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Iran commemorates martyrdom anniversary of Gen. Soleimani



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Yemeni patience with Saudis has a limit

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Raisi: 'We will not let Soleimani assassins have a restful sleep'

► Page 2

Afghanistan appoints new embassy caretaker in Tehran

TEHRAN – Afghanistan has appointed a new caretaker for its embassy in Tehran, after the tenure of the current caretaker came to an end, Fars News reported.

The newly-appointed caretaker is one of the embassy staff, according to Fars News.

The appointment will soon be announced by the Afghan government.

Experts believe that the simultaneous change of the senior diplomats of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul and the embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran shows the determination of the governments to develop the relations between the two countries, Fars News said.

After the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, Abdul Qayyum Soleimani was in charge of the Afghan embassy in Tehran. ► Page 3

Iran U23 coach to be appointed within months

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iran U23 national football team are yet to know their head coach, less than nine months before the 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification starts.

The officials of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) had said they would appoint a new coach for the team after the 2022 World Cup, but they did not keep their promise.

In December 2022, Habib Kashani, former general manager of Persepolis club, was appointed as director of Iran's U23 football team but the head coach has not yet been introduced.

Mehdi Mahdavia resigned from his post as head coach of the U23 team in early October. Under the guidance of Mahdavia, Iran showed a poor performance in the 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup and failed to qualify for the next stage. ► Page 3

Iran's shipbuilding: an old but newly developing industry

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Iran's shipbuilding industry, with more than 50 years of history, has been on a journey toward development since its establishment, and nowadays the Islamic Republic is considered one of the world's major shipbuilders, manufacturing and repairing all kinds of giant vessels.

However, despite all the improvement achieved in the shipbuilding industry over the past few years, there are still many challenges in the way of this old but newly developed industry which calls for special attention.

Modernizing the shipbuilding industry is not only a commercial necessity but also a must for the Islamic Republic as the country heavily relies on its oil industry whose existence is dependent on ocean-going vessels.

As a vital sector in Iran's shipbuilding industry, repairing must also be given special significance, since for many years Iranian oil tankers and large cargo vessels have been sent to foreign yards for periodic overhauls and this has imposed huge costs on the country's economy. ► Page 4

Six national plans approved on women, families

TEHRAN – The National Headquarters for Women and Family Affairs has approved six plans to support families and empower women and improve their status in society.

The formation of a loan guarantee fund for women heads of households was one of the plans of the National Headquarters for Women and Family Affairs.

Due to the fact that many female breadwinners could not use business loans due to the lack of a guarantor, the fund was established to help them.

According to official statistics, there are 3.5 million female heads of households, but according to unofficial statistics, the figure reaches more than 6 million.

A plan is entitled 'Upgrading the structure of the vice president and advisors related to the vice presidency for women and families.'

Based on the plan, positions should be assigned to women at the level of deputy and director general, and these advisors should be involved in the major decisions of organizations and ministries and have a vote and opinion in the council. ► Page 7



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Sarbaznameh concert held in memory of General Soleimani

An ensemble led by vocalist Parvaz Homai performs a concert entitled "Sarbaznameh" in memory of General Qassem Soleimani at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on January 2, 2023. The band gave its performance with verses from "Sarbaznameh" ("Book of Soldiers"), a book comprising a long poem Afshin Ala composed as a tribute to General Soleimani in 2021.

After centuries, Isfahan bathhouse is still a hot spot

TEHRAN – Isfahan, a stunning ancient city, is home to the Ali Quli Aqa Hammam, a traditional bath that also doubles as an anthropology museum.

In this location, there are wax figures of the locals performing the steps of this vital daily ritual, such as bathing, as well as other associated routines.

In earlier times, bathhouses or hammams were also venues where people socialized, and shared humor and news; a peaceful

place for exchanging views about politics and everyday life.

The bathhouse is named after Ali Quli Aqa who served as a courtier to King Soleiman and King Sultan Hossein of the Safavid dynasty. In 1713 CE, it was finished being built.

There are two main bath halls in this charming place — the larger and the smaller one — each having a small pool inside, and they are both built in the style of Isfahan architecture. Because the Serbine (locker room)

and Garm Khane (the main area of the bath where you can clean yourself) in both baths are separate, both men and women can use the bath at the same time.

People stayed in the warm house to relax and wash up. Because of the magnificent heating system of the bath, the floor was always warm to the degree that one would never feel their feet getting cold once walking around the bath. ► Page 6

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Tehran Papers

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in Yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

Why is Riyadh looking for peace with Iran?

Arman-e Melli focused on relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, asking 'Why is Riyadh looking for peace with Iran?' ► Page 2

Roughly 4 countries implicated in Gen. Soleimani assassination, Iran says

TEHRAN- Head of a committee set up by the Foreign Ministry to investigate the U.S. assassination of senior Iranian General Qassem Soleimani revealed on Monday that criminal charges had been issued for some individuals in Iraq coming from "three to four" different nationalities.

Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei made the remakes during the "Borderless Hero" program produced by Student News Network (SNN) on the occasion marking the third year that legendary commander was martyred in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad on January 3, 2003.

Kadkhodaei denied mentioning any names for whom arrest warrants have been issued.

The names of a sizeable number of individuals who were complicit or involved in the crime had been given to Iranian authorities, he added. ► Page 2

Iranian shorts line up for Indian folklore film festival

TEHRAN – Twenty shorts by Iranian filmmakers are competing in the 6th International Folklore Film Festival underway in the Indian city of Kerala.

A highlight of the Iranian lineup is "Gilgamesh" produced by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

Directed by Hossein Moradizadeh, the animated movie tells the story of Gilgamesh, a hero in ancient Mesopotamian mythology and the protagonist of the Epic of Gilgamesh, a poem written in Akkadian during the late 2nd millennium BC. He was possibly a king of the Sumerian city-state of Uruk, who was posthumously deified. ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Why is Riyadh looking for peace with Iran?

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in Yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

from page 1 ► Iran and Saudi Arabia's conflict goes back to Tehran's opposition to U.S. regional policies, which are often implemented by Saudi Arabia. Tehran has always stood against the American influence in the region and tried to expel this country from the region. However, Saudi Arabia has always been the main facilitator of the American presence in the region.

However, the Americans are putting pressure on Saudi Arabia to somehow agree on a peace agreement with Yemen and end the eight-year war. Iran plays an important role in this case.

The next and important issue is Iraq. Saudi Arabia wants to play a role in Iraq, a country which Iran has influence there. This is why the Iraqi government has taken the lead in reconciling Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is trying to somehow free itself from the influence of America. From this point of view, it should repair relationship with Iran to prove to the Americans that it is no longer obedient to Washington.

Javan: Commander Soleimani empowered diplomacy

The conservative Javan publication wrote that indeed, since the martyrdom of General Soleimani, the resistance front has increased its strength several times and no weakness has been seen by it.

Politics without power is ineffective. It is not enough to have political wisdom without power. General Soleimani's main job was empowering our foreign policy.

Martyr Soleimani was very tough against the enemies in the battlefield; he was a leading military strategist to the extent that the enemy had to acknowledge it. America openly says that its most dangerous enemy is General Soleimani's personality and views.

Iran: Economic terrorism, third step of riots

Iran has notified U.S. of legal measures in respect to Soleimani case

TEHRAN- the Foreign Minister of Iran, insisted on Monday that the Islamic Republic's diplomatic apparatus perceived it as part of its responsibility to legally investigate the U.S. assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated that Tehran has notified the U.S. of some of the legal measures it has conducted in this respect via the Swiss embassy in Tehran, which represents U.S. interests in Iran.

The chief diplomat broke the story during an event at the Foreign Ministry commemorating General Soleimani's third martyrdom anniversary falling on January 3.

The Foreign Ministry has established a special committee to collaborate with the Judiciary and the legal division of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in order to investigate the murder of the senior commander, Amir Abdollahian pointed out.

He stated that during the previous four months, the committee had accelerated its efforts to pursue the case, "with some of those efforts being notified to the U.S. through the Swiss embassy."

Amir Abdollahian emphasized that the Foreign Ministry would take all necessary steps to bring the "American culprits and terrorists" accountable for the assassination of General Soleimani to justice.

In addition, he mentioned the "close collaboration" that exists in this regard between the Iranian and Iraqi judiciaries, stating that there have already been three rounds of conversations and that there would be more meetings in Tehran the following week.

General Soleimani, the commander of the IRGC Quds Force, along with top Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, were both assassinated in a U.S. drone strike near Baghdad airport. The assassination took place under Donald Trump's order. Soleimani was to meet then Iraq's prime minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi.

Amir Abdollahian noted that the Iraqi government has provided documents proving that General Soleimani was in the Arab country as a guest at the time of the U.S. strike.

Soleimani was internationally recognized as a legendary commander in the fight against Daesh (ISIL).

The state-run Iran newspaper stated that continuation of chaos at any cost and in any possible way is one of the main goals of foreign spy services and under this strategy they have planned three phases of protesting, economic disruption and armed conflict.

After controlling the first phase (gathering and social protest), the second step of chaos (economic disruption) has been started through pumping despair and anger towards the country's economic management.

The main goal is to extend the unrest and create economic discontent among people to launch the third phase, that is, armed conflict. Of course, the realization of this step requires the lower classes of the society to play a part in the chaos.

Kayhan: More alive than ever in the heart of the nation

Three years have passed since the cowardly assassination of General Soleimani by the devils, but the martyr of the resistance front is alive and present in the hearts and minds of the Islamic Republic and the free nations of the world, Kayhan wrote.

Shahid Soleimani is the hero of a nation that saw its cultural, spiritual and revolutionary assets and values embodied in him. The funeral ceremony for his holy body recorded a historical and memorable scene in the minds of the world and showed how Haj Qassem will be multiplied in Iran and other nations of the world.

Martyr Soleimani is more dangerous than 'Commander Soleimani' for the enemies because the devils never thought that the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Resistance Front in the world would be so fascinated by Soleimani.

Revenge against the commanders, managers and perpetrators of the Soleimani assassination will never be removed from the agenda of the youth of the Islamic world and his devotees in all corners of the world, Kayhan warned.



Iran's foreign policy prioritizes diplomatic protection

Major General Hossein Salami, the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), stated on Monday that Iran's foreign policy is centered on the diplomatic protection of the country's essential interests and political attack on the enemy's foreign policy.

In a ceremony marking General Soleimani's third martyrdom anniversary, the IRGC chief remarked that the participation of commanders in diplomatic and political spheres proves that war and peace are intertwined in the modern world.

"Occasionally friendship and enmity coexist," he added, stressing that "while a country's foreign policy apparatus seeks dialogue, tensions can overpower the atmosphere of interaction."

General Salami underscored that the nature of Iranian diplomacy is rooted in Jihad and confrontation because diplomatic protection of the country's vital interests is of first priority, while political assassination of the enemy's foreign policy is of secondary importance.

"Because we only have a few solid partners, we must adopt a combative diplomatic" stance in the current global scenario which resembles a "world war," he added.

Regarding General Soleimani's achievements, he stated that Martyr Soleimani's activities invalidated U.S. plans and ploys in the region, hence, what he did was the fortification of Iran's foreign policy.

Salami also urged the Islamic Republic's detractors to be wary of their actions in the face of Iran, since the Iranians may trace them wherever in the globe.

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday lauded sacrifices made by Lieutenant General Qassem, warning that the revenge promised for the assassination of the iconic commander is "definitive."

Raisi made the remarks in a mass ceremony held at the Imam Khomeini mausoleum in Tehran to pay tribute to General Soleimani.

General Soleimani and his companions were assassinated in a U.S. drone strike near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

"The Americans should know that we will not pass over the blood of Martyr Soleimani," Raisi told the gathering, according to Press TV. "Allow me to announce on behalf of all of you that we have not forgotten the blood of Martyr Soleimani and will not do so, and they should know that revenge for the blood of Martyr Soleimani is certain, and we will not let the assassins and perpetrators have a restful sleep."

Addressing the United States, Raisi said, "Just as General Soleimani stood up against your tyranny, excessive demands, domination and arrogance, and created resistance in the region, our beloved youths will stand today against you until the end in the shadow of the high spirit of Martyr Soleimani."

The president stressed that General Soleimani thrashed the U.S. hegemony across the



Raisi: 'We will not let Soleimani assassins have a restful sleep'

world, noting that the "domineering regime" is bent on robbing the nations and youths of their identities so that its own identity will prevail.

Raisi said the martyr commander was both an "identity-generator element," and a "reviver of Islamic identity" in the region.

'Soleimani exposed myth of U.S. invincibility'

Raisi commended General

Soleimani as a symbol of fight against terrorism and world arrogance, saying he managed to expose the myth of invincibility of the United States.

Commemorating the anti-terror icon sends a message of hope to the entire freedom seekers across the world, the president said, stressing that General Soleimani was a unifying figure in the Iranian society before and after his demise and is now dear to the heart of

millions of people around the globe.

Millions of people in Iran and across the world marked on Tuesday the third martyrdom anniversary of the top anti-terror commander, paying tribute to the sacrifices he made in foiling Western plots and liberating vast swathes of the West Asia's territory from the clutches of Takfiri terrorist groups, including Daesh.

94 Americans convicted in Soleimani assassination: Judiciary official

TEHRAN- Iran's senior human rights official stressed in a news conference on Tuesday that 94 Americans are charged with assassinating Iran's foremost anti-terror hero, General Qassem Soleimani, in 2020.

The comments were delivered by Kazem Gharibabadi, the deputy chief of the judiciary and director of Iran's human rights office, as he elaborated on the most recent findings of an investigation into the assassination.

"Currently, the indictment focuses on the American defendants. This case now has 94 criminals from America. All the necessary documents have been collected by the judicial authorities and at least three complete volumes about these 94 defendants have been prepared," Gharibabadi underlined.

He continued by saying that the major offenders in this case are former U.S. president Donald Trump, former secretary of state Mike Pompeo, and former commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) General Kenneth F. McKenzie.

On January 3, 2020, a U.S. drone attack claimed the lives of General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, second-in-command of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) of Iraq.

The strike, which was conducted very close to Baghdad International Airport, was explicitly authorized by Trump.

Roughly 4 countries implicated in Gen. Soleimani assassination, Iran says

from page 1 ► The committee chairman indicated that an indictment is also being drafted and that the Iranian Judiciary has made significant efforts to obtain information on the Soleimani assassination.

He also said the American officials are scrambling to justify their crime as a proactive and positive move but Tehran has

tendered evidence and data to the international agencies to show the real U.S. intention.

Iran has been insisting that the greatest revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani is to expel Americans from the region.

He suggested that General Soleimani's assassination is a



Because of their crucial contribution to the battle against and defeat of the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group in the region, notably in Iraq and Syria, the two anti-terror leaders enjoyed a great deal of respect and admiration throughout the region.

Since not all of the defendants are Americans and they had collaborators from other states, including from certain regional nations and two European countries, Germany and the UK, the Iranian official added, "We have also submitted letters rogatory to seven other countries."

Up to this point, those governments have chosen to ignore Iran's diplomatic calls to react to its judicial requests, he remarked.

Gharibabadi praised the "extremely good" judicial collaboration between Iran and Iraq and urged expediting the probe.

The human rights chief pointed out that Iran has also given the Iraqi judiciary infor-



proof that the U.S. presence in West Asia is "unlawful." Kadkhodaei underlined, "America should leave the region right away."

He praised Iraq for its "excellent cooperation" in pursuing the General Soleimani assassination case and said that Iran will soon host "delegations" from Iraq to discuss the matter.

official stated.

Naqdi went on to mention that Iran's foes have abandoned their plans to confront Iran through war, terrorism, cultural warfare, or economic pressure. Instead, he added, "they have turned to 200 TV networks to mount a significant propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic."

"Notwithstanding Russia and China being the U.S.'s two primary competitors in terms of economic and military strength... American officials have never dared to roll out such a campaign on their citizens," he pointed out.

IRGC official says Quds liberation to atone for blood of Gen. Soleimani

TEHRAN- An IRGC commander has underlined that the liberation of the holy city of Al-Quds in occupied Palestine and expulsion of American troops from West Asia could be considered as the apt compensation for the martyrdom of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

In a ceremony held on Sunday night in Pakdasht on the suburbs of Tehran, Mohammad Reza Naqdi said Martyr Soleimani's school of thought has paved the way for all freedom-seeking nations all over the globe inclined toward countering the global arrogance.

"The liberation of the honorable Quds,

the abolition of the Zionist regime, and the choking off of U.S. influence in the region are the three tasks Martyr Soleimani left unfinished," said Naqdi, the deputy IRGC commander for coordination.

He went on to say that the U.S. and the Zionist regime are using various media outlets to depict General Soleimani, who served as a leader in the fight against terrorism, as a terrorist.

The global arrogance intends to misrepresent facts about Iran, characterizing the country as an autocracy, despite the fact that its officials, including key authorities, are chosen through people's vote, the IRGC

Iran commemorates martyrdom anniversary of Gen. Soleimani

TEHRAN – From Baghdad to Kerman, the birthplace of General Soleimani, tens of thousands of people participated in ceremonies for the commemoration of the third anniversary of the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the IRGC Quds Force.

Thousands of people from across the country flocked to General Soleimani's tombstone in Kerman on Tuesday to pay tribute to the general and commemorate the third anniversary of his assassination by the U.S. in the early days of 2020.

Tasnim reported from Kerman that an "unprecedented" number of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims headed to the gravestone of General Soleimani, evoking memories from his historic funeral three years ago. Iran's state-run television said more than 100,000 pilgrims visited the tome of General Soleimani.

Simultaneously in Baghdad and Tehran, huge ceremonies were held to remember the General and his comrade Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. A huge number of people gathered at the Grand Mosalla Mosque of Tehran on Tuesday to commemorate the assassination anniversary. Several Iranian high-



ranking officials and others from the Axis of Resistance attended the Tehran gathering. Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi addressed the attendees. "The revenge for General Soleimani is inevitable," he told the crowd.

In Baghdad, a huge ceremony was held at the Baghdad airport, where General Soleimani and al-Muhandis were targeted by a U.S. drone strike. Busts of the two commanders were also set up at the place of the strike.

In addition, several Iraqi provinces declared Tuesday a public holiday to allow people to commemorate the anniversary.

In Iran, ceremonies were held across the country.

In the Mosalla gathering, Zeinab

Soleimani, the daughter of General Soleimani, expressed appreciation for the commemoration by the people of the anniversary of her father's assassination.

"I thank the people of Kerman for their good welcoming of Hajj Qassem's guests," she said. "What is important today is for all the authorities to move down the path of General Soleimani and solve the people's problems with sacrifice."

She also pointed to the massive population taking part in the commemoration of her father's assassination. "The atmosphere of these days is reminiscent of the funeral for Martyr Soleimani in January of 2020," she said.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali

Khamenei, has recently showered General Qasem Soleimani with praise in his third martyrdom anniversary.

Ayatollah Khamenei received members of the family of General Soleimani on January 1 as Iran prepared for commemorating the third anniversary of the martyrdom of the general.

During this meeting, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated that breathing new life into the Resistance Front was truly an outstanding, fundamental part of Martyr Soleimani's endeavors. "By strengthening the physical, spiritual, and mental aspects of the Resistance, the General preserved, equipped, and revived this eternal, growing phenomenon against the Zionist regime, the influence of the US, and against other arrogant countries," the Leader said, according to a readout published by khamenei.ir.

Ayatollah Khamenei believes that the testimony of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, a unique human being, about General Soleimani's struggles is a great means for understanding the importance of General Soleimani's work in reviving the Resistance.

Afghanistan appoints new embassy caretaker in Tehran

From Page 1 ▶ Iran has recently appointed a new ambassador to Afghanistan. Iran's state news agency IRNA has reported that the Iranian Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi replaced Ambassador Bahador Aminian.

Citing an announcement by the Iranian embassy in Kabul, IRNA said Qomi has been nominated ambassador to Afghanistan after the three-year tenure of Aminian as Iranian envoy to Afghanistan came to an end.

Qomi has been appointed as Iran's presidential envoy for Afghanistan by the Raisi administration. He was Iran's first ambassador to Iraq after the downfall of the Saddam Hussein regime.

The ambassador turnover has come with rumors that Aminian is being changed as a result of documents hacked from Fars News in which he inveighed against the Taliban. The Iranian embassy in Afghanistan has rejected the rumors, saying that the change has nothing to do with the leaked documents.

Qomi has recently proposed the formation of



a joint committee with the Afghan authorities with the aim of jointly combatting terrorism.

In comments after attending the Moscow format meeting on Afghanistan, Kazemi Qomi said it is necessary for Iran and Afghanistan to set up a joint security and information exchange committee to counter terrorist threats.

He also urged that the neighbors of Afghanistan should provide assistance to Afghanistan within the framework of a coordination or security committee.

The neighbors of Afghanistan can cooperate with Kabul by training the country's security forces, exchanging information, and providing equipment, he added, according to

a Tasnim report.

Qomi has recently underlined the need for using the capacity of Afghan investors. "During this year, half of the foreign investment made in Iran is related to Afghan investors, and today, when the country is facing difficulties in attracting foreign investment, the high investment capacity of Afghan nationals should be used in the best way," he said according to IRNA.

He added, "During the previous years, at one point, the United Arab Emirates expelled 700 Afghan economic activists from this country, whose capital was estimated at 30 billion dollars, but unfortunately, we failed to attract this capital."

He noted, "Our approach to Afghan nationals should be opportunity-oriented, and some measures such as blocking the accounts of Afghan nationals in the country have delivered a big blow to attracting foreign capital."

According to an IRNA report, 1,600 companies owned by Afghan nationals in Mashhad have official licenses for economic activity.

patrol missions.

The Iraqi interior minister also emphasized the need for continuous communication between the border officials of the two countries.

Al Sadeq and Tamim assessed the possibility of developing cooperation in areas of administrative transformation and information technology through establishing administrative systems and electronic government and issuing bank cards, as well as cooperation in pre-examination of goods and commodities traded between the two countries.

They addressed the possibility of increasing the volume of commodity exchange and improving the balance of trade exchange on the part of Iraq to achieve parity.

Affairs, in conjunction with the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other agencies, have adopted, from the very outset, a number of measures premised upon the legal principle of 'combatting impunity of crimes' in order to hold the abovementioned to account and bring them to justice. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in co-operation with other relevant institutions, set up the Special Committee on Legal and International Follow-up of the Assassination Case of General Soleimani and His Companions. Ever since its establishment, the Committee has been investigating and pursuing the legal aspects of the case and has thus far taken several measures to press the issue at all domestic, bilateral, regional and international levels," the foreign ministry said, adding, "The Committee is determined to proceed in all seriousness until its objectives are fully met and the international responsibility of the American government is invoked. Meanwhile, the Joint Judicial Committee Between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq continues its work to follow up on this American act of terrorism."

got a new life with the sacrifice of Hajj Qassem. Today, it is a strong barrier against the evils of America and the Zionist regime."

He asserted, "Undoubtedly, Haj Qasim's goal of liberating Quds Sharif and the complete cessation of American intervention in the region will be realized soon."

Iran marked the anniversary of the assassination of General Soleimani by reiterating the need for following up on the case.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that it will continue to follow up on the case of the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani with the aim of bringing those involved in the assassination to justice.

"Based on legal and international standards, the American regime bears 'definite international responsibility' for this crime. In this context, all the agents and principals, instigators, perpetrators and aiders and abettors of this terrorist crime bear responsibility. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign

SPORTS

Iran U23 coach to be appointed within months

From Page 1 ▶ Some names were shortlisted as the candidates to replace him including Moharam Navidkia, former coach of the Sepahan team, and Saket Elhami, current coach of the Havadar club.

However, nothing happened and the U23 team, known as the Omid Team, are still in a state of uncertainty about their future.

Manaf Hashemi, secretary general of the Iran National Olympic Committee (NOC), is the latest official who talked about the condition of the Iran U23 national team.

"Let the football federation make the final decision about appointing the new head coach of the team," Hashemi said on Tuesday.

When asked whether the head coach would be Iranian or a foreign one, he responded: "The FFIRI should decide in this regard. For the Hangzhou Asian Games, we are supervising 40 federations, and football is one of the most important federations among them. However, we believe that the relevant authorities, which are the football federation managers, should comment in this regard," he added.

Hashemi also talked about the expenses and costs related to the U23 team and whether they will be provided by the National Olympic Committee or the FFIRI.

"We have not entered the details in this regard. So far, we only concluded about choosing the head coach of the team. Definitely, the National Olympic Committee and the football federation should provide financial resources together, and the sponsors should help as well," the secretary general of the NOC concluded.

The 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup will act as the AFC qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics men's football tournament.

The qualification which will decide the participating teams of the 2024 AFC U23 Asian Cup, will be held from Sept. 4 to 12, 2023.

Two coaches shortlisted for Iran football hotseat: report

TEHRAN – Amir Ghalenoei and Farhad Majidi have been reportedly shortlisted to take charge of Iran national football team.

Iran were headed by Carlos Queiroz in the 2022 FIFA World Cup but the federation has not yet renewed the Portuguese coach's contract.

Now, the federation is going to find the new head coach for the National Team.

Ghalenoei currently leads Iranian club Gol Gohar, while Majidi heads Emirati club Al-Ittihad Kalba.

The federation has not yet confirmed the news but media reports suggest that the two coaches are main candidates to lead Team Melli.

Iran will have to participate at the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, which will start in June.

Iranian volleyball referee escapes death in car crash

TEHRAN – Iranian volleyball referee Mohammad Eshghdoost escaped death in a massive car accident.

The accident happened on Tehran Highway. He was travelling to Yazd to officiate the match between Eefa Ceram Ardakan and Labanyat Haraz Amol volleyball teams but his car collided with a truck.

The vehicle was completely destroyed due to the severity of the accident.

"Since the federation has not paid my salary, I was forced to drive to Yazd with my own car instead of the plane," Eshghdoost.

"Immediately after the crash, I informed the organizers I would come to officiate the match because I was OK.

"That was a miracle. I just suffered minor scratches but my smartphone was completely smashed. Also, my car is out of service," he concluded.

Ansarifard scores as Omonia beat ENP

TEHRAN – Omonia defeated ENP 3-0 in Cypriot First Division at the Tasos Markou Stadium Monday night.

Kakoullis scored two goals in 24th and 43rd minutes and the other was scored by Karim Ansarifard in 50th minute.

Omonia moved up to fifth place with 28 points, nine points adrift of APOEL.

The Cypriot First Division is the top tier football league competition in Cyprus, run by the Cyprus Football Association.

The league is contested by 14 teams and runs from August to May.

Zob Ahan parts ways with Darko Bjedov

TEHRAN – Serbian forward Darko Bjedov parted company with Iranian football club Zob Ahan by mutual consent.

The 33-year-old striker had joined Zob Ahan in September but failed to live up expectations.

He was a member of the Iranian club in the 2020-21 Iran Professional League (IPL) season and scored 10 goals in 32 matches for Zob Ahan.

Bjedov failed to meet expectations in his return and left Zob Ahan.

Liam Rosenior provides Sayyadmanesh injury update

TEHRAN – Hull City boss Liam Rosenior says he took Allahyar Sayyadmanesh off at half-time of Monday's 4-1 win at Wigan Athletic as a precaution but admits he faces an anxious wait to find out the extent of any hamstring problem.

The Iranian needed treatment at the end of the first 45 minutes at the DW Stadium after pulling up and holding his hamstring.

Sayyadmanesh didn't return for the second half and was replaced by Tyler Smith, who later went on to score a brace in the final five minutes as City made it successive away wins either side of the New Year celebrations.

City's talented former Fenerbahce ace has only just returned from a torn hamstring having spent four months out injured starting his second game in four days at the DW Stadium, having come through 65 minutes in the 1-0 win at Birmingham City on Friday night.

"It was just a precaution," Rosenior told Hull Live. "He felt it (hamstring) tighten up and we won't take any risks.

"I won't take any risks with any player. I felt it was the right thing to do to start him because he gives us something so different.

"We've spoken about it before and you can now see it in our game. We can play possession football, but we can also play in behind teams and he gives us that, hopefully he'll be back sooner rather than later," he added.

Tochal to host para-ski world cup

TEHRAN – Head of Tochal Sports and Recreation Complex Rohollah Emdad said that the complex is to host the para-ski world cup within months.

After the visit made by the President of the Asian Paralympic Committee Majid Rashed to Tochal Sports and Recreation Complex, the hosting of the Para-ski World Cup was given to Iran, Emdad said.

He added that the event will be held with participation of 55 countries.

More than four million people use Tochal Sports and Recreation Complex per year, he noted.

He said that Tochal is the nearest ski resort to a city in the world.

Commodities worth over \$572m traded at IME in a week



TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2,305,088 tons of commodities worth more than \$572 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1,844,503 tons of commodities valued at more than \$314 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,074,304 tons of cement, 330,000 tons of iron ore, 246,164 tons of steel, 224,150 tons of zinc, 8,050 tons of aluminum, 5,393 tons of copper, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 4 kg of gold bars and 2,506 vehicles.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 412,636 tons of commodities worth more than \$235 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 131,207 tons of bitumen, 103,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 95,664 tons of polymeric products,

38,666 tons of chemicals, 32,600 tons of lube cut, 5,530 tons of sulfur, 4,789 tons of base oil, 1,800 tons of petroleum products and 160 tons of insulation.

The IME also traded within the same week 47,948 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, 10,931,107 tons of commodities worth over \$3 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month Azar (ended on December 21, 2022).

The exchange traded on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 1,791,743 tons of commodities valued at nearly \$991 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 526,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 491,023 tons of bitumen, 419,853 tons of polymeric products, 157,696 tons of chemicals, 120,500 tons of lube cut, 41,000 tons of sulfur, 23,788 tons of oil, 9,632 tons of petroleum products, 1,200 tons of insulation and 1,050 tons of feedstocks.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 9,133,701 tons of commodities worth more than \$2 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 4,592,219 tons of cement, 2,199,000 tons of iron ore, 1,784,395 tons of steel, 340,000 tons of sponge iron, 131,650 tons of zinc, 31,175 tons of aluminum, 24,731 tons of copper, 2,000 tons of cast iron, 750 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 100 tons of lead, 36 tons of precious metals concentrate and 272 kg of gold bars.

NPC head calls for completing petrochemical value chain

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has called on all the entities active in the petrochemical industry to cooperate in completing its value chain, Shana reported.

Morteza Shahmirzaei noted that by producing items with more added value, the average value of Iran's petrochemical products

should reach \$4500 to \$5000 per ton.

“We hope to take the necessary steps for the development of the [petrochemical industry's] downstream sector with the help of all complexes, companies and those interested in investing in the industry in order to realize this sector's real potential,” the NPC head said.

Condition being prepared to construct 4,300 National Housing Movement units in Lorestan

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, the condition is being prepared for the construction of 4,300 units of the National Housing Movement in Lorestan province, in the west of Iran.

Reza Payamani, the deputy head of the Transport and Urban Development Department of the province, said that out of 147,000 people who have registered in the National Housing Movement so far, 37,500 applicants were found to be eligible, and 60 percent of the applicants are from Khoram-Abad county.

From the beginning of the plan and in the form of different options, Lorestan's share was 12,415 units, which will reach 49,660 units during the four-year plan, of which construction of 1,290 units has started, he stated.

In early November, a board member of the National Land and Housing Organization announced that about 57,000 hectares of land within the boundaries of the cities has been provided for the National Housing Movement plan.

Arsalan Maleki also said that the private sector owners in provinces with land shortages can participate in the National Housing Movement to provide land.

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.

TEDPIX drops 1,900 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 1,910 points to 1.591 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 16.836 billion securities worth 90.495 trillion rials (about \$238 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 1,515 points,

and the second market's index lost 3,488 points.

TEDPIX climbed 151,114 points (10.1 percent) to 1.647 million points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index has risen 87,603 points (6.22 percent) to 1.496 million points in the previous Iranian calendar month Azar (ended on December 21, 2022).

from page 1 ► **History of modern shipbuilding in Iran**

Considering Iran's special geographical position in the region and its shared borders with several coastal countries both in the south and north, shipbuilding has always been among the major industries strongly entangled with the country's economy.

As Iran's first modern shipbuilding complex, the Iran Marine Industrial Company, also known as SADRA, was established in 1968 as a small ship repair yard in Bushehr Province, southern Iran. Since then, the company has developed into a major shipbuilding and ship-repairing company in Iran and in the region.

Later in 1973, Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOICO), which is a subsidiary of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), was established as the largest shipbuilding complex in West Asia, in an area of 1100 hectares, 37 kilometers west of the southern port of Bandar Abbas.

At the initial stage, the complex was established with the aim of creating facilities for repairing small and medium-sized vessels. Later, the complex's equipment and facilities were developed for the construction and repair of large tankers.

Recent developments

In July 2019, ISOICO successfully finished the overhaul operation of a supertanker for the first time inside the country. Iranian technicians managed to repair the oil supertanker “DORE” inside the country for the first time in the history of Iran's shipping industry.

Following the successful



Iran's shipbuilding: an old but newly developing industry

overhaul of the mentioned supertanker, major domestic ship-owners like the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), started referring a major part of their overhaul operations to local yards in order to reduce their costs and also to encourage domestic yards to expand their works.

Following the footsteps of the country's two major shipbuilders, new private companies have also entered the sector over the past few years, making the industry expand its roots both inside the country and at the global level.

According to Saeid Jafari, the director-general of the maritime industry department at the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, there are currently 23 yards active in the country which are able to fully meet the

needs in this sector.

In addition to repair operations, Iranian shipbuilding companies have also successfully built three large oil tankers for Venezuela.

In September 2022, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced receiving the third “advanced” oil tanker from Iran as part of a bilateral arrangement.

“We have just received another ship with the most advanced engineering and technology in the world,” Maduro said according to Venezuelan state TV. He said that the ship was manufactured by Iran upon Venezuela's order.

Also, in late December 2022, Head of the SADRA Company's Caspian Complex Meysam Ra'yat Azad said the company is currently repairing a Russian vessel that has hit large pieces of ice in the Volga River.

Over 2,600 tons of honey produced in Bushehr annually

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, over 2,600 tons of honey is annually produced in Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran.

Afshin Qotbi, the deputy head of the province's Agriculture Department for improving livestock products, said 2,000 beekeepers are currently working to produce honey in Bushehr province.

This province has good conditions for the presence and activity of beekeepers, and beekeepers migrate to Bushehr at different stages, the official underlined.

More than 350,000 colonies have been established in Bushehr province, which is expected to reach 400,000 colonies, he announced.

The recent rains have provided a good opportunity for beekeeping activities in the province, Qotbi further stated, adding that the extreme cold weather in other provinces has stopped beekeeping activities in those areas, while the weather of Bushehr province has provided a good opportunity for beekeeping.

Back in late August 2022, the director of the Agriculture Ministry's beekeeping development program said the country's annual honey production is expected to reach 115,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (ends on March 20, 2023).

According to Touraj Saremi, the government has paid over 145 billion rials (over \$382,000)



of facilities to the country's beekeepers since August 2021 when the government took office.

Saremi noted that Agriculture Ministry has defined a five-year development plan to reform the structure of the country's apiaries and increase the quantity and quality of honey production during the Iranian calendar year 1401 to 1405 (begins in March 2026).

“The implementation of this program requires the necessary support for providing inputs, implementing educational-training programs, and providing facilities to beekeepers. It is also required to provide apiaries with insurance coverage to reduce the risks and to ensure sustainable production,” he said.

The official noted that the ministry is also pursuing opening a credit line to be able to meet part of the needs of producers in this

sector within the framework of rules and regulations.

As IRNA reported, Iranian beekeepers managed to produce 112,000 tons of honey in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Due to the high quality of Iranian honey, the product is exported to many countries including China, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iraq, and Lebanon.

Back in March 2020, the former director of the Agriculture Ministry's beekeeping development plan had said the country's beekeeping industry was planned to become the leading agricultural sector in the country, the leading honey producer in the region, and a strong player in the world markets.

“Benefiting from up-to-date knowledge, and technology, the industry is going to provide reliable, high-quality products with greater value-added,” Farhad Moshir Qafari said.

Over the past five years, Iran's beekeeping industry shifted its focus from producing only one main product, namely honey, to producing other bee secretions such as royal jelly and bee venom, Qafari said.

“Melittin is a very valuable bee venom extract that is currently imported, but the beekeeping industry has the potential to produce this substance inside,” he stressed.

Tax income rises over 11% in 9 months on year

TEHRAN – Iran's tax incomes during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2022) rose 11.8 percent compared to the same period of time in the previous year, Tasnim news agency reported citing the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) data.

According to the mentioned data, INTA collected 3.48 quadrillion rials (about \$10 billion) of taxes during the nine-month period of this year, while the figure was 3.11 quadrillion rials (about \$8.16 billion) in the same time span of the past year.

Based on the INTA data, of the collected taxes, 2.19 quadrillion



rials (about \$5.74 billion) was related to direct taxes and 1.28 quadrillion rials (about \$3.36 billion) was the share of tax on goods and services.

INTA also managed to collect 377 trillion rials (about \$989.6 million) of taxes in the ninth Iranian calendar month of Azar

(November 22-December 21, 2022).

In late October 2022, INTA Head Davoud Manzour said the government's average monthly tax collections have increased by 80 percent in the current Iranian calendar year as compared to the previous year.

According to Manzour, last year every month about 250 trillion rials (about \$656 million) of taxes were collected on average, while the figure has reached 450 trillion rials (\$1.18 billion) in the current year.

According to the official, INTA has been taking serious measures for battling tax evasion, so that the organization has discovered

This is the first time that a Russian vessel is being repaired by Iran Marine Industrial Company, the official said.

Specialists of the SADRA company are currently trying to fix some of the damages caused to this bulk ship, he added.

Requirements for further development

Considering all the improvements in Iran's shipbuilding industry, the sector still has a long way ahead to reach its full potential. The first step in this regard is to develop infrastructure and train more specialized and skilled manpower.

Marginal issues such as customs and clearance problems, etc. should also be seriously considered in order to lure in foreign customers and expand activities at an international level.

Measures should also be taken for all ship repair operations to be carried out in one place. Sometimes a part of the overhaul is carried out in a yard, but due to the lack of infrastructure, skill, or equipment other parts are referred to foreign companies. In this case, the ship owner must spend twice the port fees, the cost of transportation, and most importantly the time for the ship to get ready.

Another important factor that should be taken into consideration is marketing. Shipbuilding yards in Iran are mostly focused on repairing or building ships for domestic companies like NITC and IRISL, however, these companies have only a limited number of orders every year. Iranian shipbuilding yards need to get more orders since more work means more revenue and more money would lead to more development.

more than 170 cases over the past year and the violators have been faced with heavy penalties.

There are many methods of tax evasion and one of the most common is the creation of shell companies, he explained.

“Unfortunately, there are many problems in the regulations and laws regarding company establishment and there is no necessary strictness. We see such cases with regard to business cards and credit cards as well,” the official added.

Iran's tax income reached over 3.54 quadrillion rials (about \$9.29 billion) in the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022).

Saudi forces have been shelling border regions in Yemen, killing a number of civilians as Sana'a warns its patience is running thin.

The Yemeni health ministry has condemned the latest violations of a very fragile truce that was supposed to end the eight-year war in the country.

Senior officials in the Yemeni capital have accused the United States of seeking to prolong the war, saying that Washington is using Riyadh as a proxy to topple the Sana'a government.

In the latest attack, Saudi shelling in Yemen's Saada province on the border with Saudi Arabia killed a number of civilians and injured several others.

This is while human rights groups and NGOs are calling for the formation of an international committee to probe both Saudi and U.S. crimes.

Monitoring groups say that since the initial UN-brokered truce in April last year, more than 3,000 Yemenis have died.

An Omani delegation has been trying to revive the truce since its uneasy pause back in early October 2022.

But Yemeni officials say there have been regular acts of aggression by the Saudis since then, in particular, the northern border province of Saada. Local residents have reported hearing the sound of regular shelling from across the border.

There are also landmines, unexploded armaments, and cluster bombs that are scattered around this border region. Many residents there, especially children? are dying after picking them up, thinking they are toys, but they soon explode. This has been a common theme last year despite the announcement of a ceasefire.

The same scenario has also been reported in the Western Yemeni province of Hodaydah.

Reports emerging from Hodaydah this week also say spy drones have been hovering above the seaport area. An indication of intelligence gathering for a potential attack by Saudi Arabia. Over the years, Yemeni officials have reported surveillance drones in the skies for around a week, followed by an act of aggression.

During the 2022 truce period, monitoring groups say roughly 3,000 Yemenis have been killed. This includes 102 children and 27 women. There were also 2,500 innocent Yemenis that sustained injuries during this time frame. Thousands of homes and dozens of communication stations were also targeted in addition to the damage to other infrastructure.

After the 77-Years War – why there is still no peace on Earth

After the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989 and the death of the Soviet Union was confirmed two years later as Boris Yeltsin courageously stood down the Red Army tanks in front of Moscow's White House, a dark era in human history came to an abrupt end.

The world had descended into a "77-Years War." It had incepted with the mobilization of the armies of old Europe in August 1914. If you want to count bodies, 150 million were killed by all the depredations that germinated in the Great War, its foolish aftermath at Versailles, and the march of history into World War II and the Cold War that followed inexorably thereupon.

Upwards of 8% of the human race was wiped out during that span. The toll encompassed the madness of trench warfare during 1914-1918; the murderous regimes of Soviet and Nazi totalitarianism that rose from the ashes of the Great War and the follies of Versailles; and then the carnage of WWII and all the lesser (unnecessary) wars and invasions of the Cold War including Korea and Vietnam.

At the end of the Cold War, therefore, the last embers of the fiery madness that had incepted with the guns of August 1914 had finally burned out. Peace was at hand. Yet 31 years later there is still no peace because Imperial Washington confounds it.

The proof is plain as day. The unnecessary invasions and occupations of Iraq, the Washington-instigated shambles of Syria, the wanton destruction of Yemen, the regime change-cum barbarism that NATO inflicted upon Libya, the brutal sanctions and covert military war on Iran, the current unspeakable catastrophe financed by Washington's proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, and countless more lesser depredations, tell you all you need to know.

All of these misadventures bespeak the fact that the War Party is entrenched in the nation's capital, where it is dedicated to economic interests and ideological perversions that guarantee perpetual war. These forces ensure endless waste on armaments; they cause the inestimable death and human suffering that stems from 21st-century high-tech warfare; and they inherently generate terrorist blow-back from those upon whom the War Party inflicts its violent hegemony.

Worse still, Washington's great war machine and teeming national security industry is its own agent of self-perpetuation. When it is not invading,



Yemeni patience with Saudis has a limit

Despite the truce, the Saudis appear to be violating the terms on a regular basis.

The Saudi-led, U.S., backed coalition is also maintaining the all-out blockade of Yemen, preventing vital fuel tankers from entering the country to alleviate the suffering of the people. All the indications so far are that these acts of aggression will continue in 2023.

Yemenis say that the United States is encouraging Riyadh to increase attacks on its southern neighbor. The leader of the popular revolution Abdul Malik al-Houthi has pointed out that Yemen is at war with the U.S. and Washington is just using the Saudis as a proxy to help the Americans overthrow the Sana'a government.

This is in line with the U.S. foreign policy that seeks military escalation across the globe to further increase the profits of the American military-industrial complex.

Washington has sold Riyadh hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of weapons since the war on Yemen erupted in March 2015. It has also provided logistical and intelligence support as well as training Saudi warplane pilots, among many other measures of support.

This makes the U.S. directly complicit in the war, and it is one of the reasons why Yemen says it is Washington waging the war against their country.

The U.S. via the Saudis also cannot afford to lose Yemen as one of its proxies

because of the country's very strategic location next to the Red Sea which is one of the world's most valuable trade routes, and the Bab al-Mandeb strait, a chokepoint determining entry and exit to that route.

Washington will go to any length to keep this war from ending until Yemen's sovereignty is lost, despite the nearly eight years of war crimes and genocide that have been committed in the country.

The bombing of hospitals, schools, and residential areas are all war crimes, which the U.S. and the Saudis must be held accountable for at the international tribunal in the Hague.

But, the two allies are continuing their program of cruelty in order to achieve their geopolitical goals.

Add to this the seizure of Yemeni oil tankers that have worsened what is already the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

These vessels have already been inspected by the United Nations to make sure only humanitarian supplies are being delivered to Yemen, yet Saudi Arabia continues to seize them.

This indicates that Washington doesn't only have a problem with the Sana'a government, its real issue is with the Yemeni people, and it appears the U.S. has no problem seeing innocent Yemenis suffer even further.

The reason America has an issue with the ordinary civilian Yemeni population is that they have flooded the streets in

different cities as a clear sign of support for the revolution.

This is a revolution that has a foreign policy agenda to even help the Palestinian cause despite the difficult situation in which they are enduring.

On international Quds day, a sea of Yemenis have been turning out over the past years in solidarity with Palestine and have pledged to stand firm with the Palestinians.

This is another difficult challenge that the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Israel share and have in common.

Whilst the strategic patience of Yemenis in the face of the Saudi truce violations has shown prudence, Sana'a has warned that this also has a time limit.

The Yemeni armed forces say they have their fingers on the trigger.

It was the country's indigenously made missiles and drones that were fired at targets deep inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including Saudi state oil Aramco facilities that forced Riyadh to enter into a truce with Yemen in the first place.

Since then, Yemeni armed forces are reported to have been working day and night to further improve their military capabilities.

It may not be long before the era of strategic patience is over, and Yemeni retaliatory operations resume.

Saudi Arabia and the U.S. waged a war on Yemen in March 2015 to reinstall the former government of President Hadi which had forged close ties with Riyadh.

Since then, and in a sign of desperation, Saudi Arabia has sidelined Hadi and replaced his former government with another one.

Over the past eight years, as a result of almost daily bombing raids by the Saudis, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis have been killed, many of them women and children.

The evidence on the ground shows the humanitarian crisis, as a result of the blockade of Yemen, has been a deliberate attempt to turn the Yemeni people against the revolutionary leaders.

But even this has not proven successful, as Yemen seeks to maintain its newly found sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity after decades of Saudi rule.

This is the same Saudi rule that made Yemen the poorest country in West Asia.

And this low poverty level (with corruption rife) was present even before the war kicked off.

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WORLD HEADLINES

China's foreign minister says 'deeply impressed' with Americans

New Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang offered effusive praise of Americans after stepping down as his nation's top envoy to Washington, signaling that ties between the world's biggest economies appear to be warming despite recent tensions over Taiwan.

"I have been deeply impressed by so many hard-working, friendly and talented American people that I met," Qin said in a Tweet on Tuesday, adding that he had "made many friends across the U.S."

Qin said he'd continue to "support the growth of China-U.S. relations," and promote peace and development — comments that add to signs Beijing is adopting a softer diplomatic touch.

U.S. not discussing joint nuclear exercises with South Korea: Biden

U.S. President Joe Biden said Monday that Washington is not discussing joint nuclear exercises with South Korea against North Korea's threats.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol told the Chosun Ilbo newspaper in an interview that Seoul and the U.S. are engaged in talks about conducting joint drills using nuclear assets for "effective extended deterrence" and that Washington is "quite positive" about the idea.

However, Biden briefly answered "No" when asked whether the two countries are discussing joint nuclear exercises right now, contradicting his South Korean counterpart's remarks.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have risen again with North Korea launching dozens of missiles last year in a series of weapons tests, including intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Russia to block military threats coming from Japan

Moscow considers Tokyo's policy of abandoning peaceful development as a serious challenge to the security of Russia and the Asia-Pacific Region in general and warns that if this practice continues, it will be left with no choice other than to take adequate counter-measures in order to block military threats, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko told TASS in an interview.

"We have taken note of the [Japanese Prime Minister Fumio] Kishida administration's accelerated implementation of abandoning a policy of peaceful development, which has been professed for many decades and embarking on a track of fast-tracked militarization. Among the concrete steps along these lines is the holding of large-scale military exercises near Russia's borders together with non-regional partners, the adoption of an updated version of doctrinal documents in the field of defense and security with a view to creating an attack potential, and an unprecedented increase in defense spending," Rudenko said.

Russia says at least 63 troops killed by Ukrainian rocket strike in Donetsk

A Ukrainian rocket strike killed at least 63 Russian soldiers at a Russian deployment area in eastern Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry said on Monday.

The rockets were launched from six U.S.-made Himars systems, targeting a temporary deployment area near the city of Makiivka in the Moscow-controlled part of the Donetsk region, a ministry statement said, adding that Russian air defense systems had shot down two of the rockets.

"All necessary assistance and support will be provided to the relatives and friends of the fallen servicemen," the statement further said.

Late on Sunday, the Ukrainian army's strategic communications department claimed that nearly 400 Russian soldiers were killed in strikes in Makiivka.

The statement also noted that an additional 300 Russian soldiers were wounded at varying levels of severity.

The rocket strike came after at least 22 drones were shot down over Ukraine's capital Kyiv earlier in the day, Kyiv's military administration had said.

Israel far-right minister enters Al-Aqsa in 'provocation'

Israel's far-right national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, has entered the compound that houses the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, in a move that threatens a backlash from Palestinians who have labeled the act an "unprecedented provocation".

Ben-Gvir was seen at the site on Tuesday under heavy security.

"Our government will not surrender to the threats of Hamas," Ben-Gvir said in a statement published by his spokesman, after the Palestinian group that governs the besieged Gaza Strip warned that such a move would cross a "red line".

Ben-Gvir has long called for greater Jewish access to the holy site, which is viewed by Palestinians as provocative and as a potential precursor to Israel taking complete control over the compound. Leading rabbis forbid Jews from praying on the site.

Ben-Gvir wrote on Twitter after his visit that the site "is open to all and if Hamas thinks that if it threatens me, it will deter me, they should understand that times have changed".

Ofir Gendelman, who has long served as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Arabic-language spokesman, released a video saying that the "situation is completely calm" at the holy site following Ben-Gvir's departure.



Relatives mourn at the funeral of a Palestinian man, Fouad Abed, who was killed in an Israeli raid, Kafr Dan, West Bank.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tourism in Khoy to benefit from Shams mausoleum, minister says

TEHRAN – There is a potential for tourism prosperity in the northwestern Iranian city of Khoy in West Azarbaijan province after the completion of the mausoleum of Shams-e Tabrizi, the celebrated Persian mystic who is credited as the spiritual instructor of Rumi, the tourism minister has said.

To complete the mausoleum of Shams as soon as possible, the ministry is pursuing the project carefully, Ezzatollah Zarghami said on Tuesday.

A budget of 300 billion rials (\$750,000) has been allocated to the project, he added.

The ancient city of Khoy is a destination for lovers of Persian literature, who come to visit the mausoleum of the 13th-century poet. Encircled by vast sunflower farms and snowcapped towering mountains, khoy has long been a destination for those who are interested in its virgin nature, genuine culture and architecture.



The northwestern Iranian city is also filled with centuries-old mosques, churches, caravanserais, bathhouses, fortresses, and ramparts, each telling their tales.

Khoy may not be on every traveler's radar, but it is a natural fit for eco-tourists, as it offers loads of scenic hikes and panoramic views besides colorful geological features. Therapeutic warm-water spas, salt mines, and Christian centers are among its other charms.

Sorkheh to stage bread baking competition

TEHRAN –Sorkheh, an ancient town in central Iran, is preparing to hold a major bread-baking competition in a bid to put the spotlight on know-how passed down from generation to generation.

“Sorkheh is to hold a major baking competition, which will be the first of its kind to be held here,” a local tourism official said on Monday.

“The purpose of this competition is to teach how to cook and promote various types of traditional flatbread,” the official said.

Winners will be honored on January 13, which marks the birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatima and Mother's Day in Iran.

In the olden days, bread has been the staple diet of the folks living in the semi-arid Iranian plateau. Traditional and ethnic Persian bread is famed for its strong flavor, quality, and diversity.

The Persian word for bread is “nan” which you can find in great works by nearly all top Iranian poets and literary men, both modern and classic such as Ferdowsi, Khwaja Abdullah Ansari, Rumi, Saadi, Ebne Yamin, Saib Tabrizi,

and Sohrab Sepehri.

Among the Iranian nation, “nan” is recognized as “barakat” meaning God’s blessing. Iranians treat bread with the respect due to its holy place in their ancient culture.

Iranian flatbread is produced by cooking fermented dough, basically made from wheat flour, yeast, and water. Several additives may be added to the wheat flour-yeast-water dough to increase the shelf life of bread and improve its sweetness, quality, or even nutritional value.

The most commonly used additives are vegetables (such as potato, onion, and spinach), fruits and nuts (such as raisins, walnuts, and peanuts), seeds (such as poppy, cumin, and sesame), salt, sugars, lipids, milk, egg, spices, and food starches.

In addition to countless kinds of flatbread that are baked throughout the country, numerous types of bread are produced by ethnic groups. Sangak, Barbari, Taftoon, and Lavash are the most popular kinds of bread, which are prepared in different compositions, shapes, sizes, textures, colors, and flavors.

Historical relics recovered in Zanjan

TEHRAN – The Iranian police have recently discovered five relics, estimated to date back to the early Islamic era and Qajar period (1789-1925), in Zanjan province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage has said.

The relics, including stone and clay beads, a bracelet, and a round object, were discovered in a small village of the northwestern province after police had received reports from cultural

heritage aficionados, Hossein-Ali Fazli explained on Monday.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins nearby.

UNESCO sites at a glance



Petra

Situated between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea and inhabited since prehistoric times, the rock-cut capital city of the Nabateans, became during Hellenistic and Roman times a major caravan centre for the incense of Arabia, the silks of China and the spices of India, a crossroads between Arabia, Egypt and Syria-Phoenicia.

Petra is half-built, half-carved into the rock, and is surrounded by mountains riddled with passages and gorges. An ingenious

water management system allowed extensive settlement of an essentially arid area during the Nabataean, Roman and Byzantine periods. It is one of the world's richest and largest archaeological sites set in a dominating red sandstone landscape.

The Outstanding Universal Value of Petra resides in the vast extent of elaborate tomb and temple architecture; religious high places; the remnant channels, tunnels and diversion dams that combined with a vast network of cisterns and reservoirs which controlled and conserved seasonal rains, and the extensive archaeological remains including of copper mining, temples, churches and other public buildings. The fusion of Hellenistic architectural facades with traditional Nabataean rock-cut temple/tombs including the Khasneh, the Urn Tomb, the Palace Tomb, the Corinthian Tomb and the Deir (“monastery”) represents a unique artistic achievement and an outstanding architectural ensemble of the first centuries BC to CE.

From Page 1 ► This place was designed in a way that when the beams of light glow into the building, the ceramics and tiles will reflect the lights beautifully.

The entrance of Ali Quli Aqa Public Bath has an octagonal design, which is traditionally called “Hashti” (having eight angles). This form of architecture is one of the hallmarks of Islamic architectural design.

It reflects the architectural standards of the late Safavid era, which include having a dome-shaped roof, tilted walls that were covered with beautiful ceramic tiles that glorified Persian patterns, and a magnificent lighting system that would allow the entire public bath to fill the entire structure with natural light. Keeping the entire bath filled with light was not an easy task.

This reflection of light in multiple mirrors, each of which reflected the other, kept the entire structure bright and filled with light. One of the most important factors about inserting these mirrors into the wall was that they only reflected the light from the outside to the inside and not from the inside to the outside.

After centuries, Isfahan bathhouse is still a hot spot



On the various parts of the bath, some white stones have been carved on the surface in a way to create a layered structure. These stones were used as a

massage tools; people would use them to scratch their backs and to feel relaxed. These stones were placed next to the water pools in a vertical pattern.

Mashhad medical tourism revenue hits \$6.25 million in 9 month

TEHRAN – Mashhad's medical tourism revenues were 2.5 trillion rials (\$6.25 million) in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21, 2022), a local official in charge of medical tourism said on Tuesday.

“Mashhad has earned 2.5 trillion rials which shows a considerable rise year on year,” said Davoud Khoshshakan of Mashhad's University of Medical Sciences.

People from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Bahrein constituted the major part of medical travelers visiting the northeastern city, the official said.

Based on available data, the number of foreign nationals visiting Mashhad to attain medical services jumped by 50 percent in the first half of the current Iranian year in comparison to the same period a year earlier. During the mentioned period, some 23,000 travelers from Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Tajikistan received medical services from Mashhad hospitals.

Some 66% of the international clients were women and 33% were men, who received services from licensed medical centers in the fields of the eye, heart, gynecology, obstetrics,



orthopedics, and plastic surgery.

During the past Iranian year (1400), Mashhad received 24,300 foreign medical travelers who were either hospitalized or gained outpatient treatments, according to Davood Khoshashkan, who presides over the medical tourism department at the Mashhad University of Medical Sciences.

Iran is primarily visited by medical tourists seeking to undergo cosmetic surgery. The director of the health tourism organization director said last month. Travelers from Iraq, Afghanistan, Oman, Azerbaijan, and Bahrain constitute the higher share of Iran's medical

sector, Diako Abbasi said.

Available data compiled by the Health Ministry suggest the Islamic Republic hosts an average of one million medical tourists per annum. Shiraz, Mashhad, Yazd, Tabriz, Urmia, Ahvaz, Ramsar, Ardabil, Kermanshah, Tehran, Isfahan, and Sanandaj have been the most desired destinations for medical tourists, Abbasi said.

Medical tourism in Iran, according to some experts, is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

The Islamic Republic is known in the world as an affordable destination for health tourism, and the government is making a great effort to attract more medical tourists in the years to come.

Credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-tech medicine and diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally its hospitable people, are considered Iran's trump card when it comes to medical tourism.

Budget allocated to set up Jiroft museum



Halil River swept the topsoil off thousands of previously unknown tombs and led to the discovery of many artifacts believed by archeologists to belong to the Early Bronze Age (late 3rd millennium BC).

Astonishingly, the chlorite vases found in Jiroft were not an unfamiliar object for the archeologists. Chlorite vessels similar to the stunning examples unearthed at Jiroft had been found from the Euphrates to the Indus, as far north as the Amu Darya and as far south as Tarut Island, on the Persian Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia.

The primary Jiroft site consists of two mounds a couple of kilometers

apart, called Konar Sandal A and B and measuring 13 and 21 meters high, respectively. It was at Konar Sandal B that the archeologists dug out the seal impressions bearing writing.

So far, the archeologists have excavated around nine vertical meters of Konar Sandal B, discovering vestiges of a monumental, two-story, windowed citadel whose base covers nearly 13.5 hectares (33 acres). This imposing edifice once housed the city's chief administrative center and perhaps a temple and a royal palace.

Finding the structure's façade was difficult enough, but locating an entrance took the team weeks of digging through clay packed hard by millennia of rain-wash.

In 2019, a team of Iranian and German archaeologists discovered remnants of a prehistorical settlement during a survey on an ancient hill in Jiroft. Senior Iranian archaeologist Nader Alidad-Soleymani and German Professor Peter Pfalzner co-led a comprehensive survey, which aimed

to record evidence about previously excavated sites in the counties of Jiroft, Kahnouj, Anbarabad, Faryab, Rudbar, Qalehganj, and Manujan.

The big and sprawling province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites, including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais and ruins of ancient urban areas. Kerman is bounded by the provinces of Fars in the west, Yazd in the north, South Khorasan in the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan in the east, and Hormozgan in the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

Kerman (the capital city) was probably initiated by the Sassanid king Ardashir I (reigned 224-241 CE). Under the Safavids, who took control in 1501, it came to be known as Kerman and was made the capital of the province. The city was sacked by the Uzbeks in 1509 but was quickly rebuilt. Declining Safavid power in the 17th and early 18th centuries allowed Kerman to be attacked and occupied by Afghan tribesmen in 1720.

Ardabil to host intl. tourism events

TEHRAN – The northwestern province of Ardabil is scheduled to host two international tourism events during 2023, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Two international events will be held in Ardabil province in 2023 with the participation of ambassadors and tourism ministers of ECO member countries, Hassan Mohammadi Adib explained on Tuesday.

ECO member ambassadors will gather in Ardabil before the Iranian new year in March for the first international event, he added.

In this event, some ECO's upcoming plans will

be reviewed, which is an excellent time for Ardabil to prepare for the second event of the tourism ministers' meeting, he noted.

During these events, the participants will tour the province and its tourist attractions with media teams and members of several international tourism organizations, he stated.

In 2019, Ardabil along with Sari, the capital of Mazandaran province, was selected as the cultural capitals of the Economic Cooperation Organization for 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Last April, the tourism authorities of the province announced that they have developed

extensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

The province is freezing in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

World Braille Day: opening up written world to the blind

TEHRAN – To raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of human rights for blind and partially sighted people, World Braille Day, celebrated since 2019, is observed annually on January 4.

Even under normal circumstances, persons with disabilities—one billion people worldwide—are less likely to access health care, education, employment and to participate in the community.

They are more likely to live in poverty, experience higher rates of violence, neglect, and abuse, and are among the most marginalized in any crisis-affected community.

For the visually impaired, life under lockdown has posed several issues in terms of independence and isolation, especially for people who rely on the use of touch to communicate their needs and access information.

The pandemic has revealed how critically important it is to produce essential information in accessible formats, including in Braille and audible formats.

In Iran, October 16 is called White Cane Day. The white cane is a symbol that shows the index of the social life of visually impaired citizens and contributes to the indepen-



dence of the blind.

According to a report by the World Health Organization, there are currently 284 million people in the world who are visually impaired, and 39 million people are blind.

It is estimated that there are about 150,000 blind people in Iran and about 800,000 Iranians have some degree of visual impairment.

Braille History

The term 'Braille' was dubbed after its creator. Louis Braille was a Frenchman who lost his eyesight as a child when he accidentally stabbed himself in the eye with his father's awl.

From the age of 10, he spent time at the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in France, where he formulated and perfected the system of raised dots that eventually became known as Braille.

Braille completed his work, developing a code based on cells with six dots, making it possible for a fingertip to feel the entire cell unit with one touch and moving quickly from one cell to the next.

Eventually, Braille slowly came to be accepted throughout the world as the main form of written information for blind people.

Unfortunately, Braille didn't have

the opportunity to see how useful his invention had become. He passed away in 1852, two years before the Royal Institute began teaching Braille.

Braille's marvelous aid that opened up a world of accessibility to the blind and visually impaired was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

In November 2018, January 4 was declared World Braille Day. The first-ever World Braille Day was commemorated the following year and it was celebrated as an international holiday.

Blindness is not a failure

Abu Abd Allah Ja'far ibn Muhammad Rudaki, better known as Rudaki, was a Persian poet regarded as the first great literary genius of the Modern Persian language.

Born in 859 in Rudak (Khorasan), Rudaki is one of the people who have proved in practice that blindness is not a failure and the end of life. He composed poems in the modern Persian alphabet and is considered a founder of classical Persian literature.

As it seems, Rudaki was the first person to combine different roles that were yet distinguishable entities in the 9th-century royal court: musician, poet, declaimer/reciter, and copyist.

3,000 prisoners freed, 16 death penalties abolished

TEHRAN – Some 3,000 prisoners were released and 16 sentenced to death were also freed from the death penalty on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of General Qassem Soleimani.

In each province, at least 63 prisoners benefited from freedom, and legal reconciliation was also included in the case of a number of prisoners, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Soleimani, the IRGC Quds Force commander, was martyred in a U.S. terrorist assault in Baghdad on January 3, 2020.

Inmates freed last year

Iranian benefactors helped release a total of 7,596 inmates of involuntary crimes across

the country over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2021-March 2022).

Last year, a total of 34 trillion rials (nearly \$85 million) was donated to pay the debt of the released prisoners.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan. Last year, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei donated 5 billion rials (about \$12,000).

Meanwhile, heads of the three branches of the government and the private sector donated 6.5 billion rials (nearly \$16,000) to release prisoners who had committed involuntary crimes.



Former President Hassan Rouhani, former Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, and former Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi made a total of 3.9 billion rials (around \$10,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes.

Six national plans approved on women, families

From page 1 ► Four other proposed plans in the fields of reducing the damage of divorce with the help of counseling for new couples, a women's employment system, a comprehensive statistical system of women and families, and the formation of women's working groups, health, and security were also approved.

Counseling for the first year of life for couples is free. This project will be piloted in five provinces with high divorce rates in the first year of its implementation.

President Ebrahim Raisi in a meeting with members of the National Headquarters for Women and Family Affairs said the plans are mainly aimed at decision-making, and emphasizing the need for using people's capacities and non-governmental organizations.



Iranian women's achievements

The Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs has released a report on the achievements of women after the 1979 Islamic Revolution in 7 areas of "education", "health", "employment and entrepreneurship", "media", "sports", "decision-making", and "environment, climate, and crises".

In the field of education, the share of women in university faculty members has increased by 33.3 percent, and in medical sciences universities by 34 percent. Also, the number of

female students in the country's universities has increased by 56 percent, according to the report.

Also, illiteracy among women and girls has been nearly eradicated as the literacy rate reached 99.3 percent and the ratio of female to male students has increased by 28 percent.

The report also says that after the Islamic Revolution until the past Iranian calendar year (March 2021-March 2022), more than 9,500 female authors and 840 female publishers were active in the country.

In the field of employment and entrepreneurship, 4,200 rural women's credit funds have been operating. Also, 2,390 women work as members of the board of directors of knowledge-based companies.

According to this report, there are 16,111 sports clubs for women in

the country, and 3,302 medals have been won by female athletes in recent world events.

Moreover, 70 women have been presidents of sports committees at the provincial level, and 51 women have been presidents and heads of sports federations. Also, 88,366 women referees have participated in national and international competitions, and Iranian women have worked in 97 international seats in world sports federations.

In the field of media, the participation rate of women in the field of information technology has reached 5.31 percent, 903 women filmmakers have worked in the field of cinema and 2000 women specialists have worked behind the scenes.

Also, 114 national awards and 128 international awards have been won by female filmmakers in prominent festivals.

Webinar held on expanding health services in Africa

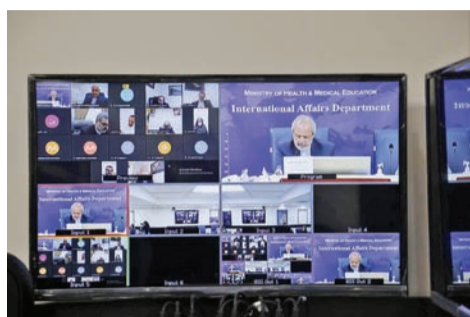
TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health held a webinar on Tuesday, aiming to find ways to expand health services in Africa.

The expansion of relations with Africa is one of the priorities of the administration, said Mohammad Hossein Nicknam, the deputy health minister for international affairs.

Officials from ministries of health and foreign affairs, the Red Crescent Society, the Blood Transfusion Organization, as well as ambassadors to African countries, attended the online meeting.

It was decided that a committee comprised of sectors that are involved in healthcare cooperation with Africa be set up in order to follow up on the issue, Nicknam highlighted.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society has so far launched medical treatment centers in seven African countries namely Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Mali, and Niger.



Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said in April that the country was exporting domestically-made vaccines for coronavirus to ten African countries.

The vice president of the Iran-Africa Merchants Club, Ruhollah Latifi, said Iran's export to Africa rose 36 percent in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21, 2022), compared to the same period in the preceding year.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 33

This study should cover the hydrology of the system, its limnology and chemical composition, the ecological and economical effects of fish introduction, waterfowl studies, effects of grazing and fishing, effects of harvesting of reeds and other vegetation, and include an environmental impact assessment of the new asphalt road that has been built.

Current scientific research

The Ornithology Unit of the Department of the Environment has carried out annual mid-winter censuses since 1970, and breeding season surveys have been undertaken on several occasions.

During the mid-1980s a major ecological study of the wetlands of the Sistan Basin was undertaken by a group of experts from Tehran University. More recently, the Department of the Environment has embarked upon a study of the wetlands, as a part of its nation-wide inventory of wetlands.

A Government Committee has been established to coordinate studies and centralise the collection of information. Visiting researchers can be accommodated at the Department of the Environment's office in Zabol.

Kanibarazan Wetland

Kanibarazan Wetland is located in the northwestern West Azarbaijan Province and consists of a freshwater lake surrounded by diverse plant communities.

The site is located to the south of Lake Urmia, and is surrounded by seasonal wetlands which become dry during summer and autumn.

The Kanibarazan Wetland is one of the most important habitats for waterbirds in the region, supporting more than twenty thousand birds with more than one hundred and forty-four bird species recorded at this site, including a number of important species such as the endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).

The site provides critical staging/feeding and breeding habitat for waterbirds all year around. In addition, the Cyprinid fish, *Acanth-*

alburnus urmianus which is endemic to the I.R. Iran, is also found here.

Kanibarazan Wetland was initially a seasonal wetland, originally fed by water from surrounding springs and run off from agricultural land.

Drainage canals now supply water to the site throughout the year, making it a permanent wetland. In future, if water is diverted from the site, this would affect plant and animal communities which have become established here.

This site is important for water purification and water storage, it also prevents salt water from intruding into upstream areas.

Locals use the area for harvesting straw, fish, and for livestock grazing. The local Mahabad Office of Department of Environment and the Department of Environment General Office of West Azarbaijan Province is responsible for managing this site.

General location

Kanibarazan Wetland is located in the north-west region of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the southern part of West Azarbaijan Province.

It is located 30 km to the north of Mahabad City and south of Urmia Lake. The villages of Gharedagh, Khorkhore, Golhassan and Befrahan are respectively 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 3.5 km from Kanibarazan Wetland.

General overview

Kanibarazan is a permanent, shallow freshwater with diverse vegetation communities. This wetland has a wide variety of habitats with extensive plant communities.

It is an important staging/feeding and breeding habitat for waterbirds. As more than 144 species of birds have been identified in this wetland, it has been named West Azarbaijan Province 'Bird's Paradise'.

It is important internationally for feeding, resting and breeding of different waterfowl. It receives nutrient water from surrounding agricultural land and is biologically productive with rich plankton and benthic invertebrate populations.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JANUARY 3

New cases	119
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,561,428
Total deaths	144,696
New hospitalized patients	69
Patients in critical condition	121
Total recovered patients	7,336,258
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,787,434
Doses of vaccine injected	155,159,672

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: Iranian expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, it is possible to detect the new coronavirus in Iran. All British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test, while so far no case has been confirmed in the country, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند.

مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید ۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کروموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.

به گفته او، امکان تشخیص ویروس کرونا جهش یافته در ایران وجود دارد. از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «بی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود و تاکنون موردی از این ویروس در ایران تایید نشده است.

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JANUARY 4, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The one who gets married has completed half of his/her religion.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times» Noon:12:09 Evening: 17:24 Dawn: 5:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:15 (tomorrow)

Architecture: Iran, after World War II

Part 2

These houses were mainly built of brick and adobe by local masons known as me'mars. Interiors were traditionally without furniture and oriented principally to seating on a carpeted ground; the rooms accommodated the multiple activities of sleeping, eating, study, and entertainment.

Environment allowed much use of the courtyard as an outdoor private room; this was encouraged by the excellent passive solar design capabilities of the traditional house.

As a corollary, the compact grouping of houses in clusters indicative of social units, and their organization into pedestrian-oriented urban precincts known as mahallehs, typified traditional housing and community patterns.

At the center of these precincts could be found a mosque, a bathhouse (hammam), a market, and at times, a place of local religious ritual gathering, such as a tekyeh.

During the first period of renewed encounter with the West, this basic building block of the urban settlement was transformed. Though the courtyard house remained the most affordable and popular type of housing, its key inner workings began to be seriously altered.

The introduction of furniture to many homes after World War II and the resultant need for single function rooms, such as dining rooms and reception rooms, had direct and lasting impact on basic house design.

The initial response of the more urbane, who were at the forefront of this change, was to create a two part division in the house: The "furnished" zone was reserved for the guest or the foreign visitor, while the carpet oriented traditional lifestyle zone remained for informal family gatherings and for women's and children's private activity.

Additionally, with increased urbanization, two European house types that had been first introduced to Tehran in the 1930s—walk up apartments and row houses aligned to the new orthogonal, vehicular streets—became established as integral parts of the contemporary city.

Those who could afford it, of course, escaped the growing downtowns and built in the suburb "paradise lost" villas that imitated 19th-century Qajar palaces and were set in gardens or baghs of various sizes.

Residential buildings for the upper income groups cultivated a "Qajar Modern" style, which represented an eclectic tendency toward integration of the past and the present that was not always architecturally successful.

The most direct encounter of most Iranians with Western esthetic symbols was through roads, bridges, and such products as cars, radios, refrigerators, and telephones, and most pervasively, through Hollywood movies.

The idea and image of a Western way of life with its associated technology were firmly established by the late 1950s, when the emulation of this lifestyle was prevalent in most urban settlements of Iran.

Iranians lacked the resources for its authentic attainment, but there was very little question that the urban elite and the ruling hierarchy had set their full attention on overcoming this apparent discrepancy between goals and present means.

Period II, 1963-1973

While the first phase, dominated by infrastructure and by monuments reflecting the national need for a renewed sense of

cultural identity, had yielded no outstanding public structure nor any significant town planning, it did establish a sense of stability.

At the time, the country was entering a period of new prosperity. Trade of Iranian oil for foreign goods and services had become established, and tourism was developing as a major industry, with both foreign and domestic tourism growing annually.

Organizationally, the country had settled down to a working bureaucracy. The third development plan (1963-68) began to provide adequate support for the building of educational and health care facilities, and during the fourth plan (1968-73), new urban settlements were begun and existing urban centers upgraded.

New master plans and large-scale public building programs became a basis of public policy. In the mid-1960s, the return to Iran of the first wave of post-World War II foreign trained professional architects and engineers had direct impact on national planning and local construction capability.

At the same time, the dominant cultural force in Iranian schools of architecture and engineering shifted from French domination to an Anglo American bias with some Italian influence.

Dariush Mirfendereski and Mehdi Kowsar, both Italian-trained Iranian architects, served as successive deans of the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Tehran. Meanwhile, the School of Architecture at the National University, also in Tehran, was founded.

Iranian professionals, foreign educated or newly trained in Iran, lacked information on the indigenous architectural heritage and traditional building technology.

What little scholarship existed had been produced by foreign scholars, with all the inherent limitations of their orientalist and primarily archeological approach. (A major exception to this characterization was the monumental work of A. U. Pope and P. Ackerman, whose Survey of Persian Art, although first published in 1938, gained renewed impact by its reissuing in the early 1960s.)

In response to this need, documentation on authentically Iranian cultural values and belief systems began to proliferate, revealing the metaphoric nature of Persian expression in the visual, aural, and the literary arts.

While the first high rise apartment towers in the city centers of Iran were being built, traditional Persian music began to be government supported—by the Center for Traditional Music, associated with the Ministry of Culture—and was once again appreciated by ever wider circles.

In architecture, the traditional buff-colored brick (originally a square of approximately 24 cm, 4 cm high, now with Western standard dimensions of 20 by 7.5 by 10 cm) began to regain its legitimate place among Iranian building materials, while the arch, vault, dome, and the rest of the traditional architectural vocabulary were on occasion used to house extremely contemporary functions.

Thus the Iran Center for Management Studies founded by H. Lajevardi and designed by N. Ardalan was conceived in the traditional architectonic language of the madrasa, yet housed a contemporary Harvard University program of business management education.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

French edition of Ghadir Sermon annotated

TEHRAN – A French translation of the Ghadir Sermon, in which the Prophet Muhammad (S) appointed Imam Ali (AS) as his successor, has been annotated at the Central Library and Documentation Center of the University of Tehran.

The sermon was translated into French by Marzieh Mehrabi, a professor of the Department of French Language and Literature at the University of Tehran, library director Fatemeh Saqafi said in a press release published on Tuesday.

The annotated versions of the Arabic and Persian editions of the sermon were launched in a special meeting at the University of Tehran last year on July 17, the eve of Eid al-Ghadir, the day on which Imam Ali (AS) was appointed as successor to the Prophet of Islam (S).

"Following the launch of the annotated versions of the Arabic and Persian editions of the sermon, the library sought to annotate the renditions of the Ghadir Sermon in the different languages," Saqafi said.

"To provide an accurate translation, we need to conduct in-depth research on the text; in addition, an audio version must be recorded in a clear voice for the visually impaired," she added.

The sermon has recently

A file photo shows UT dean Mohammad Moqimi and UT Central Library and Documentation Center director Fatemeh Saqafi unveiling annotated versions of the Arabic and Persian editions of the Ghadir Sermon on July 17, 2022. (UT)

been translated into Italian by Mohammad-Hossein Ramezan-Kiai and it will be annotated in the near future.

She said the library has produced new English and Italian translations of the Ghadir Sermon, which will soon be annotated.

The library also has plans to provide Spanish, German, Japanese, Russian and Chinese translations of the sermon.

On the way back home from Hajj in 632, which is known as the Farewell Pilgrimage, the Prophet Muhammad (S) asked for a stop in a region called Ghadir Khum, where he gave what was to be his last sermon, in which he announced the appointment of his cousin Ali (AS) as his successor and first Imam

Iranian shorts line up for Indian folklore film festival

"Gilgamesh" by Iranian director Hossein Moradizadeh.

From Page 1 ► The film shows how Gilgamesh failed in his sustained striving to obtain immortality. However, he finds a plant with the power of rejuvenation that can help restore

TEHRAN – "Ask the Dust," a novel by John Fante, has been published in Persian by Ofoq.

Originally published in 1939, the book has been translated by Hassan Shekari who has previously rendered Fante's novels "Dreams from Bunker Hill" and "Wait Until Spring, Bandini" for Persian readers.

"Ask the Dust" is a virtuoso performance by an influential master of the twentieth-century American novel. It is the story of Arturo Bandini, a young Italian-American writer in 1930s Los Angeles who falls hard for the elusive, mocking, unstable Camilla

Front cover of the Persian edition of John Fante's novel 'Ask the Dust'.

Ebrahim in the Fire

for the book, I ultimately decided on the title "Ebrahim in the Fire" based on the dream I had about him.

*** What time frame in his life are the memories in the book about?**

The book includes the biography of the martyr from childhood to martyrdom, where part of the book is dedicated to the quotes of the martyr's wife and others to the quotes of the family, friends and colleagues of the martyr. The bitter and sweet moments of a young couple's life are depicted in this book so that the audience can learn about the lifestyle of this young couple by reading it.

*** How did you record the discussions and match them to the existing documents?**

The interviews were conducted by two other women and me. The work was a little challenging given that we had to travel to another province to conduct the interview, so we did our best to record the interviews, prepare a questionnaire, and send it to his friends and other family members. This work was completed in less than six months thanks to the helpful cooperation of his family, his wife, and friends. After finishing the book's contents, we forwarded it to the martyr's family for

services and a high number of inhabitants with problems of blindness and intellectual disability, they love their land and struggle to survive in the village of their ancestors.

The lineup also features "Kefsan" by Akbar Shahbazi. Kefsan is a young Kurdish woman whose husband Rahman was shot at the border by the border patrol while carrying cargo, and his spinal cord was severed from the neck. Kefsan decides to carry the next cargo on his behalf in order to get paid for their survival.

Directed by Soheila Purmohammadi, "The Savior" is competing in the festival. At an early age, a little girl is responsible and has to help her father with fishing because of the death of her mother. However, she has other plans for the fish.

Lopez, a Mexican waitress.

Struggling to survive, he perseveres until at last, his first novel is published. But the bright light of success is extinguished when Camilla has a nervous breakdown and disappears... and Bandini forever rejects the writer's life he fought so hard to attain.

Fante's early years were spent in relative poverty. The son of an Italian-born father, Nicola Fante, and an Italian-American mother, Mary Capolungo, Fante was educated in various Catholic schools in Boulder and Denver, Colorado, and briefly attended the University of Colorado.

In 1929, he dropped out of college and moved to Southern California to concentrate on his writing. He lived and worked in Wilmington, Long Beach, and in the Bunker Hill district of downtown Los Angeles, California.

He is known to be one of the first writers to portray the tough times faced by many writers in L.A. His work and style have influenced such similar authors as "Poet Laureate of Skid Row" Charles Bukowski and influential beat generation writer Jack Kerouac.

He was proclaimed by Time Out magazine as one of America's "criminally neglected writers."

approval, and they did.

*** What message is the book trying to convey to the younger generation?**

Martyr Sayyadi had a positive attitude toward life and held the belief that "A healthy soul exists in a healthy body." He valued sports greatly because of this, and because he lived in a village, he frequently gathered young people to play football and other sports.