which enjoys a treasured history and ancient glory,” said Mohammad-Hassan Talebian who is a senior advisor to the Minister of Cultural Heritage,

Tourism and Handicrafts.

“All areas of Hamedan are treasured... In fact, in the realm of intangible cultural heritage, all events, memories, cultural figures, traditions, and rituals must be safeguarded,” Talebian explained.

Hamedan has been important in various historical eras, however, its historical core, Hegmataneh, is of very high importance, the official said.

Earlier this month, Hamedan’s tourism directorate formed a working group to identify, investi-

gate and solve potential problems in the path of possible registration of ancient Hegmataneh in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world’s greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenid kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC. ▶ Page 6

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Report
Tobacco threatens our health, environment

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The “Tobacco, a threat to our health and the environment” campaign was launched by the Ministry of Health to mark the World No Tobacco Day.

The tobacco industry produces 84 megawatts of carbon dioxide-equivalent annual greenhouse gas, causing widespread global climate change and upsetting the planet’s climate balance, wasting environmental resources, and damaging ecosystems.

Annually, 3.5 million hectares of land are destroyed for tobacco cultivation. Approximately 600 million trees are chopped down every year by the tobacco industry. On average each tree produces enough paper for 15 packs of cigarettes. Tobacco farming accounts for 5 percent of the world’s deforestation.

Cigarette butts are the most abundant type of plastic waste in the world. This waste annually produces 767,000 kilograms of toxic waste, which is equivalent to 28,875 humpback whales in terms of weight.

Each year, 4.5 trillion cigarette filters fill the surface of our cities, parks, beaches, and rivers, polluting water and soil.

The World Health Organization created World No Tobacco Day in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes.

The day is further intended to draw attention to the widespread prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects, which currently lead to more than 8 million deaths each year worldwide, including 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. ▶ Page 7

Art exhibits celebrate Khorramshahr liberation anniversary

TEHRAN – Two art exhibitions underway at the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization are celebrating the 40th liberation anniversary of Khorramshahr.

One of the exhibits entitled “Heavenly City” showcases a collection of never before seen paintings on the theme of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war at Abolfazl Aali Gallery.

The paintings have been produced by Kazem Chalipa, Morteza Asadi, Gholam-Ali Taheri, Abdolhamid Qadirani, Kamyar Sadeqi and Mohammad Asadi Jozani.

The Iranian Photographers Center (IPC) at the Art Bureau is also hosting an exhibition of photographs depicting scenes from Operation Beit-ul-Muqaddas that Iran carried out in 1982 to liberate Khorramshahr. ▶ Page 8

Raisi's trip to Oman marks a 'turning point' in ties: ambassador



TEHRAN – Ali Najafi, Iran's ambassador to Muscat, has described President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Oman as a "turning point" in relations between the two countries, telling ISNA that he is hopeful it can greatly help develop relations.

Raisi made a one-day trip to Muscat on Monday. The Iranian president was officially welcomed by the sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tarik Al-Said at the airport. In the welcoming ceremony, a 21-gun salute was performed in the honor of President Raisi.

This visit was important in different aspects as it was given considerable notice at regional and international level, Najafi said.

The ambassador went to say that "relations between Iran and Oman has always been good" and such visits "especially at the level of heads of state" have always been the focus of attention.

Ambassador Najafi said the visit falls within Iran's policy of consolidating relations with neighbors.

Oman is considered the Switzerland of West Asia. It has been mediating between Iran and the United States over certain thorny issues in recent decades. For instance during the Obama administration, it hosted talks between Iranian and American diplomats over the Iran nuclear issue.

"Oman has always been playing a good and constructive role on issues related to Iran at regional and international level," the ambassador remarked.

He went on to say that the Omani leader warmly welcomed the Iranian president and "we are thankful to the warm hosting of the Omani government and nation."

In President Raisi's visit to Oman the focus of attention was on developing ties, especially at economic level and pragmatic approach in implementing agreements and MOUs, the

ambassador explained.

Raisi's visit provided a special opportunity for the two leaders to comprehensively review ties and study the potentials in each country, he said, adding, "The heads of state of the two countries put special emphasis on implementing agreements in line with the development of economic ties between the two countries."

He went on to say that trade ties between Oman and Iran have increased considerably in the two first two months of the current Iranian year, which started in March 21, 2022.

The volume of trade ties between the two countries stood at \$1.35 billion in the calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022) and it is hoped to reach about \$2 billion by the end of the current Iranian year.

During the Monday visit, Iran and Oman signed 12 cooperation documents and memorandums of understanding for the expansion of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The documents were signed by the two countries' ministers and high-ranking officials in such fields as energy, politics, transportation, diplomacy, economy, tourism, sports and the environment, Press TV reported.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of President Raisi and Oman's Sultan.

Since taking office in August, Ebrahim Raisi has emphasized the need for more trade and economic cooperation with Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.

His administration has reached major agreements with Qatar while trade delegates have been dispatched to the United Arab Emirates and Oman in recent months to explore increased economic ties with those states.

Action by foe will be met with decisive response

From page 1 ► There is little doubt that the assassinations of Iranian scientists and military commanders are due to the failure of U.S., Western and Israeli projects against Iran.

Although these assassinations hurt the people's feelings, the main goal of the enemies was to completely destroy the Islamic Republic.

Many believe that what the West is looking for in Iran is a system that has three characteristics: dictatorship, secularism and dependence to them.

Undoubtedly, the Israeli regime and its agents who are involved in this terrorist act will definitely be paying a heavy price as their whole existence is faltering.

The role of Iran in keeping the resistance alive in the West Asian region is quite obvious and the issue that has caused the Israelis to resort to

such terrorist actions is due to the strength of the resistance movement and Iran's role in beefing it up. At the same time, these mischiefs, apart from crossing Iran's red lines, is a great violation of the rights of the Iranian nation.

There is no doubt that this assassination will not remain unanswered.

Iran's response will not be childish and the Israelis are well-aware of this fact. Iran's response will be strong and at the right time.

In this regard, Iran's military chief, Major General Mohammad Baqeri, said, "The assassination of this great martyr is a sign of the vulgarity and humiliation of the false claimants of human rights and their desperate efforts to cover up the disgraceful defeats against the Resistance Front, and certainly it will not go unanswered."

Iranian envoy stresses right of UN members to self-defense

TEHRAN- Majid Takht Ravanchi, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, asserted on Monday that any framework agreed by the General Assembly on the management of conventional munitions must accept member states' right to self-defense.

The Iranian ambassador made comments in an address to the General Assembly's Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Conventional Ammunition.

"...We believe that conventional ammunition should be handled with caution, taking into account the legitimate needs and concerns of member states, including the need to address

their national security concerns," he underlined.

Takht Ravanchi went on to say that "the elaboration of any framework to manage the conventional ammunition ... must not jeopardize the legitimate rights of all states to the inherent right to individual or collective self-defense."

"This inherent right should encompass the right of each state to manufacture, import, and retain the non-prohibited weapons and ammunition for self-defense and security purposes," Takht Ravanchi said, cautioning that "criminal groups and terrorist organizations must be denied access to these weapons."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Foreign Ministry: We are collaborating with Iraq to overcome environmental issues

TEHRAN — In a press release issued on Tuesday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, answered to a number of questions raised by correspondents.

At first, he commemorated the anniversary of the epic of liberating the border city of Khorramshahr on May 24, 1982, which had been captured by invading Saddam Hussein's army in 1980. He also condoled the martyrdom of the glorious martyr Sayyad Khodaei to his fellow martyrs, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and the mourning people of Iran.

In response to a question about the actions of the Foreign Ministry regarding the president's order to resolve the dust storms crisis through diplomacy and international institutes, as well as interaction with neighboring countries, the spokesman said in the last two months, with the occurrence and intensification of the dust storms, the Foreign Ministry has put cooperation with neighbors on the agenda in order to expand regional cooperation and finally implement regional arrangements to deal with the crisis.

He added, "We have started this cooperation with Iraq and we intend to encourage Syria and other countries in the region to cooperate in these regional arrangements in the next step. In this context, it has been suggested to the Iraqi side to host the Iranian delegation in the form of bilateral cooperation to control sand and dust storms (SDS) hotspots, or to send an Iraqi delegation to our country to pave the way for cooperation between the two countries in the field of environmental issues, including tackling dust and sand storms."

Khatibzadeh added that regarding the pursuit of the matter through international channels, the Foreign Ministry has been drafting and approving resolutions in recent years in the UN General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and other international institutions.



According to the spokesman, these resolutions have focused specifically on tackling the dust storms matter and the need for regional cooperation to tackle all environmental problems, including the sand and dust storms.

"Therefore, the international rhetoric on this issue has been formed by consensus with the efforts of the Foreign Ministry in international organizations for several years," he added, stressing that by creating convergence among the countries of the region, there is hope that in the mid-term, a number of regional arrangements can be achieved to deal with dust and sand storms problems in the framework of cooperation and participation of countries in the region.

Khatibzadeh noted that in the domestic arena, the ministry actively participates in the meetings of the National Headquarters for Sand and Dust Storms Mitigation, which is led by the Department of Environment, and other institutions related to the issue of dust.

Israeli regime's airstrikes in Syria are blatant violation of international law

In response to a question about the recent Israeli airstrikes on positions in Syria, the spokesman said that unfortunately the indifference of the international community to the repeated aggression of the Israeli regime against the Syrian Arab Republic and the blatant violation of all international laws and regulations have made the leaders of this regime more emboldened and unrestrained.

"There is no doubt that the overt

efforts to develop ties.

To develop ties, the Iranian deputy foreign minister said, it is necessary to create a condition for cooperation between businesspersons from the two nations.

Bagheri Kani went on to say that Iran is ready to successfully host the Kazakh president's visit to Tehran, calling for using this opportunity to solidify ties and sign cooperation agreements.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is scheduled to visit Iran. No date is given about the date of the visit.

national teams of Iran and Canada, saying, "The match was coordinated independently by the football federations of the two countries within the framework of the usual football preparation matches, and the Football Federation of Canada has announced that it is determined to host any purely sporting event to prevent any political abuse by well-known anti-Iran groups."

Khatibzadeh added that unfortunately, contrary to their claims, the sportiest matters have become a play toy of party orientations and political movements inside Canada. The negative stances and comments of the Prime Minister of Canada and some others indicate the dominance of a purely political and partisan view of all aspects of governance in Canada, and therefore the behavior of the Canadian authorities in public is easily played by opposition groups of Iran.

He stated that the Canadian Football Federation and the Canadian government are expected to facilitate the holding of this friendly match free from political scams and propaganda as well as propaganda blackmail by FIFA in accordance with the sportsmanship principles and the well-known principles of FIFA. The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has assured us that it has made all the necessary agreements with the Canadian Football Federation within this framework and in case of violation of the agreements, the Canadian side will be responsible for all the consequences.

Iran supports Azerbaijan, Armenia resolving differences

In conclusion, the spokesman answered a question about the recent peace overtures between the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, saying, "The Islamic Republic of Iran supports resolving all disputes through upholding the well-known principles of international law, including respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and the rights of all residents of the region."

Close co-op between Iran and Kazakhstan can help promote security: diplomat

TEHRAN – Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs said on Monday that close interaction between Iran and Kazakhstan at political and economic level coupled with regional cooperation can greatly help strengthen peace and security in the region.

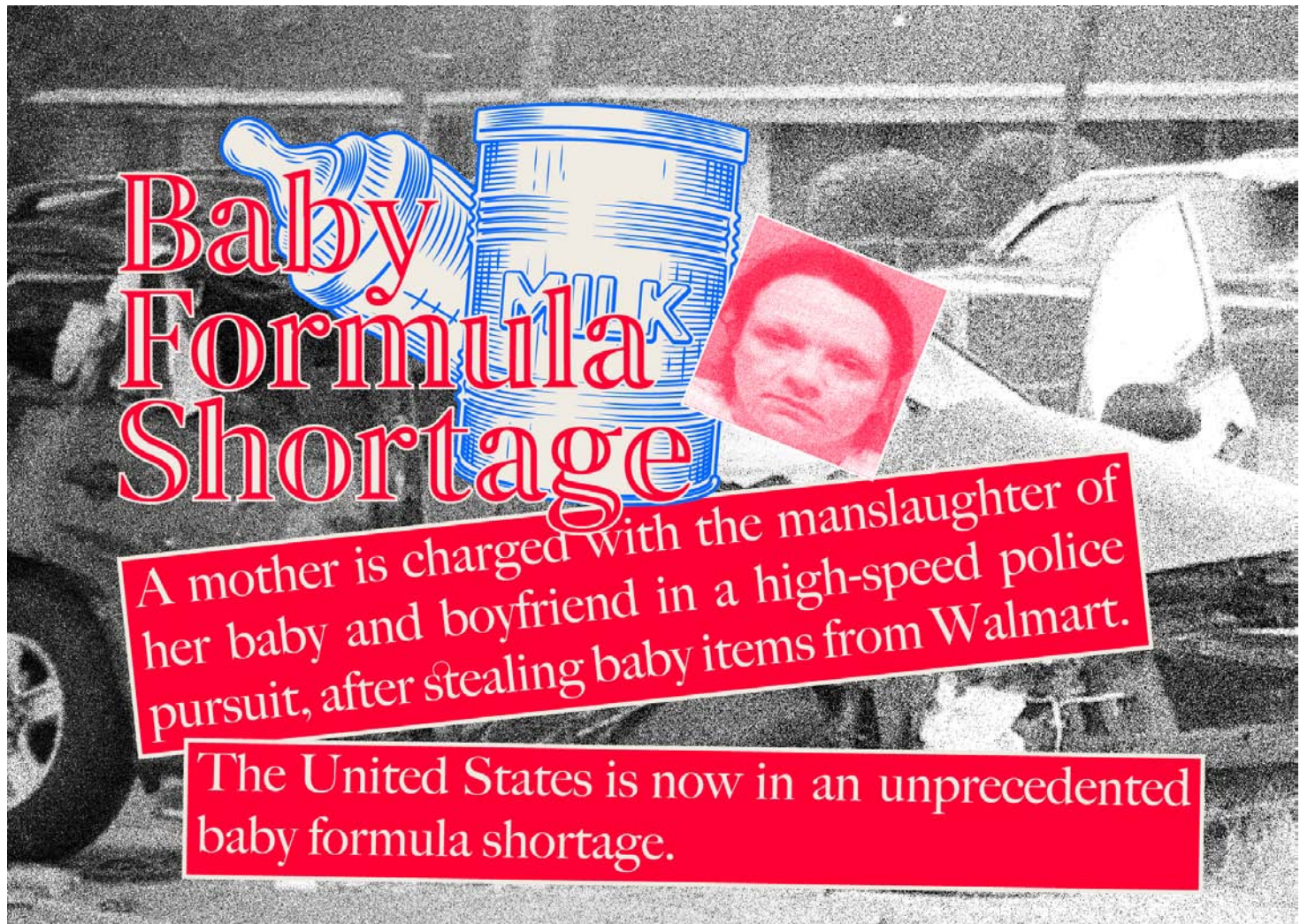
Ali Bagheri Kani made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Kazakh deputy foreign minister Adil Tursunov.

Bagheri Kani also pointed to a priority in relations with neighbors and regional countries in the Ebrahim Raisi administration, saying Iran and Kazakhstan as two Muslim nations which share common civilizational and cultural affinities can make greater

For his part, Adil Tursunov called the upcoming visit by Tokayev important in relations between the two countries, saying, "This visit will lead to conclusion of important agreements, especially in economic areas."

The two deputy foreign ministers also exchanged views about bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues.

The two top diplomats said there are good opportunities for cooperation since the two sides share common views about the Afghanistan issue, campaign against drug trafficking and war against terrorism and extremism.



Raisi calls Oman a “sincere and reliable friend”

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran has described the Sultanate of Oman as a “sincere and reliable friend” and said the will of the two countries for developing and emerging ties is highly important.

President Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said.

The Iranian president went on to say that Iran sees Oman as “friend” and “brother” and “we warmly press the hands of Omanis”.

He also said that “political trust” between Iran and Oman has reached a “new stage”.

For his part, the Sultan of Oman said, “We extend the hand of friendship toward the neighboring and friendly country of Iran.”

The Omani leader also said the level of commercial ties between the two countries are not commensurate with the level of political cooperation.

“For promotion of commercial exchanges, we need new planning,” Haitham bin Tariq Al Said suggested.

“Good Iran-Oman ties to help increase regional cooperation”

Raisi, who returned home from his visit to Muscat early on Tuesday, said good relations between the two countries will help increase cooperation across the region. He said Tehran and Muscat agree on many issues.

“In meetings with senior Omani officials, it was emphasized that it is necessary for the two countries to have this cooperation at the regional and international levels, even as the positions of the two countries are remarkably in sync on many issues,” the president said upon his arrival at Mehrabad Airport, Press TV reported.

Raisi said economic actors and traders of the two countries discussed their problems in the fields of trade, money transfer, financial, banking and customs issues in a meeting with Oman's



President Ebrahim Raisi (R) meets with Oman's Deputy Prime Minister Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al-Said in the capital, Muscat, on May 23, 2022. (Photo by Fars News Agency)

minister of industry.

It was decided that obstacles will be removed soon to pave the way for trade and economic work, he added.

“Both Omani and Iranian traders are not much familiar with the capacities of the two countries,” he noted. “Therefore, the necessity of establishing an Iranian trade office in Oman was felt and it was considered that this office should be established as soon as possible in order to introduce the capacities of the two countries to economic actors.”

During the trip, Iranian and Omani officials signed 12 cooperation documents and memorandums of understanding in various fields. The documents were signed in the areas of energy, politics, transportation, diplomacy, economy, tourism, sports and the environment by the two countries' ministers and high-ranking officials. The documents were signed at the presence of President Raisi and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said.

Centuries-old ties

In a meeting with Oman's Deputy Prime Minister Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al-Said on Monday, Raisi said Iran-Oman relations are not limited to neighborliness, and that

the deep religious and doctrinal interests and commonalities of the two nations have been linked for centuries.

Stressing that Tehran-Muscat relations have always been good and constructive throughout history, the Iranian president said, “Although we see good relations between the two countries, but this level of relationship is not convincing.”

Raisi underscored the need to revive various neglected capacities between Iran and Oman, noting that the amount of trade, transportation and economic cooperation between Tehran and Muscat, especially in the field of energy and transit of goods, can certainly increase.

Pointing to Iran's progress in industry and medicine, Raisi said Iran can be a good choice for Omani people in the field of health and medicine, according to Press TV

“Despite U.S. threats and sanctions, the Islamic Republic has made great headway in areas mostly affected by sanctions, such as the peaceful nuclear, medical, and defense industries,” the president underlined.

In addition to the use of foreign vaccines against the Covid-19, the president said, six

Iranian companies produced the jabs, of which four companies took advantage of indigenous knowledge, and the vaccines are currently being exported.

“The Westerners and Americans aimed to stop Iran's progress with sanctions, but everyone saw that the Americans themselves admitted to their disgraceful failure of the maximum pressure campaign,” he said.

Raisi also said, “Nuclear weapons have absolutely no place in Iran's doctrine, but we use peaceful nuclear energy for agriculture, medicine and the petrochemical industry.”

For his part, Mahmoud al-Said pointed to historical and brotherly relations between the two nations, saying, “Development of relations between the two countries is the result of a mutual understanding between the leaders of Iran and Oman.”

“Iran-Oman relations will not be limited to economic and trade relations and will include such major areas as political interactions and cooperation,” he added.

The Omani deputy prime minister also lauded Iran as an ancient and historical country.

Since taking office in August, Raisi has emphasized the need for more trade and economic cooperation with Arab countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf.

His administration has reached major agreements with Qatar while trade delegates have been dispatched to the United Arab Emirates and Oman in recent months to explore increased economic ties with those states.

Figures by the Iranian customs office show trade between Iran and Oman reached \$1.3 billion over the Persian calendar year to late March, a record high and an increase of 53% against the previous year, Press TV said.

SPORTS

Canada, Iran friendly up in the air

From Page 1 ► Vancouver mayor Kennedy Stewart has also tweeted Canada Soccer shouldn't host Iran for a game next month.

Soon after, Canada Soccer Marketing Director Sandra Gage responded to Trudeau on playing with Iran, saying sport can bring together people from different backgrounds and political persuasions for a common purpose.

“At Canada Soccer, we believe in the power of sport and its ability to bring together people from different backgrounds. Iran are one of 32 Member Associations participating in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and Canada Soccer continue to follow all international protocols when hosting this match. We are focused on preparing for our men's national team to compete on the world stage,” Gage said.

On Monday, Estili in an interview with the reporters said that no match has been confirmed yet. It means the National Team will not travel to Canada.

Iran have a difficult task in the 2022 FIFA World Cup since Dragan Skocic's side have been drawn in Group B along with favorites England, the U.S., and one of Ukraine, Scotland or Wales.

Iran men defeat Thailand in IWBF Asia Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's men's team defeated Thailand 83-65 in International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) Asia Oceania Championships on Tuesday.

Iran started the campaign with a 47-44 loss against Australia and defeated Korea Republic 56-50 and Japan 62-42.

The Persians are scheduled to meet Malaysia on Wednesday.

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

Football matches in Iran delayed

TEHRAN - Iran Football League Organization has postponed five matches scheduled for Tuesday due to the air pollution.

Persepolis and Havadar teams were scheduled to host Shahr Khodro and Gol Gohar respectively in Tehran.

Foolad match with Sepahan and the match between Naft Masjed Soleyman and Sanat Naft have been also postponed due to dust storm in Khuzestan.

Tractor match with Fajr Sepasi in Tabriz has been also delayed due to the air pollution.

Iran learn fate at AFC U17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers

TEHRAN – The qualifying cast for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Bahrain 2023 Qualifiers was finalized on Tuesday and Iran learned their rivals in the tournament.

Iran are drawn in Group I along with Hong Kong, Kyrgyz Republic (hosts) and Laos.

A total of 44 participating Member Associations (MAs) were divided into 10 centralized qualifying groups, six of which will feature four teams, while four groups will

include five sides when the Qualifiers take place from October 1 to 9, 2022.

Defending champions Japan, who have won the title three times, were drawn in Group A alongside hosts Jordan, Syria, Philippines and Turkmenistan.

Group B will feature hosts Indonesia, Malaysia, Palestine, Guam and UAE.

Oman will host Iraq, Qatar, Lebanon and Bahrain in Group C.

Bahrain have already qualified as hosts and their results will not be considered during the qualifiers. Two-time champions Saudi Arabia – who will host Group D – were drawn alongside India, Myanmar, Maldives and Kuwait.

Group E will feature Yemen, hosts Bangladesh, Singapore and Bhutan while Vietnam will welcome Thailand, Chinese Taipei and Nepal in Group F.

China PR, winners of the tournament in 1992 and 2004, will have Cambodia, Northern Mariana Islands and three-time semi-finalists Australia – the hosts – for company in Group G. Tajikistan, runners-up in 2018, will host Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Mongolia in Group H.

Islamic Republic of Iran, Hong Kong, hosts Kyrgyz Republic and Laos were drawn in Group I while two-time winners Korea Republic will see action in Group J, which will be hosted by Uzbekistan. Brunei Darussalam and Sri Lanka complete the group.

The 10 group winners and five best second-placed teams will join Bahrain in the Finals.

Godwin Mensha linked with Persepolis: report

TEHRAN – Nigerian forward Godwin Mensha has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis football team.

The 32-year-old striker was a member of Persepolis from 2017 to 2019 and helped the Reds win Iran league and Super Cup two times. Mensha was also won a silver medal with Persepolis in the 2018 AFC Champions League.

Mensha currently plays in Mes Rafsanjan and is on the verge of winning golden boot. He has scored 14 goals so far.

The player has reportedly showed his interest in returning to Persepolis.

Iran drawn with UAE in AFC U20 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 Qualifiers

TEHRAN – A total of 44 teams from across the continent learnt of their challengers after the AFC U20 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 Qualifiers Draw on Tuesday.

Scheduled for Sept. 10 to 18, the 10 group winners and the five best runners-up will join hosts Uzbekistan in the 2023 Finals.

Saudi Arabia, champions in 2018, will have home advantage in Group A which also includes China PR, Myanmar, Maldives and Uzbekistan while Group B, to be hosted by Bahrain, also has Qatar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

Laos will host Japan, Yemen, Palestine and Guam in Group C while Group D consists of hosts Jordan, Chinese Taipei, Syria, Turkmenistan and Northern Mariana Islands.

Korea Republic, who have won the title 12 times, were drawn in Group E with Malaysia, hosts Mongolia and Sri Lanka. Indonesia will host Group F with Vietnam, Hong Kong and Timor-Leste in the fray.

Two-time champions Thailand will face hosts Oman, Philippines and Afghanistan in Group G, while Australia, hosts Iraq, India and Kuwait will vie for the top spot in Group H.

Tajikistan will welcome Cambodia, Lebanon and Singapore in Group I while Kyrgyz Republic will hope to make their first appearance in the Finals since 2006 when they host Group J that includes United Arab Emirates, Iran and Brunei Darussalam.

Saudi FM says his country's hands remain outstretched to Iran

TEHRAN – Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said on Tuesday that there has been some progress in talks with Iran but “not enough,” Reuters reported.

He added that his country's hands remain

outstretched to Iran.

Speaking at a World Economic Forum panel in Dubai, Prince Faisal also said that recent parliamentary elections in Lebanon “may be a positive step” but that it was too early to tell.

When asked why Riyadh has rebuffed U.S. calls to raise oil production, he said Saudi Arabia does not expect an immediate shortage of oil and only a certain shortage of oil products, alarabiya.net reported.

Officials condole martyrdom of IRGC colonel, vow harsh revenge

TEHRAN — Various high-ranking officials have condoled the martyrdom of the IRGC Colonel Sayyad Khodaei, noting that the perpetrators of this crime will soon face harsh revenge.

In an interview with the Yemeni Al-Masira network aired on Tuesday, IRGC chief Major General Salami said, “Any action by the enemy will be met with a decisive response.”

He added that Iran will not leave the enemy alone.

“We are always looking for them. Our confrontation with the enemies is steadfast and becomes stronger and stronger. The blood of martyr Sayyad Khodaei will not go unanswered,” he reiterated.

Emphasizing that Iran will avenge the blood of Khodaei, the Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC said that everyone knows that the Iranian people and the IRGC will avenge the blood of all their loved ones, and the enemy will regret what it did.

“Silence in face of terrorism is condemned”

Ali Bagheri Kani, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, visited the house of martyr Khodaei on Monday night and met with his wife, children and relatives.

Pointing out that every drop of the martyr's blood increases the burden of responsibility of the Iranian officials, the deputy foreign minister added, “This assassination

Iran seeks to fix dust crisis despite Turkish negligence

TEHRAN — As Iran struggles with heavy dust and sand storms in various cities, there seems to be an urgent need for the West Asian countries to cooperate with Tehran to overcome environmental challenges.

Heavy sand and dust storms (SDS) have caused offices, universities and schools to close in Tehran, Karaj, Kermanshah, and many other cities. It has also disrupted the daily lives of the Iranian people, causing them to stay at home and telework.

While the people of Khuzestan are suffering the most from the SDS, it is noteworthy that the lack of cooperation from the neighbors is playing a major role in the current environmental crisis.

According to Mohammad Jafar Montazeri, Iran's Prosecutor General, building several dams over the Aras border river and constructing walls on the zero point of the border by Turkey has led to a spread of sand and dust storms into western and southern parts of Iran.

In a letter to Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian, the Prosecutor General said it is necessary to follow up on the issue of receiving water right from the border river in order to prevent any further loss to the economy and agriculture of the region, IRNA reported on May 8.



Similarly, Turkey's dam buildings over the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Iraq have caused the desert-covered to country to suffer from heavy SDS. The problematic issue here is that these dust and sand storms come from Iraq to Iran, thus disrupting normal life in the border province of Khuzestan.

Environmental diplomacy is key to overcoming such issues.

While Iran has been consistent with following up environmental diplomacy, regional countries are reluctant to cooperate with Tehran. Politicizing the environment in the current situation will lead to a drastic situation in West Asia to the cost of people's health.

Overcoming environmental problems cannot be overcome while each country is singing out of tone. Collaborating together is the only possible way to resolve the current crises. If Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Syria join hands with Iran and send environmental experts to consult on the matter and offer practical ways, this problem can be fixed.

RAI inks co-op MOU with Kazakhstan national railway



RAI Head Miad Salehi (L) and Chairman of Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ) Nurlan Sauranbayev sign MOU documents in Tehran on Monday.

From page 1 ► Back in November 2021, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan had signed a tripartite MOU on railroad cooperation. The MOU was negotiated and agreed upon on

the sidelines of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit.

According to the mentioned MOU, a joint working group would be formed to follow up rail transit between Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran (KTI) Railway Corridor was officially put into operation at the end of 2014.

Over the past few years, Iran has been following a new strategy for promoting its transit status by developing rail infrastructure.

According to the former RAI Head Saeed Rasouli by completing rail infrastructures Iran is seeking to access new transit markets with over 35 million tons of annual capacity.

TCCIMA hosts Iran-India business forum

TEHRAN – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted an Iran-India business forum on Monday in which businessmen from the two sides discussed areas for mutual cooperation, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Aimed at reviewing new strategies to improve the level of trade relations between the two countries, the forum was attended by the representatives of more than 150 Iranian and Indian companies.

The event was organized by TCCIMA in collaboration with the Iran-India Joint Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

Headed by the deputy head of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Indian delegation was comprised of representatives of various companies active in the fields of health, agriculture and food industry, chemicals, financial services, packaging, etc.

Speaking in this meeting, TCCIMA Secretary-General Bahman Eshqi stated that holding such business events could open a new chapter in



the economic relations between Iran and India.

“Currently, there are concerns from both sides about the development of cooperation between the two countries, and we hope that such negotiations will lead to a more favorable situation in bilateral trade relations,” he added.

Further in the event, the Indian embassy's commercial attaché in Tehran pointed to the economies of Iran and India as being complementary and said: “Iranian companies should use the capacity and capability of Indian industries and technology companies to join global markets.”



the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past four years.

Manufacturing of home appliances up 7.5% in a year

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran increased 7.56 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that 6,273,600 sets of large home appliances, including TV sets, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines, and air coolers were manufactured in 1400, while the figure was 5,832,400 in 1399.

Among the mentioned products, just air cooler experienced a production drop, and production of the other items increased.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of

1.68m tons of basic commodities imported in 2 months



TEHRAN- Iran's Government Trading Corporation (GTC) has announced that 1.68 million tons of basic commodities has been imported to the country by this company during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21).

As reported, the goods, including wheat, rice, and raw oil, were imported by 28 vessels.

The basic goods imported into the country

are sent to the centers and storage facilities of these products throughout the country according to the transportation plan of the GTC, and then based on the needs of population centers, they are sent for distribution to all parts of the country.

As announced by the deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran imported 30.9 million tons of basic goods in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

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

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

Tehran hosting 3 intl. exhibitions

TEHRAN - The 9th International Exhibition of Rail Transportation, Related Industries and Equipment of Iran, the 23rd Iran Health International Exhibition, and the first International Exhibition and Conference of METARAD are being held during May 24-27 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

As reported by the Iran International Exhibition Company

portal, over 86 companies are participating in the current year's railway transportation exhibition.

Presenting the latest achievements and technological developments of the railway transportation and related industries, promotion of domestic production, export development, introducing the capabilities of Iranian companies, domestic production of railway industry equipment and



machinery, and familiarization of railway manufacturers with the latest developments in this industry are among the main goals of the railway exhibition.

Attended by 34 companies, the METARAD expo covers a variety of areas related to the digital economy including cryptoassets, cryptocurrency, metaverse, blockchain, equipment, and related industries.

The 23rd International Exhibition of Medical, Dental, Laboratory, and Pharmaceutical Equipment (Iran Health 2022) is also participated by 434 domestic companies and 18 foreign exhibitors.

This event provides an opportunity for professionals and companies active in the health industry to exchange ideas and become familiar with the latest achievements and information in this field.

‘Resolving transport issues, a prerequisite for expanding Iran-Kazakhstan ties’

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie met with Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov on Monday to discuss mutual economic opportunities and challenges.

In this meeting, the two sides explored ways to increase the level of economic cooperation between the two countries, the ICCIMA portal reported.

In this regard, Shafeie stressed the need for resolving transportation issues and facilitating visa issuance for Iranian businessmen as a prerequisite for expanding trade ties between the two sides.

Noting that Kazakhstan, as the largest country in Central Asia, is very important for Iran, the ICCIMA head said: “Over the past few months, we have met with various delegations from Kazakhstan, and this is promising for good developments in trade relations between the two countries in the coming months.”



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Integration Bakhyt Sultanov

According to Shafeie, the policy of free economy in Kazakhstan has provided a good ground for the presence of Iranian traders and businessmen in this country.

Pointing to the obstacles to the development of trade relations between Iran and Kazakhstan, the official said: “One of the main obstacles to developing relations between the two countries is the limitations in rail and sea transport.”

Sultanov for his part expressed satisfaction

with the current trend of economic relations between the two countries and said: “Despite many problems, we are witnessing the growth of trade relations between the two countries.”

“Last year, trade between the two countries grew by 80 percent. Of course, this rate was mainly due to the improvement in conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, in the first three months of 2022, trade between the two countries has also grown by 50 percent to \$200 million.”

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Bakhyt Sultanov arrived in Tehran on Sunday 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.

Commodities worth \$81m exported from Khorasan Razavi in a month

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 189,000 tons of products worth \$81 million were exported from Khorasan Razavi province, in the northeast of Iran, in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20).

Amir-Reza Rajabi, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, also said that 15,000 tons of products worth \$41 million were imported to the province in the first month of the present year.

He named Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, Spain, Russian Federation, Turkey, the Netherlands, India, Oman, Armenia, Bulgaria and the Republic of Azerbaijan as the major export destinations of the products.

As previously announced by the acting head of the province's



customs department, the value of non-oil export from Khorasan Razavi rose six percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year.

Javad Jafari said that 2.607 million tons of commodities worth \$1.4 billion were exported from the province in the past year, indicating five percent fall in terms of weight year on year.

The official named Iraq, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan,

and Tajikistan as the major export destinations of the province' products.

He further announced that 229,000 tons of commodities worth \$579 million were imported to Khorasan Razavi in the previous year, with 53 percent rise in value and 23 percent growth in weight year on year.

He named Oman, China, Tajikistan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the main sources of imports to the

TEDPIX drops 1,500 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) dropped 1,521 points to 1.555 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 7.982 billion securities worth 47.695 trillion rials (about \$183.442 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index fell 17,612 points, and the second market's index lost 10,686 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.

According to Hadadi, the



allocation of a separate budget for the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund shows that the government is taking the necessary measures to provide stronger support for the market and to ensure its growth in the future.

“The allocation of a budget line for the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund is considered one

of the most important points of the [Iranian calendar year] 1401 budget bill,” Hadadi said.

The expert also pointed to the imposition of tax on rival markets including the housing market as another important and influential change in the budget bill and said: “Taxation of luxury cars and expensive housing, along with taxation of bank deposits of legal entities, is also one of the important issues that should be appreciated about the budget bill.”

He also mentioned the elimination of subsidized foreign currency allocations and noted that this would create huge changes in

the market and will be the starting point for some positive progress in some industries active in the market.

The elimination of subsidies on foreign currency is not only beneficial for the country's macro-economy but also has a positive effect on the capital market transactions, the analyst said.

He further pointed to the reduction of taxes on manufacturing companies and added: “The important action of the government in reducing the tax on production units from 25 percent to 20 percent will largely offset the increase in energy costs.”

Annual coal concentrate output stands at over 1.4m tons

TEHRAN- As announced by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, 1,474,400 tons of coal concentrate

was produced in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), IRNA reported.

The ministry's released data show that the country's coal concentrate output in the previous year fell 12.8 percent as compared to the output in year 1399.



Global economic outlook faces “tough year ahead”

From page 1 ▶ “All of this is making further downgrades not out of the question and for some countries, there is now an increased risk of recession,” she said.

Economic experts are back in Davos after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

Jane Fraser, the chief executive of the U.S. investment bank Citigroup also in Davos, said that Europe is looking particularly vulnerable.

“Europe is right in the middle of the storms from supply chains, from the energy crisis, and obviously just the proximity to some of the atrocities that are occurring in Ukraine,” she said.

Over the past few months, gloom has descended on financial markets with many analysts, business managers and politicians predicting the resilience being displayed in much of the economy so far will not last long. According to surveys, there is now much more pessimism than before.

Inflation has hit the roof across the West and beyond with wages falling amid rising food insecurity and higher energy prices.

The crisis in Ukraine has also exacerbated the disruption to global supply chains and higher interest rates, raising fears that the global economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is about to stall.

Speaking at a panel in Davos, Robert Habeck, Germany’s vice-chancellor and economy minister, said “I’m really afraid that we are running into a global recession, with a tremendous effect not only on [the climate], but on global stability.” Jane Fraser, chief executive of Citi, said there would be a recession in Europe and a downturn in the rest of the world.

Speaking to journalists in Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov says the unprecedented sanctions imposed on Russia are the real cause



of a looming global food crisis, not Moscow’s actions.

Peskov says Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ opinion that there was a risk of global hunger.

“That is true. But when it comes to grain, the president said that the imposed sanctions and restrictions led to the collapse that we are now witnessing,” he said.

Western countries, spearheaded by the U.S. and the UK along with European Union nations, have imposed unprecedented punitive measures on Russia in response to its military operation in Ukraine.

Guterres had asked Moscow not to prevent food exports from Ukrainian ports but also made clear that fertilizers and food products from Russia should be allowed to reach the world markets without any obstacles.

Peskov noted that Moscow has not prevented Kyiv from using the railway to export grain to Poland. He also highlighted that Warsaw has been using trains to deliver weapons to Kyiv and that “no one prevents them from exporting grain back on the same trains.”

The Kremlin spokesman also alleges Ukrainian forces have been planting naval mines in the Black Sea

obstructing maritime movement.

According to Peskov, such actions make trade and shipping “virtually impossible” and special measures are required to resume navigation.

“And when it comes to the alternative routes, again, we are not the source of the problem which is causing the threat of world hunger. The sources of this problem are those who imposed sanctions, and the sanctions themselves,” Peskov added.

The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrey Rudenko, has also hit out at allegations that Moscow is blocking the export of Ukrainian grain in the Black Sea ports saying they were “nothing more than speculation.”

“All restrictive measures that were introduced against Russian exports should be canceled,” Rudenko said.

Russia and Ukraine are major wheat suppliers, accounting for around 30 percent of global exports.

The war in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia have significantly increased global wheat prices. Moscow has said it will provide wheat for it’s own population first before exporting the product in the face of heavy Western sanctions.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has announced that some 20 countries had declared new military assistance packages for

Ukraine during a virtual meeting with Washington’s allies that was aimed at coordinating weapons for Kyiv.

“Many countries are donating critically needed artillery ammunition, coastal defense systems and tanks, and other armored vehicles,” Austin said. Others, he said, are offering training for Ukraine’s military.

During a Pentagon press briefing Austin added that he is “pleased to report that we’re intensifying our efforts and, moving forward, we’ll continue to deepen our coordination and cooperation so that Ukraine can sustain and strengthen its battlefield operations, our combined efforts will also fortify and modernize Ukraine’s armed forces, to help them deter future Russian aggression.”

Analysts have argued that pumping arms to a war zone will not help end the suffering of Ukrainians. Advocates of peace have called on both sides to engage in serious dialogue to end the war.

Other experts say Washington is prolonging the war in order to maintain a stalemate in its bit to contain Russia’s rising economic and military power. They argue that as Russia advances in achieving it’s goals, more advanced and sophisticated weapons are being sent.

This is while the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky says he is ready to sit down with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin with a view to ending the war.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum via video link he stressed “I cannot accept any kind of meeting with anyone coming from the Russian Federation but the president.”

“And only in the case when there is one issue on the (table): stopping the war. There are no other grounds for any other kind of meeting” the Ukrainian leader added.

Lukashenko accuses Poland and NATO of plotting to partition Ukraine

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said on Monday he was concerned about what he called moves by the West to “dismember” Ukraine, and accused Poland of seeking to seize the Western part of the country.

He offered no evidence for his assertions.

“What worries us is that they are ready, the Poles and NATO, to come out, to help take western Ukraine like it was before 1939,” Lukashenko said during a televised meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Reuters reported.

Lukashenko, a close ally of Putin, said Kyiv would eventually have to ask for help in preventing the seizure of western Ukraine.

Moscow has in the past suggested that Poland seeks to establish control over historical Polish lands in Ukraine, a claim that

Warsaw denies as disinformation.

Poland is one of Ukraine’s strongest supporters, sending weapons across the border and taking in more than 3 million Ukrainian refugees.

Belarus said in March its armed forces were not taking part in what Moscow calls its “special operation” in Ukraine, but it did serve as a launchpad for Russia to send thousands of troops across the border on Feb. 24.

Under a non-aggression pact signed in 1939 just before the outbreak of World War Two, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union carved Poland up between them. Most of the territory seized by Moscow is now in either Belarus or Ukraine. Kaliningrad, formerly German East Prussia, became an exclave of Russia.

Germany: EU embargo on Russian oil ‘within

The European Union will likely agree to an embargo on Russian oil imports “within days”, according to its biggest member Germany, Al Jazeera reported.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told global business leaders in Davos on Monday that the world must increase sanctions against Russia to deter other countries from using “brute force” to achieve their aims.

Many of the EU’s 27 member states are heavily reliant on Russian energy, prompting criticism from Kyiv that the bloc has not moved quickly enough to halt supplies.

Hungary stuck to its demands for energy investment before it agrees to such an embargo, clashing with EU states pushing for swift approval. The EU has offered up to 2 billion euros

(\$2.14bn) to central and eastern nations lacking non-Russian supply.

“We will reach a breakthrough within days,” Germany’s economy minister, Robert Habeck, told broadcaster ZDF.

The European Commission and United States were working in parallel on a proposal to cap global oil prices, he said.

“It is obviously an unusual measure, but these are unusual times,” he said.

Russia’s three-month-long invasion of Ukraine, the biggest attack on a European state since 1945, has seen more than 6.5 million people flee abroad, turned entire cities into rubble, and prompted the unprecedented imposition of Western sanctions on Russia.

Erdogan’s demands throttle Nordic NATO bid as Moldova awaits US-UK weapons

Can Moscow and Kiev return to the negotiating table?

Russia is ready to return to peace talks with Ukraine, but Kiev is against doing so, according to members of the Russian delegation. Kiev does not deny rejecting the dialogue. They believe that any conversation with Russia is possible only after it withdraws its troops from Ukrainian soil. At the same time, third countries are proposing plans to resolve the conflict. According to experts interviewed by Izvestia, there are prerequisites for a distant settlement, however, until the military goals are achieved, any real peace is out of the question.

“The Russian side mentions negotiations at least for two reasons. First, because, generally everyone should say that they are striving for peace in some way. And second, the conflict has reached a stage where, regardless of military plans, it is already necessary to think about exiting the military phase, and it is possible only through mutual consent,” Research Director of Valdai Discussion Club and Editor-in-Chief of Russia in Global Affairs magazine Fyodor Lukyanov told Izvestia. “Therefore, in my opinion, it is important for the Russian side to emphasize that it supports agreements that will make it possible to set the line and end hostilities. It’s just that this line is not yet visible,” he added.

One way or another, at the current stage, Kiev refuses to negotiate. Mikhail Podolyak, Zelensky’s advisor, earlier ruled out any territorial concessions and rejected calls for an immediate ceasefire.

“Mikhail Podolyak does not make decisions. It is done by Vladimir Zelensky, [Head of the Office of the President] Andrey Yermak, [Defence Minister] Aleksey Reznikov, [Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council] Aleksey Danilov, as well as foreign advisers to the president,” Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for International Studies at MGIMO University Alexey Tokarev believes.

The expert community believes that it is too early to talk about mediation at the moment, Izvestia writes. “All forces are committed to achieving military success. In this situation, stopping hostilities from a military point of view is detrimental. Any kind of operation must go on until some result is reached,” Lukyanov added.

US trots out plans to counter China for clout in Asia

The US will protect South Korea and Japan, using amongst other things a nuclear umbrella, and defend Taiwan militarily if China attacks the island, US President Joe Biden said during his first visit to the two Northeast Asian countries. Furthermore, the White House occupant launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Program in Tokyo, which aims to separate Asian countries from China.

South Korea heard what it wanted – the US confirmation of its readiness to ensure the Asian nation’s security with the help of “enhanced deterrents”, including nuclear forces, Izvestia writes. Biden gave his allies in Tokyo the same assurance.

During his Tokyo tour, Biden promised to come to the aid of Taiwan. If the island is attacked by Beijing, the United States would intervene militarily to protect it, he assured. With that said, he noted that Washington’s responsibility for the fate of Taiwan has become even stronger in the light of Russia’s actions in Ukraine.

However, nothing fundamentally new occurred, Director of the Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies at HSE University Vasily Kashin told the newspaper and noted that past US presidents had also confirmed their readiness to defend Taiwan by military means. At the same time, in practice, the ability of the US to provide effective military assistance to the island has come up against ever greater restrictions, especially in light of the conflict in Ukraine.

“The United States is already forced to deploy additional troops in Europe, spend tens of billions of dollars to help Ukraine, deplete part of its military equipment reserves, and even postpone the delivery of certain types of weapons to Taiwan,” the expert explained.

Meanwhile, for all his militant rhetoric, Biden himself noted that he does not expect a Chinese attack on Taiwan to happen.

Meanwhile, the topic of Taiwan and security issues somewhat overshadowed one of the main US goals during Biden’s Asian tour, which is to pull its allies into an economic confrontation

with China. On May 23 in Tokyo, Biden finally unveiled the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), a new mechanism to promote regional cooperation in four areas (supply chains, the digital economy, clean energy, and infrastructure investment). Its main objective is cooperation in trade and economy as opposed to Asia’s dependence on China.

Erdogan lays out ultimatum to the West

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has hurled harsh accusations against NATO. In fact, he made the removal of his block on Sweden and Finland’s admission to the US-led military alliance dependent on a change in the West’s policy towards Ankara, Nezavisimaya Gazeta writes. The newspaper noted, however, that Erdogan’s domestic position might not be the strongest, which could make bargaining with the West difficult.

Erdogan’s rhetoric was very tough. He blamed several states that withdrew their air defense systems from Turkey and donated weapons to “terrorists” – that is, the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) and its Syrian proxies – for free. Erdogan laid out his list of gripes against Europe, in addition to mentioning problems with his fellow citizens getting US and European visas. He also pointed to how ‘terrorists’ were able to easily get asylum in the US and the EU, while highlighting the misunderstanding of Ankara’s position during the Karabakh war in 2020, as well as Turkey’s actions in Syria and Libya.

According to the newspaper, the Turkish president has virtually delivered an ultimatum to NATO allies, by insisting there can be neither sanctions against his country nor bias in the area of security and defense. Until any specific actions are taken, Turkey will not lift its veto on the admission of Sweden and Finland to NATO.

Leading Researcher of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) Viktor Nadein-Raevsky told the newspaper that Erdogan generally does not have just one goal when he puts forward conditions. “The most important thing for him in this case is to demonstrate Turkey’s role on the international stage. It is extremely crucial for Erdogan to establish his country’s position as a world power, whose position is taken into account,” the expert said.

Publicizing Hamedan’s glory neglected for years: expert

From page 1 ► The ancient city is widely believed to be once a mysterious capital of Medes. According to ancient Greek writers, the city was founded in about 678 BC by Deioeces, who was the first king of the Medes.

French Assyriologist Charles Fossey (1869 – 1946) directed the first excavation in Tepe Hegmateneh for six months in 1913. Erich Friedrich Schmidt (1897 – 1964), who was a German and American-naturalized archaeologist, took some aerial photos from Hamedan between 1935 and 1937.

According to the Greek historian Xenophon of Athens (c.430–c.355), Ecbatana became the summer residence of the Achaemenid kings. Their palace is described by the Greek historian Polybius of Megalopolis. He writes that the city was richer and more beautiful than all other cities in the world; although it had no wall, the palace, built on an artificial terrace, according to Livius, a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering.

Additionally, an inscription unearthed in 2000 indicates that Achaemenid king Artaxerxes II Mnemon

(404–358) built a terrace with columns in Ecbatana. Some twelve kilometers southwest of Hamedan is Ganjnameh, where Darius I and his son Xerxes had inscriptions cut into the rock.

Polybius, a Greek historian of the Hellenistic period noted for his work The Histories, tells that the builders used cedar and cypress wood, which was covered with silver and gold. The roof tiles, columns, and ceilings were plated with silver and gold. He adds that the palace was stripped of its precious metals in the invasion of the Macedonian king Alexander the Great and that the rest was seized during the reigns of Antigonos and Seleucus. Later, Ecbatana was one of the capitals of the Seleucid and the Parthian Empires, sometimes called Epiphaneia.

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

Old hands at cultural heritage restoration honored by minister

TEHRAN –Iran’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami honored some exemplary masters of restoration and cultural heritage activists on Monday, ISNA reported.

Seven experienced restorers including Hossein Kamali Ardakani from Yazd province, Sadreddin Shirdel from West Azarbaijan, and Rahim Zamani from Markazi province were honored during the ceremony, which was held at the headquarters of the tourism ministry.

Azamollah Kazemi from Fars province, Reza Azami and Mehdi Pakdel, both from Isfahan province, and Mohammad Fuladi from Khorasan Razavi were also appreciated.

The efforts of Hossein Belali, Mostafa Ashk, and

Mahmoud Moradi as activists in the cultural heritage field were recognized during the event as well.

In 2019, the tourism ministry announced that some 2,500 historical buildings and structures that are scattered across Iran need restoration.

Over the past couple of years, tens of historical places and monuments have been temporarily ceded to the private sector under the supervision of the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places.

Affiliated with the tourism ministry, the Fund is in charge of concession with the aim of historical sites receiving better maintenance by repurposing them into thriving boutique hotels, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, or other profitable niches.

TEHRAN – On Monday, tourism authorities of Yazd, which its historical core gains UNESCO status, unveiled a new route to lead sightseers to the beating heart of the Iranian oasis city.

The ceremony was attended by a host of provincial and local officials, academics, university students, tour operators, and other travel insiders, CHTN reported.

“Diversification of Yazd’s tourism programs will have a significant impact on the duration of travelers’ stay here,” Yazd province’s tourism chief said, addressing the unveiling ceremony.

“This goal can be achieved through the creation of new tourism routes,” Ahmad Akhoundi added.

Currently, tourism itineraries in Yazd can be divided into three main categories; the historical core of the ancient city, ancient water management facilities and sites, and Zoroastrians’ cultural sites, the official explained.

“In this regard, several tourism routes have been defined so far, and today, we are witnessing a new one aimed to highlight the arts and culture of this ancient city,” said Mohsen Abbasi who presides over the World Heritage site.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a

Route unveiled to lead sightseers to Yazd’s beating heart



delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Experts believe that Yazd is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes.

Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and

Zoroastrianism.

Additionally, Yazd is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years. The man-carved underground qanat system, in fact, relies on snow-fed streams flowing down the foothills of surrounding mountains.

Yazd’s earliest water supply construction is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 to 651 CE). However, many others have been continually repaired and used over time, and most surviving Ab-Anbars (traditional mudbrick cisterns) can be today traced to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

In the realm of ancient water management, Yazd Water Museum is a top destination devoted to the brave men who built such underground aqueducts in the past. Located in a restored mansion with a visible qanat running underneath, the museum offers its visitors a fascinating glimpse into the hidden world of qanats through a series of photographs, exhibits, and architectural drawings.

The museum charts nearly 2000 years of unique irrigation structure that has been in operation, yet describes the drilling of mother wells and associated underground water networks stretched to the ancient city.

The concept of Persian Qanat was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2016. According to the UN cultural organization, the qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

Sassanid city of Belad Shapur to undergo restoration

TEHRAN – A fresh restoration project is to commence on the ruined Sassanid city of Belad Shapur, which is situated in Dehdasht, southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 50 billion rials (\$173,000) has been allocated to this phase of the project, Saeid Talebipour explained on Tuesday.

The project involves repairing and restoring the city’s bazaar, mosque, and some public passageways, the official added.

“Parts of the historical core of the city are planned to be ceded to the private sector to receive better

preservation and maintenance,” he noted.

Despite all the destruction that took place in this historical city in different eras, with an area of more than 45 hectares, it is currently considered one of the largest historical structures in the country in terms of size and number of historical buildings. Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, the ancient city of Belad Shapur is one of the top tourist sites in the province.

The city was built at the time of Shapur I, also known as Shapur the Great, (reigned 241 CE–272), the second king of the Sassanid Dynasty. Under his leadership, the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia)

in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it extended to the Indus River, and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates rivers valleys.

Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Second 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

Second 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.

Place of receiving the tender document:
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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

Water level of dams drop by 8%

TEHRAN – The total volume of water in dam reservoirs experienced an 8 percent decrease since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2021), compared to the same period last year.

Recent rains have led to the melting of snow cover, increasing the level of water behind dams. However, the water level of dams is still declining compared to last year.

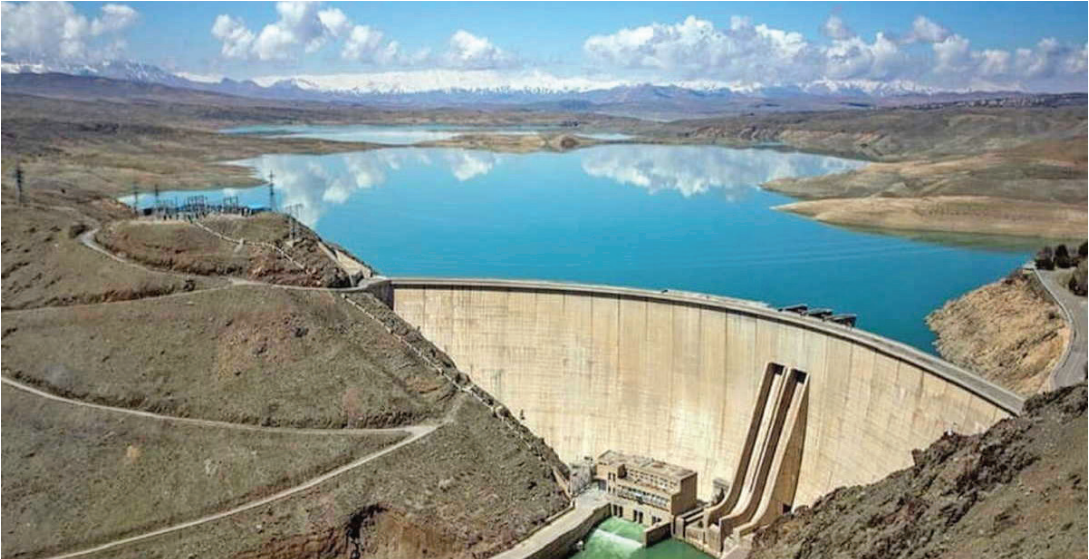
The latest report of Iran Water Resources Management Company also indicates that the volume of reservoirs in the country's dams from the beginning of the current water year to May 15 has reached 24.39 billion cubic meters, which has decreased by 8% compared to the last year of 24.18 billion cubic meters.

The amount of water outflow from the dams in the aforesaid period is 16.49 billion cubic meters. Last year and in the same period, the amount of water outflow was 22.10 billion cubic meters, which is decreased by 25 percent.

The total capacity of the country's dams stands at 50.5 billion cubic meters, showing that 54 percent of the dams' capacity is full.

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

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



in supplying water to summer and permanent crops.

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

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

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

Groundwater resources declining

A recent report by Nature Scientific Journal on Iran's water crisis

indicates that from 2002 to 2015, over 74 billion cubic meters have been extracted from aquifers, which is unprecedented and its revival takes thousands of years along with urgent action.

Three Iranian scientists studied 30 basins in the country and realized that the rate of aquifer depletion over a 14-year period has been about 74 billion cubic meters, which is recently published in Nature Scientific Journal.

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

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

The report notes that Iran's water consumption has increased due to a significant in-

crease in legal and illegal wells, the expansion of agricultural land, and increasing livelihood dependence on water and soil resources in agriculture, livestock, and poultry, which are mainly caused by human factors, Darvish noted.

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

Over-harvesting in 77 percent of the country has led to more land subsidence and soil salinity.

Iran, Qatar to increase health co-op in World Cup



TEHRAN – Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi and his Qatari counterpart Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari discussed ways to strengthen cooperation during the 2022

World Cup, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Iran-Qatar relations in the field of health have been favorable for a long time and there are axes to strengthen joint cooperation between the two countries, Einollahi said on the sidelines of the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Investing in the field of health and expanding scientific cooperation between the two countries, such as holding scientific congresses, exchanging professors and students, awarding scholarships, and exchanging information on various issues in the field of health, especially

non-communicable diseases can strengthen both countries' health system.

Al Kuwari also called for the expansion of interactions between the two countries in the field of health and stressed the exchange of achievements of the two countries' health systems.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to be the 22nd running of the FIFA World Cup competition, the quadrennial international men's football championship, which is scheduled to take place in Qatar from November 21 to December 18.

Iranians help the needy by \$15m almsgiving

TEHRAN – Iranians gave alms amounting to 4.8 trillion rials (nearly \$15 million) to help the poor over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), IRNA reported.

The amount of public almsgiving has increased by 27 percent compared to a year before, Habibollah Asoudeh, deputy for development of people's participation of the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, said.

A total of 4.8 trillion rials (nearly \$15 million) was collected in the

form of public almsgivings over the last year, he said, adding, that a quarter of this amount was spent on the livelihood of needy families.

Almsgiving is the act of donating money or goods to the poor or performing other acts of charity. Charitable giving is an ancient practice that is customary in many cultures and religions, and Iranians also give alms to express their faith and share their blessings with those experiencing poverty.



ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Education, labor ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haei as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks over the 8th session of council meeting for improving educational standards in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. "The meeting is aiming to live up to educational standards, however, the current conditions are unjustifiable, and we should move faster," he added.

تفاهم وزراء برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل به مدارس

وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشترکی با وزارت رفاه برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل امضا کردند. به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامه‌ای امضا می‌شود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر کاملاً مشخص شود.

بطحایی در هشتمین جلسه شورای هماهنگی بهبود و ارتقای شاخص‌های آموزشی و پرورشی مناطق محروم و کمتر توسعه یافته که در وزارت رفاه برگزار شد گفت: هدف اصلی این برنامه و شورای هماهنگی ارتقای شاخص‌ها بود، هرچند این روند قابل قبول نیست و باید با سرعت بیشتری حرکت کنیم.

Tobacco threatens our health, environment

From page 1 ► This year's World No Tobacco Day theme is "Tobacco: Threat to our environment." The campaign aims to raise awareness among the public about the negative environmental impacts of tobacco – from cultivation, production, distribution, and waste.

Mohsen Farhadi, technical deputy of the center of health and work environment of the Ministry of Health said that the epidemic of tobacco consumption is one of the national and global problems in the present era.

"The unprecedented development of tobacco production and its tremendous sales around the world, especially in low-income areas, has caused physical and psychological damage to communities, with many deaths from cancer in lung, mouth, stomach, esophagus, bladder, pancreas, and kidneys.

Smoking also increases cardiovascular disease and mortality," he further noted.

The effects of inhaled cigarette smoke are no less than the side effects of smoking, he said, adding that cigarette smoke has no permitted dose from a health point of view, as neither air conditioners nor smoking spaces provide completely clean, pollutant-free air.

Therefore, the only way to protect yourself is not to be exposed to cigarette smoke inhalation.

According to the report of the World Health Organization, if the pattern of smoking does not change. The losses caused by smoking will be multiplied. In the past two and a half years, the coronavirus pandemic has killed about 6 million people, while about 20 million people have died from tobacco-related diseases. Preventing the increase in this statistic requires a lot of comprehensive efforts.

Iran also marked the National No Tobacco Week from May 25 to 31.

A healthier tomorrow with the development of non-smoking cities and villages; the development of tobacco cultivation: a threat to food security and the environment; advertising, sales, consump-



tion, and smuggling of tobacco: threats to public health; increased taxes on tobacco products; the participation of non-governmental organizations in the control and national fight against tobacco; prevention of tobacco use through culture and community health education with the priority of students; and tobacco: a threat to our health and the environment are among the topics of National No Tobacco Week.

Tobacco imposes annual loss of \$33b

Alireza Raeisi, the former deputy health minister, announced in May that estimates show that tobacco costs the country 1.4 quadrillion rials (nearly \$33.3 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) annually.

Referring to the 40 percent increase in hookah consumption over the last eight years in the country, he stated that tobacco brings the country a loss of 1.4 quadrillion rials (nearly \$33.3 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) annually, taking health costs into consideration.

Coronavirus has killed more than three million people in a year and a half, but smoking kills eight million people a year, and the tobacco mafia is still active, causing extensive damage to society, he lamented.

Aromatic tobacco is very dangerous and contains 7,000 chemicals, of which 70 are carcinogenic and 400 are toxic, he further noted.

In 2014, there were 7 tobacco production units, which increased to 23 units in 2020, showing that the number of these production units has quadrupled, he added.

Tribes in Iran

Part 11

The area called Tarhan lies between the Seymareh and Kashgan rivers in the west of the ostan of Lorestan and includes the bakhsh of Kuhdasht in the shahrestan of Khorramabad.

The Lor tribes of Tarhan are the Suri and the Emra'i, and tayefas called Alivand, Khoshnamvand, Garma'i, and Shiravand also live there. Besides these, there are some Lak tayefas in Tarhan, among whom the Garavand, Adinavand, Kunani, Azadbakht, and Owlad-e Qobad may be mentioned.

Dolfan (locally called Delfo), is the northern bakhsh of Lorestan. It is said to derive its name from Abu Dolaf, the Arab chief who made himself the master of northern Lorestan in the 3rd/9th century. A man taken prisoner by the Dolaf tribe and known after his return as Dolafi reputedly had five sons, Ivat, Muma, Bijan, Kaka, and Mir Beg, each of whom founded a tayefa bearing his name.

To these must be added another tayefa, the Chavari (or Chavdari). All live in the bakhsh of Dolfan and at most times in the dehestan (sub-dis-

trict) of the same name.

The language of the Dolfani tribes is Laki (see H. Izadpanah, *Asar-e bastani o tarikhi-e Lorestan II*, Tehran, 1355/1976, pp. 292-99).

(b) Kurdish tribes

During the century between ca. 1880 and 1980, most of the Kurdish tribes of Iran became sedentary. They have not however lost their ethnic culture or even their affiliations.

The Kurdish populated parts of modern Iran lie mainly in the oostans of Kermansh, Kordestan, West Azarbaijan, Ilam (Posht(-e) Kuh), and the north of Khorasan. There are also relatively small communities of Kurds in Kerman, Fars, Varamin, Tehran, the Rudbar district of Gilan, and elsewhere, even in Baluchestan.

Kermanshah is an important area of Kurdish settlement. Here the Jaf confederacy, until its break-up after the first world war, is said to have numbered 40,000 families under a single chief.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 24

New cases	268
New deaths	7
Total cases	7,230,589
Total deaths	141,288
New hospitalized patients	75
Patients in critical condition	641
Total recovered patients	7,037,536
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,061,911
Doses of vaccine injected	149,765,442

