

Report

The making of Iraq’s Hashd

The Hashd al-Sha’abi in Iraq or Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) are holding conferences and ceremonies to honor their martyrs as well as military parades to mark the eighth anniversary of the military force’s founding.

The largest military parade to date this year has been held in the province of Diyala with the presence of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Khadhimi and PMU chairman Falih al-Fayadh as well as other high-ranking security officials.

On display at the parade was a number of impressive and advanced indigenously made military equipment. They included a new drone system.

The idea of a new anti-terror organization was first floating around among the former government of Nouri al-Maliki. The former Prime Minister has pointed out in several interviews that he feared Daesh terrorists crossing into Iraq from neighboring Syria, killing border guards, and amassing in the Western Anbar province desert, would soon expand their territorial gain in the country.

The second issue worrying the former government was the U.S.-trained Iraqi army would not be capable of confronting the territorial expansion of the terrorist group.

The third matter of concern was that Washington was refusing to deliver weapons in particular missiles that Baghdad had paid for and desperately needed to take out the terrorists before they advanced.

However, the Obama White House egged on by Congress, set conditions on the delivery of the weapons. One of these conditions was that Maliki step down. Washington wasn’t fond of the former Premier who refused to extend an agreement that would have allowed U.S. troops to remain on Iraqi soil beyond 2011.

Many experts say Washington’s delay of handing over the weapons and setting conditions and pressure on the former PM was a deliberate plan by the Pentagon to use the presence of Daesh as a pretext to return its troops to the Arab country, which American troops eventually did and remain in Iraq until today despite deep resentment against their presence. ▶ Page 5

Report

Bright future ahead for Iranian women’s football team

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s football team became runners-up in the second edition of the 2022 CAFA Women’s Championship but Team Melli Banovan showed that how capable they are.

Iran suffered a late 1-0 defeat against Uzbekistan Wednesday night after three consecutive wins over Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Promising stars namely, Hasti Foroozandeh, Melika Motevalli and Afsaneh Chatre-nor can make a splash in the future as they have previously shown their potential in the previous tournaments.

“I am satisfied with my players in the tournament since we suffered lack of preparations time,” Iran coach Maryam Azmoun said shortly after the match against Uzbekistan.

“We showed a good performance against Uzbekistan in the first half but in the second half we dropped physically. My girls fought until the end and I laud them. I hope that our performance in Dushanbe help us move up in the FIFA ranking,” she added.

Iran football federation acting president Mirshad Majedi also expressed his satisfaction with Team Melli Banovan’s performance in Tajikistan.

“We know that the coaching staff faced lack of enough time to prepare well for the competition and failed to do what they wanted to do. But we will send the National Team to more tournaments in the future because we believe that they can meet expectations,” Majedi said.

Iran Emerging As Drone Power

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Iran remains world’s 10th biggest steel producer in H1 2022: WSA

TEHRAN – Iran has maintained its place as the world’s 10th biggest steel producer during January-June 2022, according to the latest data released by the World Steel Association (WSA).

Production of crude steel in Iran reached 13.6 million tons during the mentioned six months, registering a 10.8 percent decline year on year, the report said.

The WSA put the crude steel output by the world’s top 64 producers at about 949 million tons in the mentioned time span, 5.5 percent less than the figure for the previous year’s first half.

Iran’s monthly crude steel output stood at 2.2 million tons in June, falling 10.8 percent compared to the figure for June 2021. The world’s producers managed to produce 158.1 million tons of steel in the said month to reg-

ister a 5.9-percent drop year on year.

Producing 526 million and 63.2 million tons of steel, China and India stood in first and second places in the said period, respectively, while Japan occupied third place producing 46 million tons of the mentioned product.

The U.S., Russia, South Korea, Germany, Turkey, and Brazil took fourth to ninth places, respectively. ▶ Page 4

Iranian knowledge-based firms in Iraqi medical exhibition

TEHRAN – Iranian knowledge-based companies will attend an exhibition of medical, laboratory, pharmaceutical, and dental equipment in Baghdad, Iraq.

The third edition of the four-day exhibition will be held from September 10 to 13, ISNA reported.

On the sidelines of this exhibition, a pavilion of Iranian knowledge-based companies will be set up with the support of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, and these companies will be able to present their products and capabilities.

One of the programs of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund in order to help the development of the export market of knowledge-based companies is to support their presence in foreign permanent exhibitions as well as participation in prestigious international exhibitions in two forms of independent presence and setting up a pavilion. ▶ Page 7



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J5 2022 Tennis Tournament held in Isfahan

TEHRAN – The J5 Tournament 2022 took place from July 18 to 23 in Isfahan, Iran.

Male and female athletes from Iran, Belarus, China, Russia, Turkey and Pakistan participated in the six-day tournament.

Skills of making local foods, flatbread inscribed on national heritage list

TEHRAN – Five elements, traditionally practiced in Iran’s Zanjan province, have been inscribed on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The skills of making indigenous dolls, kilim carpets, flatbread, and local dishes are among the elements added to the significant list, CHTN reported on Saturday.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts declared the inscriptions in

separate letters it submitted to the governor-general of the province, the report said.

Zanjan, the principal city of the Zanjan region and capital of Zanjan province, lies in an open valley about halfway along the Tehran–Tabriz railroad line.

Zanjan is a city founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180–242 CE).

It was once the seat of lively caravan trade and was ravaged by Mongols the Mongols in

the 13th century.

The capital city of Zanjan makes a base for wider exploration with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katale-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby. Situated some 32 km southeast of Zanjan, Soltaniyeh was once the capital of Il-Khans (a Mongol dynasty). ▶ Page 6

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Report



Tehran insists it won’t back down from JCPOA demands

TEHRAN — In a conversation that lasted for two hours, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi told his French counterpart that Tehran won’t back down from its demands regarding the sanctions-removal negotiations.

According to the president, issuing a resolution in the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors was a crisis-stirring move aimed at creating pressure against the Iranian nation, which undermined political trust.

He also denounced the hostile actions and stances taken by the United States and European countries against Iran.

Meanwhile, an Elysee Palace statement noted that Emmanuel Macron encouraged his Iranian counterpart to make a clear decision regarding efforts to revive the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

Macron stressed that the revival of the nuclear deal is still possible, provided it is done as soon as possible, according to the French readout of the Saturday phone call.

The statement also said that Macron expressed his disappointment over the course of the Iran nuclear deal talks that have been suspended for several months.

Nonetheless, according to Iran’s readout of the phone call, Macron indicated that his country will continue playing a part in bringing the JCPOA revival negotiations to a successful end. ▶ Page 2

Iran seeks to retrieve illegally-exported artwork sold at Christie’s

TEHRAN – An official in charge of Iran’s historical-cultural properties said on Saturday that Iran seeks to retrieve a rare historical artwork illegally exported from the country and sold at a Christie’s auction.

Earlier last week, several Iranian dailies published reports announcing a portrait of Qajar king Mozaffar ad-Din Shah was missing from the UNESCO-designated Golestan Palace in Tehran.

The reports carried a black and white picture depicting the painting set up above the exit door at Talar-e Berelian (Berelian Hall), the main hall of the palace.

The reports also said that the oil painting done by Kamalolmolk, a court painter during the reign of Qajar king Nasser ad-Din Shah, was removed from the palace in 1999 and was sold at \$44,650 during an auction sale at Christie’s in London on April 11, 2000. ▶ Page 8





## Tehran insists it won't back down from JCPOA demands

From page 1 ► During the call, Raisi emphasized the need for a prospective renewal of the multilateral deal in a way that Iran will reap its economic benefits.

The U.S., under Donald Trump, unilaterally quit the multilateral agreement in May 2018 despite the fact that deal is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that reaching an agreement on the JCPOA revival hinges on the full resolution of Safeguard issues and the provision of necessary guarantees, including continued adherence of the parties to the agreement and fulfillment of the economic interests of the Iranian nation," the Iranian president pointed out.

Battling in a "negotiation campaign," Iran has made it clear that it won't take just any deal that the United States puts on the table.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian used the term "negotiation campaign" in a live talk show aired on Thursday night to describe the difficult battle his deputy and top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani is engaged with.

During the talk show, Amir Abdollahian said, "We are now at a point where we have a ready text in front of us, and there is a consensus between the parties regarding more than 95 percent of its content, but there is still an important flaw in this text; and as we have stated many times, we

must fully enjoy the economic benefits of this agreement."

He added that Tehran doesn't want to repeat the same mistake twice.

He is right. Why should Iran take a deal when it is more than likely that a next president tear it apart again? The United States must give Iran assurances that returning to the JCPOA means gaining "real and tangible" economic benefits that the people could feel. However, the Western media are doing their best in what is known in the politics as "the blame game."

Western media is shifting the attention of the public towards Iran to make up for Washington's indecision in regards to possible revival of the JCPOA. Tehran has made its demands very clear. Yes, A deal is on the table and more than 95% of the details have been ironed out, but the remaining differences are significant, and Washington is refusing to take any action that would prevent violation of the deal again.

"There is no doubt about the Islamic Republic of Iran's determination to reach a good, strong and lasting agreement," Amir Abdollahian told EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell last Monday.

There is an incomplete deal on the table. If Washington wishes to complete the deal and return to the JCPOA, it must act swiftly to solve the few remaining differences. Time is running out!

## Iranian Intelligence Ministry detains Mossad spy squad

TEHRAN- The Iranian Intelligence Ministry on Saturday revealed that a group of Mossad agents had been detained.

The Zionist regime's operatives had been sent to Iran to commit terrorist actions, according to the statement from the ministry, but they were all incarcerated before doing any mischief.

The statement asserts that the network's members entered Iran through the Kurdistan area and communicated with Mossad through one of Iran's neighbors.

The network, according to the statement, was outfitted with cutting-edge operating and communication tools as well as powerful explosives.

In certain sensitive areas and on pre-selected targets, the ministry stated, they meant to engage in unprecedented acts of terrorism and sabotage. However, it added, they were all taken into custody and their equipment were ripped away.

In its statement, the ministry noted that further information would be released following an ongoing investigation and intelligence surveillance into potential links between the arrested team and individuals inside and outside the country.

The attack on the network was achieved as a result of a complex operation inside and outside

## Iran names eight new ambassadors

TEHRAN — Iran has named eight new ambassadors to foreign countries, the presidential media office announced on Sunday.

Mahmoud Adib, Iraj Elahi, Motjaba Amani, Majid Qafelebashi, Hossein Gharibi, and Khalil Sadaati have been appointed as Iran's ambassadors respectively to Georgia, India, Lebanon, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Sierra Leone.

Amir-Saeed Iravani has also been appointed as Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Saeed Iravani will replace Majid Takht Ravanchi. Iravani served as Iran's charge d'affaires to Iraq and the deputy secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.

Ali Bahraini has also been appointed as Iran's representative to international organizations in Vienna. Bahraini was the former Human Rights Office director at the Foreign Ministry.

Normally, ambassadors are introduced by foreign minister and endorsed by president.

In a meeting with the new envoys on Sunday, President Ebrahim Raisi said the ambassadors are representatives of the Islamic system, who should embody and secure the interests and values of the Islamic Republic.

The president emphasized the need to evaluate the performance of ambassadors based on

Iran, reported Nour news, a media outlet close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

It added that the network entered Iran months ago under the command of the head of the Zionist regime's spy organization, Mossad, from the Kurdistan region of Iraq, and while identifying one of the country's sensitive centers in Isfahan province, they planned to detonate it.

The report says the operational agents had been receiving training for months in one of African countries to implement the operation, and they performed the intended operation in a simulated manner several times.

Prior to entering Iran, the team was under the close supervision of officers and experts from the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, Nour news said. It said they were monitored by a network of intelligence officials so that Iran's intelligence apparatus could identify all their members and their internal and external contacts.

Their arrest was carried out while even high-explosive materials were planted by them in their desired location and only a few hours were left for conducting the final stage of their terrorist operation.

The news outlet said more details about the destruction of the network and the arrest of its operatives will be published soon.

the goals set for each country, including their contribution to development of the national economy, special attention to the affairs of Iranians abroad, and observance of Islamic and revolutionary values.

The president also said that they should confront any unhealthy economic relations. They are also obliged to try to help realize national goals and policies, Raisi added.

Raisi also wished success to the ambassadors before starting their diplomatic missions.

Mahmoud Adib, the new envoy to Tbilisi, previously served as the consular director general of the Foreign Ministry. Iraj Elahi, the new ambassador to New Delhi, was the second Eurasian Office director of the ministry. Mojtaba Amani, the new ambassador to Lebanon, was the former head of Iran's interest section in Egypt. Hossein Gharibi, the new ambassador to Warsaw, previously served as the Iranian envoy to Lisbon. Seyyed Khalil Sadati Amiri, the new envoy to Sierra Leone, previously held the position of ambassador to Guinea.

Seyyed Majid Ghafale Bashi, the new ambassador to Prague, was the former research deputy chief of the Political and International Studies Office of the Foreign Ministry.

# Iran denounces Israeli missile strike on Damascus

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Friday blasted the latest Israeli missile strike on Syria close to the capital Damascus that resulted in fatalities and injuries.

"The Zionist regime's continuous aggression and attacks on Syria are a clear violation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a flagrant violation of recognized international principles and regulations," Nasser Kanaani underscored.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman went on to voice that the international community, especially the United Nations Security Council, must fulfill its obligation to deal with the ongoing crimes and high-risk behavior of the Zionist regime.

"The repeated attacks of the Zionist regime on Syria are a breach of this country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will help armed terrorists and maintain and strengthen their presence in Syria, which actually threatens the security of the region," Kanaani remarked.

He also expressed surprise and sorrow over the silence of the international organizations and human rights advocates over such illegal behaviors by



the Israeli regime.

According to the ministry, the Israeli enemy launched an air strike from the direction of the occupied Syrian Golan, adding that Syria's air defense was able to intercept some of the incoming missiles.

On Friday morning, Syrian media said that Israel had hit Damascus, killing three military forces and injuring seven more.

The strike was the 17th of its kind by Israel against Syria since 2018.

After 2011, as Syria was engulfed in a wave of widespread, foreign-backed militancy and terrorism, Tel Aviv's attacks on the country began to increase considerably in size and regularity.

In response to the Israeli

attack, Syria's Foreign Ministry stated that the nation reserves the right to confront persistent Israeli aggression with appropriate measures in conformity with international law and the United Nations Charter.

The ministry confirmed the Israeli criminal acts of aggression using missile bursts from the direction of the occupied Syrian Golan targeting some points in the vicinity of Damascus in two identical letters to the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council, according to Syria's official news agency SANA.

The ministry pleaded on the UN and Security Council to uphold their obligations under the UN Charter and denounce

such kinds of Israeli aggression.

It asserted that the Security Council's failure to take the necessary steps to stop and denounce the Israeli regime's repeated attacks demonstrates the international body's inability to accept responsibility for its actions and its failure to carry out even the bare minimum of its obligations in maintaining peace and security in the area and around the globe.

It emphasized that the U.S. aggression and violations of international law, the occupation of northeast Syria, the looting of its oil, and the provision of weapons to the terrorists hired by Washington to obstruct a political settlement and the restoration of security and stability to Syria cannot be separated from the Israeli attacks.

The strikes, according to the ministry, are carried out in direct support of the armed terrorist organizations that are committing atrocities across Syria.

The Israeli regime, together with the U.S. and other Western and regional partners, has been a staunch sponsor of the terror organizations acting against the Damascus government.

## Britain 'immediately' supported U.S. over downing of Iranian airliner in 1988: Declassified UK

In 1988, a U.S. Navy warship shot down an Iranian airliner, killing all 290 civilians on board. Newly declassified files show how Margaret Thatcher's government offered immediate support to the U.S., and assisted in the cover-up.

The attack occurred during the Iran-Iraq war, which had begun in 1980 with Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran. The U.S. government backed Saddam, and sent warships to the Persian Gulf to support the Iraqi war effort.

One of those warships was the USS Vincennes which, on 3 July 1988, fired two missiles at Iran Air Flight 655 while it was making a routine trip to Dubai.

Washington claimed the U.S. Navy had acted in self-defence, but this wasn't true. The plane had not, as the Pentagon claimed, moved "outside the prescribed commercial air route", nor had it been "descending" towards USS Vincennes at "high speed".

The U.S. thus shot down a civilian airliner, and haphazardly tried to cover it up. Some 66 children were among the 290 civilians killed.

'America could count on no other government to behave like that'

On 2 March 2000, UK foreign secretary Robin Cook met with U.S. General Colin Powell, who had served as Ronald Reagan's National Security Adviser between 1987

and 1989.

Powell "spoke frankly" throughout the discussion, leading Cook to request that the U.S. General's "confidence... be strictly protected".

In particular, Powell recalled that, after the U.S. shot down Flight 655, Thatcher's private secretary for foreign affairs Charles Powell "had rung immediately from Downing Street to ask what the Americans wanted the British Government to say".

The British government thus offered immediate support to the U.S., despite it having killed hundreds of civilians, most of whom were Iranian citizens.

To this end, Colin Powell remarked how "America could count on no other government to behave like that".

Powell would go on to become President George W. Bush's Secretary of State, in which role he deceptively pushed for the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

### Staunchest defender

In the weeks following the attack, Thatcher stood out as Reagan's staunchest defender. "You cannot put navies into the gulf to defend shipping from [Iranian] attack without giving them the right to defend themselves", she declared.

In private correspondence with Reagan, Thatcher even speculated on the positive implications of the attack, writing

## Raisi: U.S. sanctions on Iran harmful for world economy

### Macron backs Iran's opposition to military attacks inside Syria

TEHRAN - Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has said that the sanctions put in place by the United States on the Islamic Republic following Washington's unilateral departure from the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement have hurt the world economy, notably Europe.

Raisi made the remarks in a 120-minute phone conversation with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, on Saturday.

Despite U.S. sanctions, Raisi said, Iran has managed to accomplish amazing progress in its political and economic collaboration with other nations across the world.

He also denounced the hostile actions and stances taken by the United States and European nations against Iran, saying the

Islamic Republic.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that reaching an agreement on the JCPOA revival hinges on the full resolution of Safeguard issues and the provision of necessary guarantees, including continued adherence of the parties to the agreement and fulfilling the economic interests of the Iranian nation," the president pointed out.

The Iranian president also warned his French counterpart that if it had not been for the Islamic Republic's efforts, particularly its fight against terrorism and support for territorial integrity and national sovereignty of nations, the terrorist Daesh group would have declared a caliphate in Europe today.

Raisi stressed that foreign intervention runs opposite to

security and stability and that states and governments in the area should address regional concerns.

The French president, for his part, indicated that his country will continue playing a part in the process of bringing the JCPOA revival negotiations to a successful end.

The role of Iran, according to Macron, is essential in the region's political developments. He reaffirmed the support of his country for Iran's opposition to regional military actions against Syria.

The presidents of Iran and France also spoke about measures to deepen bilateral ties and important global issues like food and energy security as well as regional and global trends.



# Involving all ethnicities only solution to Afghanistan problem: envoy

TEHRAN – Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan, has said that forming a government inclusive of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan is the only solution to the current situation in the country.

The Iranian president's special representative for Afghanistan, who had traveled to Islamabad on Friday morning to consult with Pakistani officials, published a report about his meetings on Twitter.

He wrote, "In continuation of the consultation with the countries of the region, yesterday, during a trip to the brotherly country of Pakistan, there was a discussion with the officials of this country about the important issues of Afghanistan and bilaterally in a very positive atmosphere."

Kazemi Qomi added, "The common thread of the negotiations between the two sides was the fight against terrorism, the formation of an inclusive government, security and development in Afghanistan, and the creation of a stable and productive environment in the region centered on Afghanistan. There is scope for bilateral cooperation in Afghanistan."

The Iranian envoy continued, "Both sides consider the participation of all Afghan ethnic groups in the government structure as one of the main ways out of the current situation. Discussing and exchanging opinions about the Tashkent summit was another topic of



discussion. Security and sustainable development have been and is the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its neighbors and the region."

According to a Fars News report, Kazemi Qomi held talks with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, on the sidelines of his trip to Islamabad.

Last week, diplomatic sources told Pakistani newspaper The Nation that Iran's special envoy would meet the Pakistani Prime Minister's special assistant Muhammad Sadiq and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the Foreign Office. Issues related to border management between Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan and regional connectivity would come under discussion. Kazemi Qomi was expected to hold talks with

Pakistan's leaders on Afghan issue, The Nation said.

Bahador Aminian, Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan, recently met with the Taliban's acting foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi.

The Iranian ambassador considered the establishment of security and stability in Afghanistan in the interest of the region, stressing the need for Iran and Afghanistan to reach an agreement to settle border issues.

Hafeez Zia Ahmad, the spokesman for the Afghan foreign ministry, announced the meeting on Twitter.

Zia Ahmad confirmed that the talks focused on the issue of migrants and Afghan detainees in Iran, fight against drugs, border issues, in addition to trade cooperation between the two

countries, according to Al Alam.

Muttaqi expressed his satisfaction with the strengthening of relations between Tehran and Kabul, stressing that Afghanistan is making efforts to turn into a regional transit center and will participate in transporting commercial goods between Iran and Tajikistan to achieve this goal.

Zia Ahmad confirmed that the Iranian and Afghan sides discussed border issues in the meeting and reached an agreement in this regard.

In late June, Kazemi Qomi warned about a U.S. plot to foment sectarian and ethnic war in Afghanistan as infighting raged in Balkhab district between the Taliban and a Hazara warlord.

The Iranian special envoy said on Twitter that infighting in Bakhlab is directed by multinational spy agencies.

"The U.S.'s priority for creating targeted chaos in Afghanistan is to foment ethnic and sectarian war so that the Hazara and Tajiks are sacrificed on the altar of its plot and the Afghan crisis spills over into the region. War in Balkhab is preliminary American sedition," Kazemi Qomi said on Twitter.

He also called on the Afghan leaders to keep a distance from the conflict in Balkhab and condemn it. "The driving force behind the conflict is the multinational intelligence agencies," he noted.

## Iran facing all-out wars: intelligence minister

TEHRAN – Esmail Khatib, Iran's intelligence minister, said on Saturday that the Islamic Republic is facing all-out wars waged by its enemies but it is capable of winning due to its capabilities.

He stressed that today Iran, as a major and decisive power in the region, is able to mobilize all its energies and forces to achieve victory in this confrontation, Al Alam reported.

Speaking during a meeting in the northern province of Gilan attended by the provincial governor and other local officials, Hojjat al-Islam Khatib referred to the active and jihadist presence of the President of the Republic and his continuous efforts in the government, and said, "In order to solve the problems and legitimate demands of the people, it is necessary to work and exert efforts in a revolutionary and jihadist spirit."

He pointed to the enemy's frantic attempts to launch comprehensive wars against the Islamic

Republic through military, cultural, political, terrorist and sabotage alliances, in addition to virtual space.

In Early June, Khatib said the enemy has focused on stirring popular protests and terrorist acts in Iran. He made the remarks in a meeting with IRGC Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, the Quds Camp commander, and a group of other IRGC officers at the Quds headquarters in southeast Iran.

Emphasizing the interactive cooperation and helping to develop sustainable security in the region, the two sides raised and discussed issues related to the plans to create suitable conditions for sustainable security in the country's southeast.

At the end, the minister and his top team, as well as the IRGC commanders visited the eastern borders and appreciated the efforts of border guards.

Later, Khatib spoke to the Young Journalists Club news agency, saying, "Today, if the enemy is mobilized against us with all its resources, it will realize that it is afraid of the internal power of the Islamic system of Iran and knows that it is ready to face any threat despite the existence of all these foreign intelligence services' agents," the minister noted.

He went on to say that currently the enemy is focused on three issues:

First, it counts on the people's protests and social conditions, and tries to broaden them by misleading the true demands of the people and organizing protests, gatherings, and so on by creating networks and organizing illegal gatherings. Second, it is capitalizing on terrorist actions, which are committed by the Israeli regime. And third, it is trying to "confuse the minds of Islamic Iran through cyberspace and social media."

General Mousavi said the drones and reconnaissance planes have increased the intelligence of Iranian ships and their monitoring capabilities in international waters, according to Al Alam.

The UAVs aboard the naval division include advanced aircraft manufactured by the Army and the Defense Ministry in cooperation with the knowledge-based centers. The drones include Pelican, Homa, Arash, Chamrosh, Jubin, Ababil-4 and Bavar-5, which flew over the Indian Ocean waters.

Apart from various types of Iranian sea-based drones that flew in the event, a number of vertical

take-off and landing (VTOL) combat drones went into the air from the homegrown Fateh and Tareq submarines.

In comments at the event, Major General Mousavi said Iran needs to boost its defense power constantly considering the aggressive nature of the hegemonic system.

"Given the aggressive tendency and authoritarian spirit of the aggressors, we had to increase our defensive capabilities in all fields. Reconnaissance planes have increased our ships' monitoring capabilities to cover hundreds of kilometers outside the country's borders," he said.

the Iranian government is preparing to provide Russia with up to several hundred [unmanned aerial vehicles], including weapons-capable UAVs on an expedited timeline," Sullivan claimed. "It's unclear whether Iran has delivered any of these UAVs to Russia already."

A wave of Western propaganda ensued Sullivan's allegation, with CNN reporting that Russian officials paid a visit to Iran to view its "weapons-capable drones." Citing Sullivan, the American news channel said, "A Russian delegation has visited an airfield in central Iran at least twice in the last month to examine weapons-capable drones."

These allegations were possibly made with the purpose of putting pressure on Iran to limit its drone program. But Iran is unlikely to restrict the program simply because all of Iran's drones are developed domestically with pure indigenous technology and they play an important role in guaranteeing the country's security. Iran is now a drone power and its achievements have been acknowledged even by its adversaries.

and missile power. Referring to the drone and missile power of the Resistance Front in Palestine and Lebanon's Hezbollah, he said in the past "the Zionist regime used to respond to the firing of a single Kalashnikov bullet with an F-16 aircraft, but now we see it is in a weak position."

Iran's drones also strengthened its security. On Sunday, a senior lawmaker said Iran's drone capabilities ensure security at a time when military tools are determining thins. "Today is not only the age of dialogue, but also the age of missiles, and the power of the Islamic Republic's missile drones guarantees the country's security," the lawmaker, Ali Reza Salimi, who is a member of the Iranian parliament's presiding board, said, according to IRNA.

With Iran's drones assuming a high position in the country's defense strategy, the West moved to portray them as a threat. The first step in this regard was taken by U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan who alleged that Iran was mulling supplying Russia with drones amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. "Our information indicates that

## SPORTS

### Iran 6th in 2022 Asian Junior Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran finished in sixth place in the 2022 Asian Junior Handball Championship on Saturday.

Iran lost to South Korea 33-26 in the 5–6th place.

Japan will meet hosts Bahrain in the final match while Kuwait face Saudi Arabia in the bronze medal match.

It also acts as a qualification tournament for the 2023 Men's Junior World Handball Championship, with top four teams from the championship directly qualifying for the event to be jointly hosted by Germany and Greece.

### Manuel Fernandes signs for Sepahan

TEHRAN – Manuel Henrique Tavares Fernandes joined Iranian football club Sepahan on Saturday.

The 36-year-old midfielder has penned a one-year contract with Sepahan for an undisclosed fee.

Fernandes started his professional career with Benfica at only 18 in 2004, then went on to compete in England and Spain, mainly at the service of Everton and Valencia.

He signed with Be?ikta? in January 2011, spending the following three and a half seasons with the club before joining Lokomotiv Moscow.

Fernandes represented the Portugal U-21 team in two European Championships. He made his debut with the full side in 2005, being part of the 2018 World Cup squad at the age of 32.

The Isfahan based football club are determined to win Iran league after nine years.

### Karim Ansarifard Linked with Lamia

TEHRAN – Iranian international striker Karim Ansarifard has been linked with a move to Lamia football team.

The 32-year-old forward plays at AEK Athens but has reportedly been deemed surplus to requirements.

Ansarifard, who joined AEK in 2020, played 63 matches for the Greek team and scored 17 goals.

Lamia, which was founded in 1964, is a Greek professional football club based in Lamia, Greece.

The club plays in the Super League, the first tier of Greek football.

### Iranian teams victorious over rivals in friendlies

TEHRAN – Esteghlal, Foolad and Tractor football teams defeated their opponents in friendly matches in Turkey.

The Iranian teams are holding their training camps in Turkey.

Esteghlal defeated Turkish side Fatih Karag rum k 2-0 thanks to a brace from Amir Ali Sadeghi.

Foolad defeated Al-Shahania 3-1. Alireza Bavieh (two goals) and Ehsan Pahlavan scored for Foolad.

Tractor also beat Ghanaian side Liberty Professionals 6-3. Mohammad Ghanbari (two goals), Saeid Vase'ei, Sajad Danaei, Mehdi Hashemnejad and Safaa Hadi were on target for Tractor.

### Iran football legend Mahdavia turns 45

TEHRAN – So many young football fans don't know "what we talk about when we talk about Mehdi Mahdavia" but he has already written his name into history book of Iran football.

Mahdavia, nicknamed "The Rocket", belongs to the Golden Generation of Iran football in the 90s along with Karim Bagheri, Ali Daei, Khodadad Azizi, Ahmadreza Abedzadeh, and Mehdi Pashazadeh.

He started his playing career in Tehran based club Bank Melli in 1991 as a kid and then joined Iranian popular football team Persepolis.

Four years later, he joined German club VfL Bochum. After Bochum's relegation, he signed for Bundesliga side Hamburg where he stayed for the next eight seasons.

His strongest points were his vision, passing skills, fast-paced runs and set-pieces such as corners, spotkicks and free kicks.

Mahdavia's greatest national team match, arguably, was against South Korea in the 2004 Asia Cup, where he assisted three goals in Team Melli's 4–3 win. Many also point to his dynamic game against the U.S. in the 1998 FIFA World Cup that saw him score Iran's second and winning goal, as his best ever. Another excellent match where he scored two great goals against China in the qualification round for the 1998 World Cup when he was just 20 years old.

Mahdavia, widely regarded as the best winger in Iran football history, currently leads the country's U21 football team.

The legendary icon turned 45 years on July 24.

Happy birthday.

### Iran's Nemati snatches gold at Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Taha Nemati from Iran finished in the first place in the +102kg weight class of the 2022 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships on Sunday.

Nemati came first in the snatch by lifting 150kg and also came first in clean and jerk with 190kg. He won the gold medal with a total of 340kg.

Uzbekistan's Abdurashitov Nurbol won the silver with (145-171-316). The bronze medal went to Kazakhstan's Zholtay Sanzhar with (136-170-306).

The competition is being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from July 15 to 25.

### Taremi scores as Porto beat Monaco in friendly

TEHRAN – Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi scored a goal against Monaco in a friendly match Saturday night.

The Portuguese champion defeated the French team 2-1 in the preseason match at the Est dio do Drag o.

Taremi opened the scoring for Porto from the penalty spot in the 67th minute and Galeno made it 2-0 four minutes later.

Wissam Ben Yedder pulled a goal back also from the penalty spot (90').

### AFC takes a look at Iran

TEHRAN – The return of the FIFA World Cup to Asia is just 120 days away as the continent prepares for a record of six Asian nations participating in the global event for the first time.

With hosts Qatar joined by Saudi Arabia and Islamic Republic of Iran as well as World Cup perennials Japan, Korea Republic and Australia, the-AFC.com takes a look at the state of play in the camp of each of the six teams four months before the big kick-off at Al Bayt Stadium.

There has been some uncertainty since Iran qualified easily for Qatar 2022 with Team Melli having played just one friendly match since the Asian Qualifiers ended in March.

Iran lost 2-1 to Algeria in June but with the FIFA World Cup fast approaching, preparations are sure to be ramped up.

The fact that several of their key players play their club football in Europe is another plus point as Iran will certainly not be lacking in competitiveness when they open their Group B campaign against England on November 21.



## Iran remains world's 10th biggest steel producer in H1 2022: WSA



From page 1 ► During the first half of the current year, China's production declined by 6.5 percent, Japan's production fell 4.3 percent, Brazil experienced negative growth of 2.9 percent, Turkey's output declined by 4.6 percent, and South Korea registered a negative

3.9 percent growth.

African nations produced 1.2 million tons of the commodity in June 2022, down 18.7 percent from the figure for June 2021, while Asia and Oceania countries produced 118.8 million tons, down 3.1 percent, year on year, according to the mentioned data.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

## TCCIMA holds seminar to introduce new incentives for SMEs

TEHRAN – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted a seminar on Saturday to introduce the incentives and facilities provided by the country's SMEs Investment Guarantee Fund, the TCCIMA portal reported.

The seminar was organized by the TCCIMA Money and Capital Market Committee in collaboration with the chamber's Training and Human Resources Development Institute.

In this event, which was attended by a large number of businessmen and representatives of economic enterprises, the attendees were briefed on the facilities provided by the SMEs Investment Guarantee Fund.

At the beginning of this meeting, Feryal Mostofi, the head of the TCCIMA Money and Capital Market Committee introduced the fund, saying the SMEs Investment Guarantee Fund was established with the aim of supporting SMEs by providing them with various types of credit and contracting guarantees.



"This seminar has been arranged for businessmen to get more familiar with the facilities and services provided by this fund," she noted.

As reported, the guarantees provided by the SMEs Investment Guarantee Fund include credit and contract guarantees.

As for the credit guarantees, bank guarantees and purchase of raw materials are covered, and in the contract guarantee section, the guarantee of participation in tenders, good performance, and advance payment are provided to the applicants.

## Inflation rate up 1.1%

TEHRAN – The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on July 22, which marks the end of the fourth Iranian calendar month Tir, at 40.5 percent, rising 1.1 percent from the figure for the twelve-month ended to the third month.

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 54 percent in the fourth month, which means families have paid an average of 54 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same

month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate was 52.8 percent for the urban households, rising 1.4 percent from the previous month, and 60.7 percent for the rural households, increasing 2.5 percent from the previous month.

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

The center put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 34.7 percent in the last month of the past year, which means



families have paid an average of 34.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in that month, compared to the same month in the preceding year.

The inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20

was 39.7 percent for the urban households, and 42.8 percent for the rural households.

The point-to-point inflation rate was reported to be 34.5 percent for the urban households and 35.8 percent for the rural ones, according to the SCI.

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



and implementing joint projects.

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

The two sides discussed a variety of issues

(about \$168.65 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index fell 7,085 points, and the second market's index dropped 19,626 points.

TSE is on the four Iranian stock

exchanges, the other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

# Construction operation of national housing units for laborers started

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi on Sunday inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement, IRIB reported.

In the inauguration ceremony, which was held through video conferencing, Qasemi ordered the construction of 31,980 affordable housing units to begin in Yazd Province under the framework of the National Housing Movement scheme.

As reported, of the mentioned units 2,500 will be constructed for laborers.

Earlier this month, Ministry of Transport and Urban Development announced the beginning of the operation for the construction of 1,383,513 units of National Housing Movement throughout the country by the end of the fourth Iranian calendar month Tir (July 22).



As announced in a meeting to review the strategies for organizing the housing market, the first series of National Housing Movement units will be delivered to the applicants in the second half of the present Iranian calendar year (September 23, 2022-March 20, 2023).

After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-

income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of National Housing Movement began in early February.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by the transport and urban development minister.

National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units

in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions.

Land supply was the first condition for the realization of the national movement plan and housing construction, in this regard, a series of measures were taken by the government and Ministry of Transport and Urban Development. According to the latest statistics, the lands of 2.8 million housing units of National Housing Movement have been provided by the ministry.

Although, studies show that the provision of land and financial resources are two serious obstacles to the construction of this number of residential units.

## Commodities worth over \$2.2b traded at IME in a month

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar month Khordad (ended on July 22), the third month of Iranian calendar year, 8.849 million tons of commodities worth more than \$2.2 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor, trade of 1.121 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$784 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 201,350 tons of vacuum bottom, 275,059 tons of bitumen, 316,753 tons of polymeric products, 148,500 tons of lube cut, 161,706 tons of chemicals, 4,605 tons of sulfur, 13,456 tons of oil, 110 tons of argon, 1,000 tons of slops wax and 755 tons of insulation.

Furthermore, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 7.696 million tons of commodities worth more than \$1.4

billion.

Items traded on this floor included 4,352,000 tons of cement, 1,428,000 tons of steel, 1,551,000 tons of iron ore, 273,500 tons of sponge iron, 36,225 tons of aluminum, 41,400 tons of zinc, 20,910 tons of copper, 510 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 1,000 tons of coke, 60 tons of lead, 60 tons of precious metals concentrate and 57 kg of gold bars.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 31,660 tons commodities.

As previously reported, the value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market



trades were registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume, and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

## Taliban to buy 350,000 tons of oil from Iran

TEHRAN – Finance Ministry of the Taliban regime announced on Saturday that it has signed a contract to purchase 350,000 tons of oil from Iran, Fars News Agency reported.

According to the ministry, the contract has been signed with the aim of reducing fuel prices in Afghanistan.

Earlier, a high-ranking Afghan delegation had traveled to Iran to discuss oil purchases and transit of petroleum products to

Afghanistan, the Taliban Ministry of Finance reported.

As per the ministry, a joint committee has also been formed to negotiate the imports of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) by Afghanistan and cooperation for the construction of petroleum pipelines for the country.

The report comes as the price of gasoline and fuel has unprecedentedly increased in Afghanistan's energy market.

## FINEX 2022 hosting over 100 companies in Tehran



TEHRAN – The 14th International Exhibition of Exchange, Bank, and Insurance (FINEX 2022) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International

Fairground on Sunday with the participation of 100 companies active in the mentioned fields, IRNA reported.

As reported, several specialized and educational workshops are scheduled to be held on the sidelines of this year's event.

Raising awareness about financial markets and their services, increasing financial literacy, promoting the capabilities of domestic companies active in the stock exchange, banking and insurance sectors, and making children and teenagers familiar with financial sectors are among the most important goals of this exhibition.

## Annual tax income stands at over \$12.7b

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's National Tax Administration (INTA) Davoud Manzour said the country's tax income reached over 3.54 quadrillion rials (over \$12.7 billion) in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

According to Manzour, the mentioned amount includes both direct and indirect taxes, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The official noted that over 50 percent of the country's tax revenues are collected in Tehran and INTA is taking all the necessary measures to avoid tax evasions in this province.

He further noted that in the current year's national budget bill, the government has estimated the country's tax revenues to be 4.54 quadrillion rials (over \$16.3 billion) of



which 1.43 quadrillion rials (about \$5.13 billion) have been collected in the first four months of the current calendar year (March 21-July 22).

Considering the above-mentioned figures, the target tax revenues for the said four months have been realized by 95 percent, according to the INTA head.

## TEDPIX drops 9,700 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 9,734 points to 1.463 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 6.185 billion securities worth 47.223 trillion rials



From page1► As Maliki was forced to cede power in 2014, Daesh took control of many Iraqi regions including entire cities and provinces where the U.S.-trained Iraqi army collapsed.

But the idea of forming an anti-terror force was given a huge boost in the form of a Fatwa (Islamic ruling) by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the highest religious authority in the country.

Ayatollah al-Sistani's representative read out the Fatwa from the holy city of Karbala, which called on Iraqi men – capable of carrying arms – to volunteer in the fight against Daesh.

The Fatwa for Jihad in Islam can only

be used when a nation and people are under attack. There are strict laws on the rules of Jihad for example it's forbidden to cut a tree, unlike Daesh terrorists who decapitated their prisoners of war.

Over the next few days and weeks, an estimated three million people registered to volunteer. Another important man came onto the scene went by the name of Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis.

The experienced and veteran Iraqi commander fought the regime of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and played a crucial role in putting together the 40 odd units of what would soon become the Hashd al-Sha'abi in Iraq or Popular Mobilization Units.

Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis had the charisma, and leadership skills and has been credited with making the PMU a reflection of Iraqi society.

With the help of other high-ranking Iraqi military officials, al-Muhandis ensured the new force would include a Christian brigade, and Sunni brigades and coordinate the battle against Daesh shoulder to shoulder with Kurdish Peshmerga forces.

The PMU now had the men it required and the system was in place, but one thing was missing: training and weapons. This is where Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani who led the Quds Force

# The making of Iraq’s Hashd



of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and a team of Iranian military advisers entered the scene.

They helped arm the new volunteers and they helped train them. Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis said “history cannot be written if this page is ripped out: during Iraq’s dark hour when Daesh advanced to the outskirts of Baghdad, on the third day [of the PMU’s battle with Daesh], we did not have a single bullet left. Then came to a blessed, courageous, and speedy presence, in the first hours during this crisis, of the dear brother and commander, Qassem Soleimani and his brothers.”

Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis adds that they observed the front lines and “opened their weapons depots and provided us [military assistance] immediately, the military aid came in cars and then in planes. This generosity and courage was just in time.”

“Here the Islamic Republic of Iran stepped forward and with this assistance, we were able to emerge victorious against Daesh,” he added.

What's lost on my Western

commentators is that the Takfiri Daesh ideology influenced many deadly terrorist attacks in Western countries. Although the vast majority of the terror group victims were Muslims, a lot of people in Western European Countries suffered also.

The brave efforts of commanders like Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis and Qassem Soleimani helped end Daesh's rule which brought an end to further terror attacks in the West.

The Secretary General of the Lebanese Resistance Movement, Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says “all of [Qassem Soleimani’s] life was focused on Iraq and defeating Daesh there.”

While Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis, the deputy commander of the PMU helped end Daesh in Iraq; Lieutenant General Soleimani also played a major role in defeating Daesh in Syria. Many videos have appeared that show his bravery on the frontline of battles against the terror group in both countries.

The question that needs to be answered is why did the U.S. under the direct order of former President

Donald Trump assassinate the two war heroes with drone strikes in an act of American state-sponsored terrorism in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport on January 3rd, 2020 at 01:20?

Nevertheless, the assassination has not brought Daesh back, the PMU in Iraq has gone from strength to strength in tribute to the two slain anti-terror icons. The force now has an air brigade and more recently a navy brigade in addition to its ground forces.

Iraq's parliament has endorsed a bill that puts the PMU in the same category as all other Iraqi armed forces. That means the force answers to the commander in chief of the Iraqi armed forces, the country's Prime Minister. They receive their paychecks and pension from Baghdad and also what is interesting is that there are more Sunni and Christian members in the PMU than there are in the regular Iraqi army.

Yet the United States still refers to the anti-terror force as Shia militias, and U.S. forces, who no longer have the mandate to stay in Iraq, after parliament passed a bill for their expulsion following the assassination of Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis and Qassem Soleimani, have even bombed PMU members on several occasions.

The PMU is widely remembered for coming to Iraq's rescue during its dark hour and with the blood of many martyrs helped save the country, region, and world from Daesh terrorism.

The force is also remembered for liberating cities from Daesh such as Tikrit in the north and leaving the city's homes and streets intact with minimal casualties to civilians. The PMU engaged in street battles.

That is the complete opposite of U.S. forces, whose warplanes bombed cities damaged the infrastructure, killed civilians, and led to hundreds of thousands of internally displaced. Drone footage showing the aftermath of Mosul after American fighter jets carpet bombed the city looks like the apocalypse.

## Senior Bahraini official sacked over refusing to shake hands with Israeli ambassador

A top Bahraini official and member of the ruling family has been dismissed from her position after she refused to shake hands with the Israeli ambassador to the Persian Gulf country, Press TV reported.

Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifah, president of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, was sacked by order of Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah, according to Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network.

The controversy arose last month, when U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Steven C. Bondy held a memorial service at his home for his father, to which Sheikha Mai was invited.

When greeting the guests at the ceremony, the Bahraini royal family member reportedly withdrew her hand and refused to shake the hand of Eitan Na'eh, the Israeli ambassador in Manama.

She then left and asked the U.S. embassy to not publish any pictures of her attending the ceremony, according to the report.

Sheikha Mai has carried out official duties for more than 20 years. She previously served as the Bahraini information minister, the first woman to hold the office.

She also served as Bahrain's culture minister and was named the sixth most powerful Arab woman of 2014 in a list compiled by Forbes Middle East.

Lately, Shaikha Mai reportedly opposed plans aimed at Judaization of Old Manama neighborhoods, such as Bab al-Bahrain in the central business district of Manama, and al-Mutanabbi Avenue.

On November 30 last year, Shaikha Mai hosted Israeli historian and socialist activist Ilan Pappé, who insists on “the ethnic cleansing of Palestine”, and is opposed to the ongoing occupation policies in the Palestinian territories conquered by Israel in 1967, and the prevention of the return of Palestinian refugees expelled during and after the 1948 Nakba, at the Sheikh Ibrahim Center.

**Palestinian resistance groups salute Shaikha Mai**

Meanwhile, the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups have praised Sheikha Mai's refusal to shake hands with the Israeli ambassador in the Bahraini capital.

Tariq Salmi, a spokesman for the Islamic Jihad movement, said in a press statement



Former President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifah (Photo via Twitter)

that his group voices solidarity with the former Bahraini minister, stressing that she took a practical and bold decision in rejection of normalization with Israel and did not care about possible consequences, and her action was an embodiment of the true will of free Palestinian men and women.

Sheikha Mai's refusal to shake hands with Na'eh is a “true reflection of the Bahraini people's genuine stance in support of Palestinians,” Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qasem also said in a statement.

The Palestinian resistance movement said all attempts to normalize ties with Israel will “remain unacceptable in the collective Arab consciousness.”

Additionally, the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement hailed Shaikha Mai's decision, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) called on all Arab peoples, including the Bahraini nation, to fiercely oppose normalization with the Tel Aviv regime.

Bahraini people have held numerous demonstrations in the country over the past two years to protest the Al Khalifah regime's decision to normalize ties with Israel through the so-called Abraham Accords, expressing their unswerving support for the Palestinian cause.

Bahrain, along with the United Arab Emirates, signed a normalization deal with the Tel Aviv regime in a ceremony hosted by former U.S. president Donald Trump at the White House in September 2020.

Sudan and Morocco followed suit later in the year and inked similar U.S.-brokered normalization deals with the occupying regime.

Palestinians slammed the deals as a treacherous “stab in the back” and a betrayal of their cause against the decades-long Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

## NY Post editorial board: ‘Trump has proven himself unworthy to be this country’s chief executive again’



The New York Post's editorial board said in an editorial published on Friday that former President Trump has proven himself “unworthy” to serve as the country's president again based on his hours-long refusal to attempt to quell the mob of rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

The editorial is a stepped-up criticism of Trump from a piece the board published last month, which said “it's time for Republicans to move on” from the former president. The board endorsed Trump for president in 2020.

The editorial from Friday said that the debate over whether Trump's speech at the Ellipse before the insurrection incited the mob is “somewhat of a red herring” from what it said was a more noteworthy point, that Trump “didn't lift a finger” to stop the violent riot for three hours and seven minutes.

“It's up to the Justice Department to decide if this is a crime. But as a matter of principle, as a matter of character, Trump has proven himself unworthy to be this country's chief executive again,” the board said.

The piece followed the latest public hearing from the House select committee investigating the insurrection. At its hearing on Thursday, the committee outlined how Trump did not

take action to disperse rioters for hours as the attack unfolded despite some of his top advisers pressuring him to do so.

“His only focus was to find any means — damn the consequences — to block the peaceful transfer of power,” the editorial states. “There is no other explanation, just as there is no defense, for his refusal to stop the violence.”

The committee also noted that Trump was aware of the violence as he slammed then-Vice President Mike Pence for not rejecting the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Sarah Matthews, who served as White House deputy press secretary under Trump and resigned hours after the attack, testified that Trump's tweet saying Pence did not have the “courage” to reject the results gave a “green light” to the rioters.

The Post's editorial states that Trump thought the violence would make Pence fold or delay the counting of the votes and he “further fanned the flames” with his tweet.

“And he was the only person who could stop what was happening,” it states. “He was the only one the crowd was listening to. It was incitement by silence.”

The Post's editorial from last month pointed to other possible 2024 Republican presidential candidates including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Trump has been hinting at another run for president for months and told New York Magazine earlier this month that he has already decided whether he will run again. He said the question is when he will announce his decision.

(Source: The Hill)

## Boris Johnson is going – but his cronyism and corruption are here to stay

*Assisted by a visionless opposition, both Sunak and Truss are free to continue with business as usual*

With the rush to find the next prime minister in full swing, the Conservative Party is desperate to move on from the Boris Johnson era.

This is hardly surprising, as even the foreign press has offered a damning analysis of Johnson's tenure in recent weeks. The New York Times, for example, reminded readers that the prime minister had “routinely been described as mendacious, irresponsible, reckless and lacking any coherent philosophy other than wanting to seize and hold on to power”.

Yet while Johnson may be leaving office, his legacy looks likely to live on – particularly since all the politicians that have sought to replace him were part of his government, which allowed systematic cronyism to reach new heights.

What adds saliency to this is that the two remaining competing occupants for 10 Downing Street – Johnson's chancellor, Rishi Sunak, and Liz Truss, his foreign secretary – are singing from the same hymn sheet.

Sunak has professed his continuing belief in Margaret Thatcher, while Truss, the bookies' favorite, has taken a similar position, while even believing that Johnson should never have been ousted.

This leaves us facing the prospect of yet more years of undiluted Thatcherism, with plenty of cronyism and corruption thrown in.

All the traditional elements of neoliberal market fundamentalism will continue. Post-Brexit Britain will have even less financial regulation than under Thatcher, unions will be subject to further controls, and the tax system will continue to favor the wealthy. Control of tax avoidance and evasion will be low priority and will remain under-resourced.

Attempts will be made to shrink the state but not its power, which will be even more centralized, while publicly owned social housing will continue to be peripheral, the privatization of the social care system will be well-nigh complete, and the creeping privatization of the NHS will be accelerated as the giant U.S. health



Sunak

Truss

insurance corporations make full use of the new opportunities.

Perhaps most importantly, radical decarbonization will take a back seat and the opportunity for Britain to play a leading global role in preventing climate breakdown will be lost.

Johnson was useful as a temporary election winner for the influential nexus of financial and corporate interests that wield huge political influence in modern-day Britain, but he has served his purpose. We will shortly have a new leader, but that nexus will continue to pull the strings, backed up by their lobbyist and think tank friends in Tufton Street.

There will almost certainly be opposition from trade unions, climate campaigners and angry voices from the marginalized, but the Tories have put in place new ways of maintaining control, not least by criminalizing many forms of protest. The government will also be aided by an incoherent political opposition, with Labour showing little signs of vision and accepting the fundamentals of the current economic status quo, advocating no more than the most modest of modifications.

The one time Labour advocated for serious structural reform, in its manifesto for the 2017 general election, the party became so popular in the closing few days of the campaign that, against all the odds, it deprived the Tories of a



## Skills of making local foods, flatbread inscribed on national heritage list

From page 1 ► It was founded in the early 14th century largely by Oljeitu (1304–16), who moved the capital there and whose magnificent mausoleum is practically the only remaining Il-Khan architecture.

Its dome, 168 feet (51 meters) high, rests on an octagonal brick structure and is decorated with blue faience (earthenware ceramic).

Furthermore, Zanjan is an agricultural hub with abundant harvest grain. Industries produce milled rice and flour, handwoven cloth, metalware, and coarse carpets.

### 17 Iranian elements registered in the UNESCO list

A selection of 17 Iranian elements has been registered in the UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Among Iran's entries to the prestigious list are Radif of Iranian music; traditional skills of carpet weaving in Kashan; Music of the Bakhshis of Khorasan; Naqqali, Iranian dramatic story-telling; traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats in the Persian Gulf; and traditional skills of crafting and playing Dotar.

Furthermore, the ancient country



seeks to register five intangible elements on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in near future. They are ancient festivities of Mehregan and Yalda, crafting and playing [the stringed instrument of] the Oud, traditional craft of silk spinning, and Turkmen Duzi (a kind of traditional textile being practiced by Iranian Turkman tribes).

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## Sheikh Safi ensemble to add new courtyard



TEHRAN – A new courtyard is being built for the Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble in Ardabil, northwest Iran.

The province's tourism directorate purchased some pieces of land on the north side of the ensemble to make room for a new courtyard, a local official has said.

With the completion of the project, more travelers and tourists could visit the historical complex, CHTN quoted Kamaledin Mirjafarian as saying on Sunday.

Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble is a microcosm of Sufism, where arrays of harmonious sun-scorched domes, well-preserved and richly-ornamented facades and interiors, and, above all, an atmosphere of peace and tranquility have all made a must-see stopover while traversing northwest Iran.

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

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

## Iran UNESCO commission nominates Abbasi Hotel for its collective memory list

TEHRAN – The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO has nominated Isfahan's Abbasi Hotel, which was once a vast caravanserai in the Safavid era (1501–1736), for possible inscription on its list for collective memory.

"There is a process underway to register this historical building on the list as a cultural gem and a large permanent exhibition of Iranian architecture," ISNA quoted Hojjatollah Ayyubi as saying on Sunday.

The national commission has prepared the list to preserve cultural values, honor continuous and wide-ranging economic activities and record the history of businesses and brands with good historical records.

UNESCO's collective memory list includes reputable businesses that have contributed value for many years through their work and entrepreneurship and has remained in people's social memory for more than two generations.

The Iranian National Commission for UNESCO issues the certificate for this national list.

The extensively renovated Abbasi Hotel located in downtown Isfahan was once the Safavid-era caravanserai of the

Madraseh-ye Chahar Bagh.

The facilities include a delightful traditional teahouse, a welcoming coffee shop, a business center, and an indoor pool, sauna, and gym.

The hotel is also on the shortlist of traditional inns that Iran is pursuing its possible inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage.

One of the most desired destinations in the country, Isfahan is a living museum of culture and home to various magnificent Islamic structures.

### Possible UNESCO tag for the Iranian caravanserais

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

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

# Brazilian envoy visits Kashan, announces readiness to enhance tourism ties

TEHRAN – Brasilia's ambassador to Tehran, Laudemar Gonsalves de Aguiar Neto, has said that his country is ready to develop cooperation with Iran in the tourism sector.

The envoy made the remarks on Sunday during a visit to the ancient city of Kashan, Borna reported.

Providing cooperation opportunities in the field of tourism is a valuable step for both countries, the envoy said.

He also noted that the Qatar World Cup is an excellent opportunity for Iran to boost its tourism.

In another part of his remarks, the ambassador said that Iran and Brazil would celebrate the 120th anniversary of their official relationship.

Iran and Brazil could continue to



cooperate in various fields despite the sanctions, he noted.

With Brazil's impressive progress in waste management and smart cities, there are opportunities for cooperation and knowledge transfer to Kashan, he mentioned.

Brazil is also willing to establish

cooperative arrangements with a wide variety of cities and communities, including Kashan, to develop agricultural and commercial ties, he concluded.

Kashan is a historical city near Isfahan in the central part of Iran. Its history dates back to more than ten thousand years ago, and

it is home to some of the most beautiful buildings featuring Islamic architecture.

Many travelers opt to pass Kashan on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd because this delightful oasis city on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir, is one of Iran's most alluring destinations.

Kashan not only boasts a cluster of architectural wonders, an atmospheric-covered bazaar, and a UNESCO-recognized garden, but it also offers some of central Iran's best traditional hotels.

The annual Golab-Giri (rosewater distillation) ceremony of Kashan attracts huge crowds to the city every year. Some of the most ancient traces of civilization have been discovered near Kashan, at the Sialk archaeological site.

## Researcher stumbles upon Sassanid column base in southern Iran

TEHRAN – A cultural heritage researcher has stumbled upon a stone column base, estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224–651).

The stone artifact was found accidentally in the village of Faruq, Marvdasht county, Fars province, southern Iran.

"I was taking pictures of historical monuments in the village of Faruq when a piece of stone attracted my attention. Further, I came closer and realized that is a historical column base," cultural heritage researcher Siavash Aria told Mehr news agency on Sunday.

"After examining it carefully and taking photos, I informed the head of the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit of Marvdasht about the matter and I requested them to move the column base."

He believes the column base had been brought to the village from its original place due to unknown reasons. "Without doubt, there was not the original place of this column base and it was brought here by unknown people for an unknown reason, while this column base was located near agricultural lands and village houses and was in danger of being destroyed."

"Native and regional people don't know about a piece of stone as a historical artifact and they think of it as an ordinary stone...."

This column base might be lost or broken and destroyed."

Two Iranian archaeologists, Alireza Jafari Zand, and Afshin Yazdani have agreed that the column base dates back to the Sassanid era, Aria said.

The object has been surrendered to the museum of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, the researcher added.

Persian columns are a distinctive form of columns developed in the Achaemenid architecture of ancient Persia, probably beginning shortly before 500 BC. They are mainly known from Persepolis, where the massive main columns have a base, fluted shaft, and a double-animal capital, mostly with bulls.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian architecture and the arts 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.

Generally, a Sassanid archaeological landscape represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic usage of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

In 2018, an ensemble of Sassanian



historical cities in southern Iran, titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region," was named a UNESCO site. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan.

The World Heritage reflects the optimized usage of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Apart from architecture, 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.

## 11 historical relics recovered by Iranian police

TEHRAN – Iranian police have recovered eleven relics from a smuggler in Kuhdasht, Lorestan province, ILNA reported on Saturday.

Objects including a dagger, metal statue, and a metal bowl were found while police forces inspected the house of an illegal antique dealer.

There have been eleven relics recovered by the local cultural heritage directorate for a comprehensive evaluation to find their exact dates, the report said.

One suspect was detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation and trial.

A region of raw beauty in

western Iran, Lorestan was once inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Moreover, Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. Lorestan is famed for its ancient Luristan Bronzes for their eclectic array of Assyrian,

Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, dating from this turbulent period.

Historically speaking, Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

### 46 tourism projects underway in Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN – A total of 46 tourism-related projects are currently underway across the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

An investment value of 11 trillion rials (\$36.7 million) has been channeled into the projects, Mojtaba Mirhosseini explained on Saturday.

The projects are expected to create more than 1000 job opportunities upon their completion, the official added.

The collective province—Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south—accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious

rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

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

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

•Renewed•

### International Tender Announcement

It is publicly notified that Shirin Darou Co. (Public Joint Stock Co) intends to sell two types of its products, including licorice extract powder and licorice extract block through international auctions. Therefore, the applicants are hereby invited to refer to the seller's website at the following address at most within 15 days from the date of publication on the advertisement in order to receive the auction documents and also, to obtain further information contact telephone Nos.

**(+98)71-37441151 (+98)71-37442301-5 (Ext. 423)**

**(+98)9024284832**

**www.shirindarou.com**

### Invitation To Tender

**(Tender no. 1401/12)**



**Client:** Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company (Public Joint Stock)

**Tender Subject:**

Engineering and Procurement of One Complete Set of Hydraulic Props and Related Accessories for Roof Supporting of Underground Coal Excavation Panels

**Project Address:**

Tabas Parvadeh Coal Mines located in 75km southwest Tabas, Iran

**Deadline to Inform Readiness to Receive the Documents:**

Latest by 12:30 p.m. (IRST) Thursday August 11, 2022

**Notes:**

- Tender documents will solely be delivered to Tenderers who inform the Client of readiness for participating in the Tender process by sending a formal letter with the subject of "tender subject and number"; addressed to Tabas Parvadeh Coal Company

- Client's email address: [dabir@tpc.co.ir](mailto:dabir@tpc.co.ir)

**Deadline to Submit the Offers:** Latest by 20:00 p.m. (IRST) on Sunday September 4, 2022

**Tender Opening Date:** At 8:30 a.m. (IRST) on Monday September 5, 2022



# Science diplomacy developing despite sanctions

TEHRAN – Despite U.S. sanctions, the international activities of Iranian scientists have increased year by year, so that more than 35 percent of Iranian articles in Scopus have been multi-national projects, Peyman Salehi, deputy science minister, has said.

He made the remarks at the COMSTech (the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) ceremony on Saturday.

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and build constructive international partnerships.

In 2021, Iranian scientists published more than 77,000 scientific articles in the Scopus database, so that, Iran has been ranked 15th in science production, he said, IRNA reported.

The country also ranked 15th and 16th in the world in terms of scientific references, he added.

Pointing to the history of Iran's scientific activities in the past two decades, Salehi said that Iran ranked 56th in science production in 1996 and ranked 15th in 2021. Accordingly, we are leading the region in science production.

Out of a total of 77,000 articles published by Iranian scientists in the Scopus database last year, 35.7 percent were related to international joint activities. Despite the sanctions, the amount of joint scientific activities of Iranian researchers has increased every year.



Iranian scientists are not limited by geographical and political borders, and apart from multi-national projects, the increase in Iranian researchers' citations also proves this issue.

Referring to research centers, institutes, and science and technology hubs, he highlighted that in the past years, with the establishment of 240 innovation centers, as well as 49 science and technology parks, we have launched a complete roadmap to transform science into technology.

### Science diplomacy at highest level

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

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

Comparing the rate of 2020 with 2019, Iran with a growth of 12.5 percent and with a slight difference from India has gained second place in the world in terms of the growth of world science diplomacy, Mohammad Javad Dehghani, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), said.

In 2011, the share of Iranian articles with international participation was about 16.5 percent, which increased to 19.7 percent

in 2016 and gradually in the following years, so that in 2020 and 2021, reached 30.5 and 34.2 percent, respectively, he added.

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

In 2011, the share of Iranian articles with international participation was about 16.5 percent, which increased to 34.2 percent in 2021.

## Iranian knowledge-based firms in Iraqi medical exhibition

From page 1 ▶ Exports at \$836m

The knowledge-based firms exported \$836 million of goods in the first three months of this year (started March 21), Mehdi Safari, deputy minister of foreign affairs for economic diplomacy, said.

While in the same period last year, the export value of these companies' goods was \$400 million, he highlighted.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Ministry of Industry, continues to increase the number of Iranian business consultants abroad.

Also, the ministry has organized intensive training courses for economic experts who intend to go on missions and work in foreign missions in order to update the economic information of the experts through their trips to 20 provinces of the country and get to know the economic capacities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pursuing the development of economic relations with neighboring and European, African, and Latin American countries, and all ambassadors and heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs abroad are ready to provide services to Iranian companies in order to develop the export.

Currently, the priority is to increase transit relations with neighboring countries, and our policy is full economic cooperation with Afghanistan, as well as joint productions of knowledge-based companies abroad, he said.

Products hit markets in 70 countries

Iranian knowledge-based companies marketed their products in 70 countries, and in some global markets have overtaken European and American companies, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, said.

The number of knowledge-based companies has exceeded 6,800, he stated.

Last year, knowledge-based companies gained about \$800 million in revenue from export, and in the current year (started March 21), it seems to reach over \$1 billion, he noted.

These knowledge-based companies have now found their export markets in 70 countries around the world. In some markets, they have been able to overtake European and American companies, he emphasized.

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP, he also said.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard, the Iranian houses of innovation have been set up in several countries to develop the global market for knowledge-based products.

These centers have already been set up in countries such as Russia, Turkey, China, Syria, Kenya, Armenia, and Iraq.

## Astrology and astronomy in Iran

Part 19

### Interrogations

Astrologers could answer any queries on the basis of the theme of the time at which the question was asked. The most common method of interpretation was to utilize the cardines, of which the ascendent indicates the actor, the descendent the object or person acted upon, the midheaven the means of action, and the hypogee the result.

Similar methods employing the directions associated with the cardines were utilized in locating lost or stolen objects, runaway slaves, or buried treasures.

Complex associations of the zodiacal signs and planets with human physiognomic and psychological characteristics enabled the astrologer to describe, e.g., thieves and lovers for his clients.

### Iatromathematics

Queries concerning the fate of the sick constituted an important part of the interrogations. Together with considerations derived from the nativity and anniversary themes they formed a special branch of astrology.

Physical characteristics of the native, including blemishes, congenital weaknesses, and chronic diseases, were predicted from the nativity theme, especially with the help of the planetary, zodiacal, and decanic melothiesias. Diagnosis of a contracted disease was also based primarily on the melothiesias at the time of the onset of the illness or at the time at which the query was addressed to the iatromathematician; obviously, the anniversary theme could also be consulted.

The prognosis of the course of the disease depended on the motion, phases, and contacts of the moon. The selection of the means of treatment and the times of application was influenced by diagnosis,

prognosis, and catarchic astrology.

The success or failure of the doctor and his treatment could also be judged by an interrogation. A subbranch of iatromathematics was devoted to preparing medicines with astral powers; thus, mineral, vegetable, and animal products associated with the individual planets and zodiacal signs were gathered at the astrologically favorable moments, and were combined into drugs that were specifics for diseases caused by the stars.

### Astral magic

The same kind of association of terrestrial objects with celestial bodies, and many others, were utilized in the practice of magic. Since God has delegated to each of the zodiacal signs, fixed stars, decans, and planets the power to cause certain changes in the sublunar sphere, and as each of these stellar bodies has at its command demon agents who carry out the changes decreed by the stars, the manipulation of the appropriate terrestrial objects, the performance of the designated rituals and sacrifices, and the recitation of the prescribed prayers at the astrologically propitious moments, will induce the stellar deities to grant the magician's petition and to dispatch demons to carry out his wishes.

The forms of astral magic practiced by Islamic astrologers represent a fusion of the Neoplatonic theurgy of Harran with material from Indian, Sasanian, and other Near Eastern Sources.

### Celestial omens

Striking astral and meteorological phenomena had been regarded as omens in Mesopotamia before the Old Babylonian period, and from there the belief in such portents had spread to Iran, India, Egypt, and Greece during the rule of the Achaemenids.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
to be continued

## Social security agencies active in more than 20 countries

TEHRAN – The Social Security Organization has established agencies in more than 20 countries, Mehdi Shakouri, an official with the organization, said on Sunday.

In some countries, such as Turkey and Canada, more agencies are operating due to the high number of Iranians living in those countries, IRIB quoted Shakouri as saying.

Over the past two years, some 1,500 Iranians living abroad have put in retirement requests via the agencies, and pensions are being deposited into their overseas accounts, he explained.

### Over 4m Iranians residing abroad

The Secretariat of the High Council of Iranians Abroad announced in its 2020 report that a total of 4,037,258 Iranians reside abroad, 76 percent of whom are resident in the Americas and European countries.

A comprehensive law is being drafted to

protect Iranians living abroad, Fatah Ahmadi, deputy minister of justice for human rights and international affairs, has said.

In order to pave the way for Iranians abroad to invest in their homeland, create sustainable employment, and also to facilitate the movement of Iranians, especially the elites, in order to provide consultations and help the development of the country, it is necessary for them to travel to Iran, he explained.

"We try to address such concerns within the framework of this comprehensive law to provide opportunities for Iranian expatriates to stay and invest in the country," he noted.

Moreover, the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has placed the issue of facilitating the return of Iranians living abroad to their home country high on its agenda, with government officials constantly reiterating the need for paving the way for



the expatriates to return.

About 500 Iranian researchers have returned home over the past four years to transfer their knowledge and expertise to the country's universities, according to the vice presidency for science and technology.

With the support of the National Elites Foundation and Science and Technology Vice Presidency, universities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled 'cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepreneurs and elites' in 2015.

The plan aims to attract Iranians abroad to share knowledge in different forms including postdoctoral research, research opportunity, and visiting fellows, in addition to being faculty members.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## COVID-19 takes lowest toll on foreign nationals in Iran

Iran had the lowest coronavirus cases and mortality among refugees and foreign nationals compared to the population it is hosting, Mehdi Mahmoudi, Director of Citizens and Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior has said.

Referring to the measures taken for non-Iranian citizens during the pandemic, he said that since the very beginning, when the country became infected with the disease, the community of foreign nationals in our country was no exception to this issue, and prevention programs and necessary measures have been taken for this group.

"We identified foreign nationals in need and tried to provide them with livelihood assistance, as well as health packages and self-protective items needed to prevent the infection," he explained.

## ایران کمترین تلفات کرونا اتباع خارجی را داشته‌است

مهدی محمودی مدیرکل امور اتباع و مهاجرین وزارت کشور گفت در خصوص ابتلا به بیماری کرونا در بین اتباع خارجی، ایران کمترین ابتلا و کمترین تلفات را نسبت به جمعیت داشته‌است. او در گفت‌وگو با اپلنا درباره اقدامات صورت گرفته برای اتباع غیرایرانی در ایام کرونا گفت: از همان ابتدا که کشور درگیر این بیماری شد، جامعه اتباع خارجی هم در کشور ما مستثنی از این موضوع نبود و برنامه‌های پیشگیری و تمهیدات لازم نیز برای این گروه نیز در نظر گرفته شده است.

اتباع غیرایرانی که نیازمند بودند را شناسایی کرده و تلاش کردیم از نظر معیشتی به این گروه نیز کمک‌هایی صورت بگیرد و همچنین بسته‌های بهداشتی و اقلام مورد نیاز پیشگیری از بیماری کرونا در چندین نوبت به آنها ارائه شده است.



