

- Iran exhibits two homegrown satellites **P2**
- Iran rejects allegations of violating Iraqi sovereignty **P3**
- 1,191 idle production units revived since last March **P4**
- Annual non-oil export anticipated to hit \$52b by late March **P4**
- Tehran tourism fair opens doors to public **P6**
- Tourism projects come on stream in Tehran **P6**
- Iranian articles on traditional medicine surge in 15 years **P7**
- Free-of-charge tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment for all **P7**
- Iranian children's drawings of favorite foods awarded at Japan Ie-no-Hikari contest **P8**
- "I Want to See Mioussov" at Tehran theater **P8**

Tehran Papers

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

Innovative diplomacy in America's backyard

In an in the Iran newspaper, Reza Nazar-Ahari, adviser to the foreign minister, points to Tehran's relations with Latin America and the recent visit by Amir Abdollahian to the region and writes: **► Page 2**

Report

NATO wants anything except peace in Ukraine

TEHRAN- If NATO actually wanted a cease-fire in Ukraine, there were simple solutions to end the conflict.

The U.S.-led military alliance wants to drag the war out as long as possible to contain Russia's rising economic, military and global standing.

Washington doesn't like competition even if that competition doesn't harm its national security interests or territorial integrity. **► Page 5**

Raisi says revolution and its accomplishments belong to all Iranians

TEHRAN- President Ebrahim Raisi has said that the Islamic Revolution and its achievements belong to all Iranians of all nationalities and religions.

At a gathering of monotheistic religions on Monday evening to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the triumph of the glorious Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Raisi said, "The days of Fajr celebration are a reminder for all of us of the tremendous accomplishments of the Iranian country." **► Page 2**

Extremely Unreliable

7 lessons from the INSTEX hoax

By Soheil Zarfam

TEHRAN – In what marked the end of a protracted era of deceit, a European company set up to mitigate the impact of U.S. economic sanctions was dismantled quietly after failing to achieve its goals.

The company, officially known as the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), was liquidated at the end of January this year after being dormant for a long period of time.

The controversial history of INSTEX date back to the heady days of 2019 when France, Germany, and the UK – collectively known as the E3-, were trying to rein in a Trump administration bent on dismantling the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA), through blanket economic sanctions that ran counter to the lofty promises envisioned in the terms of the JCPOA.

In May of 2018, then-U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal, reimposing sweeping economic sanctions against Iran with the aim of choking off its economy. That flagrantly violated the JCPOA and elicited strong criticism from Iran, which lambasted the E3 parties for their inaction. In order to address Iran's grievances, the E3 came up with the idea of INSTEX. Thus began the story of a mechanism that miserably failed in fulfilling its mandate.

At some point, INSTEX was thought to be used for facilitating Iran's oil sales and the flow of oil revenues into the country. Despite extensive talks in this regard, INSTEX proved ineffective. **► Page 3**

Death toll rises above 5,200 after Turkey, Syria earthquakes

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has declared seven days of national mourning, and Syria has appealed to the United Nations for help following devastating earthquakes that killed more than 5,200 people and toppled buildings across southeast Turkey and northern Syria.

Authorities fear the death toll from Monday's predawn magnitude 7.8 temblor, followed by a magnitude 7.6 earthquake and several aftershocks will continue to **► Page 5**

Opinion

Thanks a lot for not doing well Mr. Queiroz

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Honestly, Carlos Queiroz was one of the reasons of Iran's failure in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. However, the football federation of the country has thanked him for what he has done during his tenure in Iran's football. **► Page 3**

Leader representative visits quake-hit Khoy

TEHRAN- An envoy of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution visited the earthquake-stricken villages in Khoy county to monitor the ongoing measures.

Hojatolislam Abdolhossein Moezzi, the Leader's representative, visited Khoy in the wake of the

5.9-magnitude earthquake that struck the city on January 28.

He toured the earthquake-ravaged city to discover about the difficulties and challenges that exist.

About 80 villages suffered damages in the quake.

Health indices significantly improved after Islamic Revolution

TEHRAN – All the indicators of health and treatment have made significant progress after the Islamic Revolution, and now Iran is one of the leading countries in this field, the deputy health minister has said.

Health is one of the areas that got a good jump after the Islamic Revolution, ISNA quoted Saeed Karimi as saying.

A peek into some of Tehran's most stunning buildings

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Embracing the lower slopes of the glorious, snowcapped Alborz Mountains, Tehran is the dynamic beating heart of the country and the best place to understand modern Iran and what its likely future holds.

You can travel through more than 250

years of Iranian history by exploring this fascinating city, from the glittering palaces and the vaulted bazaars to the lovely Azadi Tower and former U.S. embassy, to name a few.

Furthermore, you can unwind and take in all that Tehran has to offer at one of the city's many top-notch museums. **► Page 6**

Tehran hosts intl. conference on Iran's rail transport capacities

TEHRAN- The international conference to recognize the capacities and potentials of rail transport of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held in Tehran with the participation of Uzbekistan, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, IRIB

reported on Tuesday.

As reported, the conference was aimed at making Iran's international rail transport capacities more known, especially the advantages of international rail corridors passing through Iran. **► Page 4**



© Ministry of Defence

Iranian Air Force unveils first underground base

TEHRAN- The Iranian Army on Tuesday unveiled "Oqab 44" (Eagle 44), its first subterranean air force facility, which can receive and control a variety of fighter planes, bombers, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of the Air Force.

Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, and Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief Commander of the Iranian Army, visited the underground base.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Innovative diplomacy in America's backyard

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

from page 1 ► “The Iranian foreign minister's trip was with a political and economic agenda, and was made to countries that have the most areas for interaction.

These countries see Iran as a country that has continued its way under the U.S. sanctions and has not surrendered.

They want to establish all-round ties, whether commercial, scientific, economic, etc.

On the other hand, they consider Iran as a big market for their goods and products.

In the end, the author advises the government to use the ‘golden opportunity’ that this region has provided to Iran and to support the private sector to take advantage of these opportunities.

Etela'at: Al-Sudani under pressure of political crises in Iraq

From the day that Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani took office in Iraq, the majority in Iran believed that he supports Tehran, Etela'at wrote.

But after the Persian Gulf Nations Cup was held in Basra with its fake name “The 25th Arabian Gulf Cup” and the Iraqi authorities used a fake name, criticisms started to pour in.

Ever since he came to power, al-Sudani has made serious efforts to maintain close relations between Tehran and Baghdad, but he has two problems: Muqtada Al-Sadr and the United States.

The United States is currently tolerating and assessing Al-Sudani, and the U.S. Treasury is monitoring the use of dollars in Iraq.

Referring to al-Sudani's diplomatic efforts to counter the crisis in the region, the daily writes: The Prime Minister of Iraq is in a critical stage, and that is why the “The Coordination Framework” (the main body backing al-Sudani) supports his policies.

Arman-e Melli: West knows that Iran will not surrender

Writing an article in Arman-e-Melli titled “West knows that Iran will not surrender”, former Iranian ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchian says: In the international arena, the West always deals with political issues of countries with a double standard. It has adopted the same policy against Iran. On the one hand, it threatens Iran and on the other, it is trying to show Iran a green light.

In the JCPOA, Iran showed that it wants to cooperate widely with the international community in a win-win situation, but the West did not fulfill its obligations with its hypocritical policy and violated the agreement.

This is while the Islamic Republic has proven that it never compromises its national interests under pressure and is not willing to give concessions or even negotiate under pressure.

If the West agrees to enter into negotiations in such a framework, there is a possibility of an agreement, but if the West wants to talk like a bully again, Iran will not negotiate with the West.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Borrell, a diplomat with double standards

Siasat-e-Rooz writes: Josep Borrell's recent statements show that ambiguities surround his honesty. On the one hand, he talks about reviving the JCPOA and on the other, he lashes out at the critics.

If Borrell really wants to revive the JCPOA, instead of accusing Iran, he should try to change Europe's behavior so that the union will stop playing on America's court and put pressure on Washington to provided answers to Tehran's rightful questions.

Borrell also interferes in Iran's internal affairs, and without providing any documents he accuses Iran of selling missiles and drones to Russia in its war against Ukraine.

If Borrell is really a man of diplomacy, he should pressure Ukraine to provide documents, rather than making the same claims against Tehran during his trip to Kyiv.

Quds: Public diplomacy opportunities and priorities

“Public diplomacy of opportunities and priorities” is the title of a commentary by the Quds daily. The news outlet mentions the recent unrest in Iran and holding of the congress of “Women of Influence” and writes: So far, no event has been as effective as the meeting of Women of Influence in public diplomacy and foreign policy.

The fact is that formal and official diplomacy without public diplomacy is like a bird with one wing.

The media war during the recent months was artificially focused on women and the holding of the conference was very important.

The women's conference was the first of its kind in public diplomacy and related to Iranian women. This is appreciable.

Although it was held very late, the policy must continue so that the world becomes aware of the way women in Iran participate in social affairs. In return, other countries should know that the rights of Iranian women should be respected with their ideological characters and deep history.

Ham-Mihan: Musharraf was against Iran's nuclear program

The most critical time of Iran-Pakistan relations was when Pervez Musharraf was in power in Pakistan, Ham-Mihan writes.

At that time, Pakistan was really a one-man government without any democratic order. Pakistan was a complete dictatorship at that time.

When Musharraf was ruling Pakistan, two presidents were in power in Iran: Mohammad Khatami and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He tried hard to persuade Iran to abandon its nuclear program by consulting with Tehran. Also, he repeatedly sent Pakistani officials to meet with Iranians and Americans.

Finally, in February 2007, Musharraf himself traveled to Tehran and in a meeting with Ahmadinejad and he openly expressed his concern about the confrontation between Iran and the West and called Tehran to prevent it.

There's high demand for Iranian-made defensive gears: top commander



TEHRAN- Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, said on Tuesday there is a rising demand for Iranian-made military hardware across the world.

During a visit to the mausoleum of the late Islamic Republic founder on in south of Teh-

ran, General Bagheri stated that Iran's defense might and deterrence capabilities have increased to the point where more than 90% of the military equipment are produced domestically.

The commander also mentioned how more and more nations have expressed interest in buying Iranian military armament.

“The Armed Force continue to keep a close eye on the situation and improve their preparation while Iran's defensive deterrence hinders the threats and hazards from being carried out,” he added.

The commander went on to emphasize the strength of the resistance front against the Zionist regime, which he asserted was in a downward spiral.

The Zionist regime makes periodic rhetorical threats, but it is aware that it lacks the means to carry them out and is surrounded by the axis of resistance, according to the commander.

Raisi says revolution and its accomplishments belong to all Iranians

from page 1 ► All successes and great achievements made by the Iranian nation in various fields after the victory of the Islamic Revolution also belong to the great nation of Iran, the president underlined.

“The Sacred Defense is one of the beautiful and glorious manifestations of the Iranian nation's steadfastness and vision, which all Iranian ethnicities and religions played a role in it... and have a share in this honor,” he added.

Sacred Defense refers to Iran's resistance against the invading Saddam Hussein Army in the 1980s.

Emphasized the need for national unity, the president said it is now more essential than ever.

“Cohesion and unity are the most important and most suitable platform for development in the country. Of course, unity and cohesion do not mean the negation of dialogue, rather it is a platform for the gathering of thinkers and exchange of their views and opinions with each other in line with the approximation of views.”

“Today, the enemies of the Islamic Revolution seek to inspire hopelessness and despair in the society,” he added.

Raisi went on to say, “It is clear to us all that Abrahamic religions are against atheism and disbelief, and the focus of all of them is worship of God, calling for morality and abandoning arrogance, mischief, cruelty, and corruption.”

Ayatollah Raisi also said the enemies do not want the Iranian nation to move towards “progress and a bright future” by seeking to sow discord among in



the society.

Raisi added, “The common point of all Abrahamic religions is to pay attention to God, pay attention to oneself and self-improvement, and take care of others. All Abrahamic religions condemn self-conceit and arrogance and condemn oppression and corruption.”

Ayatollah Raisi stated, “Today, in the eyes of the global arrogance, a ugly phenomenon that causes the end of the human race is introduced as an indicator of civilization, and Western governments introduce a civilized society that that homosexuality is prevalent. This is in conflict with all the teachings of Abrahamic religions and causes the human race to be cut off.”

The president emphasized that politics and spirituality are intertwined in Imam Khomeini's political philosophy by saying that “politics without God has brought great calamities to humanity, such as seventy years of Palestinian oppression, the cre-

ation of nuclear warheads, and the oppression and conquests that the human society is suffering today.”

Raisi said, “Human society should recognize that excluding God from political calculations would not lead to prosperity, but rather to tyranny and the loss of human rights.”

“Iran's Islamic Revolution seeks to build a society where people believe in God and are free from oppression,” the president said, adding, “Our honorable Imam Khomeini raised a flag called the administration of justice 44 years ago in order to build a society that would cultivate justice-seekers who would be the first implementers of justice.”

“What is required for our society today is to have a review of what should have been done and what has been done, and strive to eradicate the shortcomings and inadequacies and improve the strengths to establish a strong Iran,” Raisi remarked.

Iran exhibits two homegrown satellites

TEHRAN- In a ceremony attended by a number of senior officials, the Islamic Republic of Iran unveiled two domestically built communications and imaging satellites.

In honor of Iran's National Day of Space, two technical breakthroughs—dubbed Nahid-2 (Venus-2) and Tolou-3 (Sunrise-3) were displayed at a ceremony on Tuesday in Tehran, the country's capital.

The Space Research Center produced the communication satellite Nahid-2 at the request of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA).

It is expected to have a life span of at least two years and will be rotating in a circular orbit 500 kilometers above the surface of the planet.

Nahid-2 will carry out several communications tasks, including secure data transfer and storage as well as concurrent telephone calls.

Raisi holds talks to his Syrian, Turkish counterparts over the quake

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi held two separate phone conversations with his Syrian and Turkish counterparts, Bashar al-Assad and Recep Tayyip Erdogan respectively, on Tuesday.

Raisi expressed condolences for the death of a sizeable number of Syrian and Turkish citizens in the massive earthquake during the calls.

He offered sympathy over the

heartbreaking earthquake, which has left hundreds of people killed and numerous others injured in Turkey and Syria.

At the separate calls, President Raisi expressed Tehran's willingness to provide both neighboring states with emergency aid.

Both Syrian and Turkish presidents expressed gratitude to Iran over its assistance and sympathy.

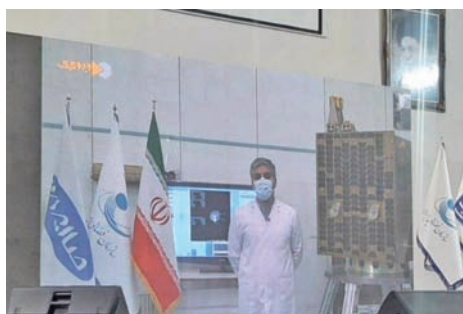
FM vows to help quake-hit Syria, Turkey

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, on Monday reassured his Turkish and Syrian counterparts that Iran will support the two Muslim countries following a horrific earthquake that has claimed thousands of lives.

The senior diplomat expressed sympathy to the government and people of Syria over the devastating earthquake in a phone call with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad.

He declared that Iran is prepared to provide humanitarian aid to Syria.

In a separate phone call with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Amir Abdollahian underlined that “Iran stands with the Turkish people and government in this challenging moment.”



The satellite has already successfully completed all of its testing and is prepared for flight.

ISA ordered the Tolou-3 satellite, an imaging satellite. It was made by the Iran Electronics Industries.

Tolou-3 is thought to be the heaviest satellite made in Iran, weighing 150 kg.



He went on to say, “Based on the directives by the esteemed president, the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready for full cooperation with you and for delivery of the required assistance.”

The president went on to say that nowadays there are obvious signs that Iran's advancement has “enraged the adversary”.

“The enemy realizes that any schemes it makes will fail. These are not our words, but rather the enemy's and American leaders' disgraceful acknowledgment that their maximum pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic failed miserably,” he said.

By utilizing its diverse skills and abilities, Iran may attain self-sufficiency in a variety of disciplines, the president underscored, adding that “Islamic Iran can reach the heights of glory by harnessing the many talents it possesses.”

“This country has great material and spiritual resources, which should be actualized through effective administration,” Raisi continued.

He highlighted that “it is premised on such a progressive and valuable view that when we hear that people have been impacted by earthquakes and natural disasters near the border between Turkey and Syria, it is as if we have also suffered from this accident and problem, and we cannot be without concern and feel responsible for them.”

Raisi concluded that Imam Khomeini's (RA) ideology cultivates a person's capacity for social interaction, saying, “If martyr Haj Qassem Soleimani did not suffer from the agonies of others, why should he be martyred in Iraq? He went to save the people of Iraq and the whole region from the Takfiri terrorism that had nothing to do with religion but committed crimes in the name of religion.”

Black-and-white photos with a five-meter spatial resolution may be taken with Tolou-3. In color mode, it has a 10-meter resolution as well.

The satellite is anticipated to be launched into an orbit 500 kilometers above the Earth and depends largely on machinery and tools made by Iranian knowledge-based firms.

In 2009, Iran launched its first satellite, Omid (Hope), then in 2011, Rasad (Observation) was placed into orbit.

The Islamic Republic successfully launched Navid (Promise), its third homegrown satellite, into orbit in 2012.

Iran declared the successful launch of its first military satellite into orbit in April 2020.

It also launched a second military satellite into orbit in March 2022.

Extremely Unreliable

7 lessons from the INSTEX hoax

From Page 1 ► But the failure of the mechanism is indicative of many points:

1- The sad end of INSTEX indicated how Europe is incapable of ensuring its own interests. At the end of the day, the ill-fated mechanism was part of a broad plan to ensure European interests independently from American influence.

2- The INSTEX experiment showed Europe's skewed aims vis-à-vis Iran. This wickedness was further amplified during the recent wave of unrest that gripped Iran since last September.

3- INSTEX was another indication that Europe is not reliable.

4- INSTEX showed in no uncertain terms that Europe and the U.S. are on the same page when it comes to Iran.

5- INSTEX was a bitter, yet useful, reminder that Iran's economic hardships can only be resolved by relying on domestic resources and capabilities. Therefore, any reliance on foreign countries to improve the internal situation is doomed to fail.

6- The quiet end of INSTEX revealed how Europeans often bamboozle public opinion. INSTEX was announced with great fanfare. But its demise came about very quietly, which aims to shun any critical review of the history of the mechanism.

7- Last but not least, INSTEX revealed Europe's modus operandi with regard to managing Iranian public opinion. When INSTEX was rolled out, the Europeans and their like-minded people in Iran launched massive propaganda with the aim of swindling Iranian public opinion.

INSTEX has now gone but the European inaction toward the Trump administration's destructive policies will go down in history as a bitter experience that will be remembered by Iranians for a long time. Of course, some in Iran were vigilant right from the start. "I don't trust these three countries [the E3] and I tell you 'Do not trust them,'" Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said shortly after the Trump administration



withdrew from the JCPOA.

Despite their failure in the INSTEX test, the Europeans continued their unconstructive approach toward Iran. And even worse, they never admitted that their lack of courage doomed the mechanism. In January 2021, Germany blamed the failure of INSTEX on Iran, something that drew a strong response from the Central Bank of Iran. The CBI said Europeans' lack of courage is the main cause behind the failure of this financial channel.

The CBI's response came after the German deputy foreign minister claimed that Iran was responsible for the failure of INSTEX because it did not agree to the terms of the deal. The CBI said in a statement on Twitter that INSTEX was designed to save the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action but it did not work because European governments weren't able to find a finance conduit and they didn't have enough courage to maintain their economic sovereignty.

INSTEX was supposed to shape trade relations between Iran and Europe independent of U.S. sanctions, not define it within the framework of sanctions, the statement added.

Back in December 2020, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, had said

that INSTEX has proved ineffective over the past two years.

"The system must have proven its efficiency after two years," he said, according to Press TV.

After Europe failed to protect Iran's interests under the JCPOA, Iran began to reduce its nuclear commitments on May 8, 2019 – exactly a year after President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the nuclear deal and imposed harsh sanctions on Iran.

In April 2021, Iran and the E3, together with the other parties to the JCPOA, began talks to revive the tattered deal. However, more than eight rounds of talks failed to bridge the gap. Iran said it made all the necessary decisions regarding the resuscitation of the nuclear deal but the West was unable to make such a decision.

Earlier this week, the European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, once again reiterated that the tattered nuclear deal is still alive and could be revived.

In an interview with the Chilean Columna Digital outlet, Borrell said the deal has come to a standstill but it is not dead yet. He lamented Trump's withdrawal from the Iran deal.

Responding to a question on whether the JCPOA is dead, he said, "No, it's up to me to try to keep it alive, but knowing and repeating every day that what is happening in

Iran makes it much more difficult."

This is the second time in less than two weeks that Borrell reiterates that the JCPOA is still alive. In late January, he said although there has been no progress in negotiations to resurrect the JCPOA, the deal is not "dead."

Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani has said Tehran is a claimant in talks on reviving the nuclear deal as the United States and the European countries have reneged on their commitments under the agreement.

Bagheri Kani, who also serves as deputy foreign minister for political affairs, said it was the United States and its European allies that should prove their commitment to the agreement and make up for their mistakes as soon as possible. He made the remarks during an interview with Press TV's Insight program on Saturday.

"As of now, we are the claimant and the other side are the Americans. They are the ones who should show their commitment in practice if they want to return to the JCPOA, as they say, and show their commitment to the agreement and the same goes for the Europeans. It is the Europeans who proved their non-adherence to our nation through various excuses during the period when the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA."

its international humanitarian law obligations.

In the meantime, during the aforementioned Security Council briefing, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Iraq and some Member States made reference to the Iraqi national football team's championship by using a fictitious and false name for the Persian Gulf. It should be noted that the name "Persian Gulf," which has been in use since antiquity, is the only name that accurately describes the body of water that lies between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula. Respect must be shown for this name, which is known and utilized by reputable cartography organizations. As a result, it is against established historical and geographical norms to use any false or fictitious name, even for a sporting event.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



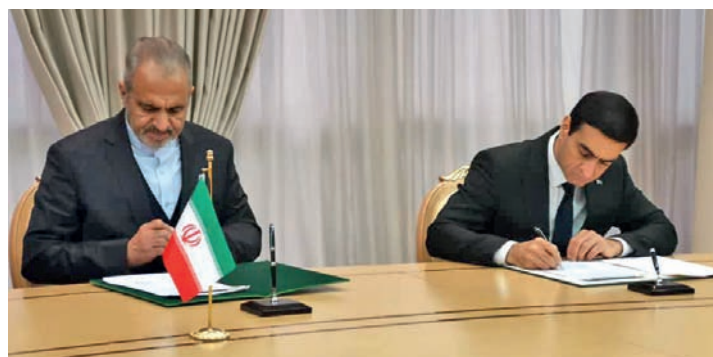
integrity from armed and terrorist attacks that were planned and backed by certain armed and terrorist groups based in the Iraqi Kurdistan region. The Islamic Republic of Iran acted in a manner that complied fully with international humanitarian law. Therefore, the assertion made against Iranian armed forces in paragraph 56 of the Secretary General's recent report on the implementation of resolution S/2023/68 in Iraq contained in document S/2023/68 is unfounded and is categorically rejected. The Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to

as border and customs cooperation.

At the end of the meeting, the heads of the two delegations also signed the memorandum of understanding of the joint consular, border and customs commission.

Meanwhile, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for consular, parliamentary and Iranians' affairs held a meeting with the Turkmen foreign minister, talking about bilateral and consular issues.

During the meeting, both sides expressed interest in improvement of bilateral ties and touched on cultural commonalities as a key yardstick in the relations between



the two nations.

During the trip to Ashgabat, Deputy Foreign Minister Bikdeli also visited the Bajgiran border market, office of the Iranian cultural

attaché in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan's memorial museum, the Iran Khodro Company's dealership and Bank Saderat Iran's branch in Turkmenistan.

IRAN IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Thanks a lot for not doing well Mr. Queiroz

From Page 1 ► At a glance, we found out his stint had not been helpful for Iran football in his nearly 10-year presence. He caused controversy with his actions and made many controversial decisions in Iran.

Queiroz was appointed as Team Melli coach in 2011 and led the Persians until 2019. He did relatively well in his early years and helped Iran qualify for the 2014 and 2018 World Cups. BUT he failed to book a place in the next stage.

Iran, under tutelage of Queiroz, played six matches in 2014 and 2018 and earned just one win and two draws and suffered three defeats.

It could be better.

With nearly eight years under his belt between 2011 and 2019, Queiroz was the Iran national team's longest-tenured manager and the only coach in Iranian history to have guided the squad to three straight World Cups.

Iran, as the best Asian team, failed to win a medal in the 2015 AFC Asian Cup and Queiroz was sacked as Team Melli coach for poor results in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, where his team were knocked out of the campaign after suffering a 3-0 loss against Japan.

Iran national football team's condition worsened under leadership of Belgian coach Marc Wilmots until Dragan Skocic took charge of the National Team and helped the team win a place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup as the first Asian team.

Iran had a bigger chance to advance to the 2022 World Cup knockout stage under leadership of Skocic but the federation changed the coaching staff just before the competition. Now, it thanks Queiroz for what he has not done in Qatar.

In Qatar, Queiroz had a chance to make history in his third World Cup with Iran.

England were favorites to win Group B but losing to the Three Lions with six goals was not acceptable.

Iran earned a late 2-0 win over 10-man Wales and would have advanced to the next stage with a draw against the U.S. but Queiroz's team lost 1-0.

As a fan of Iran football, I cannot thank him for what he has not done in our football.

IPL leaders Sepahan edge Foolad

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team defeated Foolad 1-0 in Matchweek 19 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Tuesday.

In the match held at the Foolad Stadium in Ahvaz, Mohammad Nejadmehdi scored an own goal in the 48th minute.

In Tehran, Esteghlal defeated struggling Naft Masjed Soleyman 3-1.

Arash Rezavand opened the scoring for the Blues just four minutes into the match and Mehdi Ghaedi scored a brace in the 54th and 90th minutes.

Naft defender Milad Sheikh Soleimani scored a consolation goal in the dying moments of the match.

Nassaji and Paykan shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Ghaemshahr.

Aluminum defeated Mes Rafsanjan 2-1 in Arak.

On Wednesday, Sanat Naft will host Persepolis in Abadan, Gol Gohar play Mes Kerman in Sirjan, Zob Ahan face Malavan in Isfahan and Havadar meet Tractor in Tehran.

Sepahan lead the table with 39 points, three points above Persepolis and Esteghlal.

Ex-Iran coach Queiroz named as Qatar coach

TEHRAN – Carlos Queiroz, who led Iran national team in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, was named Qatar's new national team coach on Monday.

The 69-year-old coach was named as the new coach of the Al Annabi after the departure of Spaniard Felix Sanchez.

The Portuguese coach began his managerial career with the Portuguese Under-20 team, which went on to win the FIFA World Youth Championships in 1989 and 1991.

Queiroz served as the manager of renowned European teams like Real Madrid and as the assistant manager of Manchester United.

He also led various international football teams, including Portugal, South Africa, Colombia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.

During his stint in Iran, Queiroz helped Team Melli qualify for the 2014 FIFA World Cup, 2015 AFC Asian Cup and 2018 FIFA World Cup.

With nearly eight years under his belt between 2011 and 2019, Queiroz was the Iran national team's longest-tenured manager and the only coach in Iranian history to have guided the squad to three straight World Cups.

The Portuguese manager returned to Iran for a second time to lead the Persians less than three months prior to Qatar's World Cup.

With Queiroz as head coach, Iran unraveled new levels in its football record, becoming the first ranked team in Asia before dropping down a position after this year's FIFA World Cup.

Iran to compete at 2023 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships

TEHRAN – Iran sent eight athletes to Astana, Kazakhstan to participate at the 2023 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships.

The competition will be held in Astana from February 10 to 12 and gather over 500 athletes from more than 31 countries together.

The championship will be held in the athletics sports complex Qazaqstan. The competition is one of the most important events of the Asian Athletics Association calendar in 2023.

Athletes will perform in 26 disciplines of athletics, including running, throwing, jumping and all-around.

Farzaneh Fasihi, Reyhaneh Mobini, Hamideh Esmaeilnejhad and Fatemeh Mohitizadeh will represent Iran in the female section and Hamidreza Kia, Arshia Mosadeghi, Masoud Kamran and Jalil Naseri will compete in the male's division.

The opening ceremony of the competition will be attended by the President of the Asian Athletics Association Dahlan al-Hamad, the President of the Athletics Federation of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Dania Akhmetov, members of the Council of the Asian Athletics Association, heads of national Federations from Asian countries, as well as honored athletes and sports figures of Kazakhstan.

Iran defeat Australia at 2023 FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's men's team beat Australia 6-4 at the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup South Africa 2023 on Tuesday.

Reza Norouzzadeh and Behdad Beiranvand scored three and two goals respectively and Navid Taheri scored one goal for the Iranian team.

Iran, who claimed bronze in 2018, will play South Africa on Wednesday in Pool B.

Pool A consists of Austria, Netherlands, Namibia, Belgium, Kazakhstan and New Zealand.

The competition is being held in Pretoria, South Africa from Feb. 5 to 11.

The top four teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals.

Iran U17 fall short against Russia at "Development Cup"

TEHRAN – Iran U17 lost to Russia 2-0 on Tuesday in the international tournament "Development Cup" in Belarus.

Iran, who started the campaign with a 4-0 win over Belarus U16, will meet Tajikistan on Thursday.

The tournament is being held from Feb. 5 to 11 in Minsk. A total of six U17 football teams, namely Belarus, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, as well as Belarus U16 and Russia U16 teams compete in the tournament.

The teams are divided into two groups. Iran are drawn in Group B along with Russia, Tajikistan and Belarus U16.

Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Russia U16 are in Group A.

Commodities worth nearly \$972m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 2,846,645 tons of commodities with a total trading value of nearly \$972 million, posting growths of 36 percent in volume and 20 percent in value of trades compared to the figures of the previous week.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 2,363,286 tons of commodities valued at more than \$693 million.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1,027,702 tons of cement, 720,000 tons of iron ore, 636,279 tons of steel, 28,800 tons of zinc, 10,705 tons of aluminum, 7,870 tons of copper and 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 411,505 tons of commodities worth more than \$243 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 108,813 tons of polymeric products, 99,494 tons of bitumen, 94,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 43,000 tons of lube cut, 39,453 tons of chemicals, 23,680 tons of sulfur, 4,242 tons of base oil, 604 tons of petroleum products and 200 tons of insulation.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 50,043 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, 8,776,034 tons of commodities worth over \$3 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month Dey (ended on January 20).

The exchange saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor, trade of 1,589,743 tons of commodities valued at more than \$911 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 377,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 508,989 tons of bitumen, 383,683 tons of polymeric products, 144,560 tons of chemicals, 129,100 tons of lube cut, 20,535 tons of sulfur, 21,552 tons of oil, 6,524 tons of petroleum products, 560 tons of insulation and 740 tons of feedstocks.



Moreover, the exchange saw trade of 7,017,408 tons of commodities and 28,455 vehicles worth more than \$2 billion on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 4,071,313 tons of cement, 1,173,000 tons of iron ore, 1,483,512 tons of steel, 262,075 tons of zinc, 69,325 tons of aluminum, 42,000 tons of sponge iron, 30,178 tons of copper, 2,000 tons of coke, 800 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 550 tons of lead, 42 tons of precious metals concentrate and 45 kg of gold bars.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 168,882 tons of commodities

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market trades were registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume, and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

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

Housing price increases 5.7% in Tehran city



TEHRAN- Average housing price rose 5.7 percent in the capital Tehran during the tenth Iranian calendar month Dey (ended on January 20), compared to the previous month, according to a report by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI).

Based on the SCI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at about 550 million rials (about \$1,375) during the mentioned month.

As previously reported by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the average housing price rose 16 percent in the capital Tehran during the last month of the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), compared to the same month in the preceding year.

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 351.2 million rials (about \$924) during the last month of the past year, up 6.2 from the previous month, and 16 percent from the same month of the preceding year.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past three years due to various

internal and external factors.

Although, in early May 2022, the chairman of Real Estate Agencies Union said, "This [Iranian] year is the year of lower housing prices; this condition will continue in the country for the next two years, and we will see a continuous decrease in housing prices".

Mostafa Qoli Khosravi referred to a report released by the Central Bank of Iran in terms of housing price in the first Iranian calendar month Farvardin (ended on April 20, 2022), and said: "The government is trying to compensate the housing shortage in the country with the National Housing Movement plan, and this plan is being prepared and implemented in several urban and rural areas".

He said that there is currently shortage of about 720,000 housing units in the country, adding: "Every year, dilapidated apartments are added to this number, therefore, the current government intends to compensate for the housing deficit by recognizing this shortage and implementation of National Housing Movement."

The market will react positively to the increase in supply, and the completion of the government plans including Mehr Housing and National Housing will control the uncontrolled growth of housing prices, he further predicted.

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

TEDPIX gains 18,600 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gains 18,652 points to 1.556 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 8.243 billion securities worth 47,637 trillion rials (about \$119 million) were traded at the TSE.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Tehran hosts intl. conference on Iran's rail transport capacities

from page 1 ▶ Senior directors and representatives of railways from Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Russia, along with rail cargo forwarding companies from Uzbekistan and Russia, were present at this international gathering.

Also, some Iranian international rail transport companies participated in the one-day event to present their services and capabilities for international transport and transit from Iran to the participants.

Considering the strategic position of Iran, as well as the important international rail corridors from north to south and east to west that pass through the country, as well as the connection of the railway network of the Islamic Republic of Iran to open waters, Iran's route is one of the shortest, safest and most economical routes for rail transit from east to west, especially the cargo transportation of the landlocked countries of Central Asia to Europe, India, as well as transportation of transit cargo from the important ports of Iran.

Back in October 2022, Tehran hosted a summit on transit



cooperation between Iran and five Central Asian countries including Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

According to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari, during the two-day event, challenges and opportunities of expanding transit collaboration between Iran and the mentioned Central Asian nations were explored.

"This gathering will lead to the adoption of a more coordinated

policy among the present countries, and hopefully result in providing solutions for the obstacles regarding transit cooperation," Safari said at the opening ceremony of the summit.

Also speaking at the summit, Deputy Transport Minister Shahriyar Afandizadeh said: "Due to the formation of the current constructive and interactive atmosphere in the field of international transportation and transit among the present members, and considering Iran's bilateral and multilateral

agreements with other countries, a new chapter will be opened in the country's transportation and transit collaborations."

The improvement of border traffic, digital development in transit processes, facilitation of embassy affairs and visa issuance for drivers, as well as continuous improvement of tariffs and transit charges were among the major goals of the summit, according to Afandizadeh.

Last month, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) said the transport index (TI), which refers to the total number of person-kilometers and ton-kilometers, and is a kind of indicator of the total performance of the country's railways, has grown by 4.6 percent in the country in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-Decemembr 21, 2022), as compared to the same period of the previous year.

Making the remarks in a meeting with the board of directors of the Union of Rail Transport Companies on Sunday, Miad Salehi said, "Despite the country's economic difficulties, the railway sector has taken important steps forward in the first nine months of this year."

1,191 idle production units revived since last March

TEHRAN- As announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), 1,191 idle production units have been revived in the industrial estates and zones of the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022).

Referring to the addition of many lands to industrial estates last year, Ali Rasoulia noted: "This year, we focused on providing infrastructure for these lands, and infrastructure was provided for 2,151 hectares of lands."

He then mentioned the establishment of joint industrial estates with other countries, and said the initial negotiations were conducted with Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan, and recently Armenia, but if these joint industrial estates are to be established at the border zero point, there is a need to change the laws and regulations and it must be approved in the parliament.

The official also announced that 2,170 idle production units have returned to the production cycle since the current government took office in August 2021.

According to Rasoulia, who is also the deputy industry, mining and trade minister, this approach is very important since the country has been dealing with the most severe international sanctions for many years; and while it relies more than ever on domestic production.

Of course, what is seen as the result of the efforts of the ISIPO, as one of the main organizations in charge of boosting the country's production, planning and diligent follow-up to

revive the stagnant production units, fortunately the work in this due is on the right track, the official has stated, highlighting that revival of each stagnant production and industrial unit leads to job creation and return to work of 18 people on average.

As previously announced by Rasoulia, 2,067 idle industrial units were revived in the country's industrial parks and zones during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400.

According to the official, with the reviving of the mentioned units job opportunities were created for over 39,000 people.

"ISIPO had put it on the agenda to revive 2,000 stagnant units inside and outside industrial parks and zones in the previous year and by the end of the year 2,067 idle units returned to the production cycle, which provided employment for more than 39,000 people," Rasoulia said.

The official noted that 1,433 small workshop units were also established in the mentioned year most of which were the production and knowledge-based units with high technology.

The necessary licenses were also obtained for establishing 26 new industrial parks and zones across the country in the previous year, he added.

He stressed that reviving idle production units is the main approach that the government is currently following in the industry sector.

The government is seriously pursuing its programs to resolve production units' problems in collaboration with the private sector; Very



good planning has been done in this regard, Rasoulia said.

He mentioned providing infrastructure and supporting small businesses and enterprises as two major programs of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in relation to industrial parks and said that 2,023 projects related to providing infrastructure for industrial parks, including water, electricity, and gas supply are underway in different parts of the country.

Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization and its affiliated provincial companies now have 509 industrial parks and 340 industrial zones and five special economic zones in operation, 85 specialized industrial parks and zones, six technology parks, 40 technology and business service centers, two information technology and software service complexes; 100,058 contracts have been concluded and operation of 49,882 industrial units and 3,270 workshops has provided direct employment for 998,595 people across the country.

Annual non-oil export anticipated to hit \$52b by late March

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that the country's value of non-oil export is expected to reach \$52 billion in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20).

"According to the preparations made for increasing export from the country, and the statistics obtained so far, it is expected that Iran's non-oil exports will reach \$52 billion by the end of the year," Alireza Peyman-Pak reiterated.

"Fortunately, in the past months, very good measures have been taken in the field of Iran's export development, some of which have already shown their impact, and the



other part will be revealed in the final statistics of our exports in the coming years", the official added.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports rose 17.66

percent during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, registering a new record high.

According to Mohammad Rezvani-Far, Iran exported about 103 million tons of non-oil goods valued at \$45.3 billion in the mentioned 10 months, also registering a 2.93-percent increase in weight.

Liquefied natural gas was the main exported product in the said time span, accounting for 15.4 percent of the total value of the exports.

Major export destinations of

the Iranian non-oil goods were China, Iraq, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India, according to the official.

The average value of each ton of exported goods has increased from \$385 in the first 10 months of last year to \$440 in the current year's same period, which indicates a growth of 14.31 percent, the IRICA head said.

As previously announced by Alireza Moqadasi, the IRICA former head, Iran exported 122 million tons of non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous Iranian year 1400, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for the preceding year.

Saffron export stands at \$172.7m in 10 months

TEHRAN- Iran's saffron export stood at \$172.758 million during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023), according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Austria, Jordan, Argentina, Spain, Australia, South Africa, Afghanistan, Germany, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Britain, Italy, the U.S., Ireland, Bahrain, Belgium, Pakistan, Portugal, Thailand, Taiwan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, China,

Denmark, Zambia, Japan, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Switzerland, Sweden, Serbia, Montenegro, Iraq, Oman, Russia, France, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, South Korea, Kenya, Kuwait, Georgia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Hungary, Egypt, Mauritius, Norway, Nigeria, New Zealand, Vietnam, the Netherlands, India, Hong Kong and Greece were the 59 Iranian saffron customers in the mentioned 10 months, the IRICA reported.

The United Arab Emirates was the biggest

customer of Iranian saffron with the purchase of over \$61.739 million of the product, followed by Spain with the purchase of more than \$38 million of Iranian saffron.

China was in the third place with the purchase of \$32 million of saffron in the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Iran is one of the world's top saffron producers and over 90 percent of its production is exported to foreign destinations.

NATO wants anything except peace in Ukraine



From page 1 ► For example, the U.S. establishment knows China doesn't pose any military threats to America but Beijing's advanced technological achievements, strong economic growth and expanding diplomatic ties over the past decades indicate that it will overtake the U.S. over the next ten years. Even some experts say it could take less than that.

That goes against the goals of the U.S. hegemonic and colonial plans.

This same U.S. fear applies to Russia as well with Washington sending a steady supply of weapons to Kyiv.

The Russian Federation has regained economic, military and other geopolitical progresses similar to the Soviet days.

It has become an international superpower and the idea of using the Donbass region or the issue of Crimea to trigger an all-out war against Russia is absurd.

These matters could have very easily been dealt with peacefully and can still be resolved peacefully. Peace talks, a resumption of the Minsk agreements, agreeing to Russia's uncomplicated proposals for security guarantees are just some examples to end the war today.

But NATO simply doesn't want peace.

It wants to prolong the violence.

Whenever Russian forces are advancing on the ground in the Donbas in eastern Ukraine, the U.S. and NATO send more advanced and sophisticated weapons to Ukraine.

And when Ukrainian forces advanced in the country's east late last year, NATO leaders and Western mainstream media lavished praise on Kyiv.

Western headlines spoke of an unexpected Ukrainian victory.

But the delivery of weapons to Ukraine slowed down, drawing

complaints from Kyiv.

That's because NATO doesn't want Ukraine to regain these territories either, which could also end the war.

Now that Russian forces (as was expected) are on the front foot again, NATO is sending its most advanced battle tanks and longer-range missiles.

But how many tanks is NATO exactly sending?

According to many reports the combined number of main battle tanks being dispatched is around 200.

Double that to 400 and it's not rocket science to figure out that this number does not match Russia's active combat tanks estimated at more than 10,000.

The tanks are also not enough to achieve a battleground victory against the Russian military as Moscow has yet to deploy its most advanced military equipment.

The NATO tanks are being sent for Ukrainian forces to continue fighting, shedding their blood and continuing the status quo on behalf of the United States.

As Western intelligence agencies assess the delivery of tanks and training Ukrainian troops will take time, Russian forces have advanced further.

That is why some NATO members (immediately after agreeing to send battle tanks) are now in talks over the delivery of warplanes to Ukraine.

Addressing diplomats on Monday, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "The prospects for peace keep diminishing. The chances of further escalation and bloodshed keep growing."

Those remarks will be music to the ears of the Pentagon.

"I fear the world is not sleepwalking into a wider war. I

fear it is doing so with its eyes wide open." Guterres added.

Russian Security officials have said Moscow is fighting NATO and not Ukraine.

The secretary of Moscow's Security Council pointed out in October last year that NATO is waging war against Russia in Ukraine.

"Actually, the NATO alliance is fighting against us and its members are providing [Kyiv] with heavy weapons, ammunition and reconnaissance data and training military specialists," Nikolay Patrushev said.

The Russian security chief noted that NATO member states "are involved in planning military operations."

This is while the NATO chief has repeatedly called on member states to send more arms to Kyiv, even travelling to South Korea and calling on Latin American countries to play their part as some Western weapons stockpiles look like they are slowly depleting.

Moscow has repeatedly said shipping more weapons to Ukraine will only prolong the war and the suffering of the Ukrainian people, while ending the chances and options for peace talks.

But again, the United States and NATO are not interested in any peace.

Writing on social media, the Ukrainian-Canadian political scientist posted this:

"Bombshell: Former Israeli prime minister says that Western leaders blocked #Ukraine & #Russia peace deal which he negotiated on #Zelensky request in March because they wanted to continue to strike #Putin. He says that there was good chance of such deal."

Other peace efforts spearheaded by Turkey, Iran and other countries

were also swiftly blocked by the West.

One of the methods that the U.S. and its Western allies used to block the peace efforts was to give promises to Ukraine to grant it NATO membership.

Last month, Ukraine said it has become a de-facto member of the NATO military alliance.

Kyiv says this is because it is receiving Western arms with Ukrainian armed forces being trained to use those weapons inside the territory Western NATO countries.

But experts say this is solely propaganda and Ukraine can never join the U.S.-led military alliance as membership can only be decided by the unanimous vote of all members.

That means all the countries in Europe that are party to NATO as well as Canada, and of course the United States.

NATO member Hungary has already said it has no interest in widening and expanding the war, and has strongly indicated it would veto any Ukrainian membership.

Other NATO countries have indicated the same. So, there is a zero possibility of Kyiv joining the alliance despite the sinister U.S. pledges.

Also, when a country is accepted as a NATO member the first requirement is that it should have sovereignty over its own territory.

At this moment in time, Russia has annexed four provinces of Ukraine, where ethnic Russians reside.

Ukraine does not recognize these four provinces as part of Russia which effectively means Ukraine itself is saying it does not have sovereignty over its own territory and therefore it is not eligible for membership in NATO.

If NATO were to violate its own charter and force the membership of Ukraine against the wishes of Hungary and possibly result in Hungary leaving NATO and Ukraine does become a member then that will mean NATO will automatically be at a state of war.

That would result in all NATO members declaring war with Russia because the territory of the country NATO recognizes as Ukraine is currently annexed by Russia.

The entire process is ridiculous as NATO members have time and again declared their reluctance to enter in a war with Russia.

The only NATO mission in this war is to contain Russia's growing power, cut its energy to Europe and more importantly make lucrative profits for the Western arms manufacturing companies.

Aegis missile defence interceptors. With North Korea developing and testing new missile designs and steadily expanding its nuclear arsenal, it is now in a position to strike targets in Japan, including US bases in Okinawa.

Finally, Russia's invasion of Ukraine deeply shocked Japan, which was among the first countries to condemn Russia's actions and impose sanctions. Japan and Russia have unresolved disputes over the South Kuril Islands (also referred to in Japan as the Northern Territories). Russia, like China, has in recent years increased its military activities around Japan and its contiguous waters and has deployed missile systems on the Kuril Islands. China and Russia have also conducted joint military exercises, and their combat planes have entered Japan's air defence identification zone.

How big is the break with the past?

The Kishida government's announcement that it will increase annual defence spending to two per cent of GDP by 2027 has made headlines. From 1960 to 2020, Japan's military spending remained at or below one per cent of GDP. However, perhaps the most radical departure from Japan's earlier security policy is the decision to acquire and deploy new counterstrike capabilities that would greatly increase its ability to target enemy forces far beyond Japan's borders.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Third day of strikes and protests in France over Macron pension plans

France is facing a third day of strikes and mass street demonstrations against Emmanuel Macron's unpopular plan to raise the pension age to 64, after the government faced shouting and booing in parliament as lawmakers began debating the bill.

Hundreds of thousands of people were expected to take part in more than 200 street demonstrations across France on Tuesday, from cities to small towns. Trains and urban transport will be severely disrupted, and one in five flights at Paris's Orly airport will be cancelled. Some schools will close as teachers strike. Students are also blocking several university buildings across France.

Polls continue to show that a majority of French people disapprove of Macron's plan to raise the retirement age to 64 and to increase the number of years people must make contributions for a full pension. The current retirement age of 62 is the lowest of any major European economy.

Macron's ruling centrist grouping faced furious scenes of shouting and desk-banging in parliament on Monday night at the start of the debate on the plans.

Macron's centrists are in a weakened position in parliament after losing their absolute majority in a general election last June. In order to pass the pensions bill, they are facing tense negotiations to convince lawmakers from the rightwing party Les Républicains to back them. Without support from the right, the government could in theory resort to controversial executive powers to push through the plans without a vote. But the prime minister, Élisabeth Borne, wants to avoid this, conscious of the uproar and further protests it could cause.

Yerevan says has received new peace proposals from Baku and is studying them

Armenia has received new peace proposals from Azerbaijan and is studying them, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at a joint news conference with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Tuesday.

"We were to have met with Azerbaijani and Russian foreign ministers in Moscow, but the Armenian side postponed its participation due to the blockade of the Lachin corridor. Even so, we transferred our proposals to

the Azerbaijani side and recently received new proposals from Baku regarding a peace agreement. We continue to work on the text," he said.

Chechen leader expects special military operation to be over by yearend

Russia's special military operation in Ukraine may end before late this year, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov said in an interview with the North Caucasian republic's National Policy, Foreign Relations, Press and Information Minister Akhmed Dudaev.

Asked to comment on when flights could resume to and from Europe, Kadyrov said, "The special [military] operation will be over before the end of this year. European countries will admit they have been wrong, the West will fall to its knees, and, as usual, European countries will have to cooperate with the Russian Federation in all spheres. There should not and will never be an alternative to that."

Israeli forces kill Palestinian teenager in occupied West Bank

Israeli forces have killed a Palestinian teenager during a raid in the West Bank city of Nablus, the Palestinian health ministry said, a day after Israel killed five Palestinians in Jericho as part of its intensified deadly raids in the occupied territory.

The ministry on Tuesday said 17-year-old Hamza Amjad al-Ashqar was "killed by a bullet in the face fired by the occupation soldiers during the aggression on Nablus".

The 17-year-old has become the latest casualty in what is already one of the most violent periods in the occupied West Bank since 2002. The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces since the beginning of this year has reached 42, including civilians and resistance fighters, raising fears of a third Intifada, or mass Palestinian uprising.

On January 27, a Palestinian gunman killed seven people in the occupied East Jerusalem, a day after an Israeli raid in the West Bank city of Jenin killed 10 Palestinians.

Israel has resorted to what rights organizations say are disproportionate measures such as the bulldozing of houses of Palestinians involved in attacks.

But Palestinians say the raids and other measures are a form of collective punishment for their fight against decades of Israeli occupation.

The Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank, declared it would cease security coordination with Israel in the wake of the deadly Jenin raid.

Death toll rises above 5,200 after Turkey, Syria earthquakes



From page 1 ► climb as rescuers looked for survivors among tangles of metal and concrete spread across a region already suffering under Syria's 12-year civil war and a refugee crisis.

Rescuers searched through the frigid night into Tuesday night, hoping to dig more survivors out of the rubble as those trapped cried out for help from beneath mountains of debris.

The death toll from the earthquakes in Turkey had risen to around 3,700.

Orhan Tatar, an official with Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), said earlier on Tuesday that

20,426 others were injured. Tatar said more than 5,700 buildings had also been destroyed.

In Syria, nearly 1700 people were killed and more than 3,500 others were injured, according to the Ministry of Health and the White Helmets rescue organization.

President Erdogan also announced a 3-month state of emergency in quake-hit provinces.

"Based on the authority given to us by Article 119 of the Constitution, we decided to declare a state of emergency," Erdogan said at the State Information Coordination Center in the capital Ankara.

Japan's new military policies: Origins and implications

Dr Jingdong Yuan

Japan is undergoing the most significant changes to its security strategy since the end of World War II. In late 2022, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government approved three policy documents—the National Security Strategy (NSS), the National Defense Strategy and the Defense Buildup Program—that propose a significant expansion of Japan's military capabilities and a major increase in military spending over five years. The documents enable important modifications of the senshu boei (exclusively defence-oriented policy) that Japan has followed since 1946, not least allowing Japan to participate far more actively in collective self-defence with the United States and to substantially increase its ability to project force beyond its borders.

What factors have influenced these changes, what do they mean for security in the Indo-Pacific region, and what challenges lie ahead in their implementation?

Japan's changing security environment

The new documents ascribe the changes to a deteriorating international and regional security environment, as well as expectations from its longstanding ally the USA and others that Japan should play a role 'commensurate with its national strength' in protecting the 'post-war international order'. The government has been

at pains to reassure the Japanese public, and the wider world, that the new policy direction does not alter Japan's commitment to peace and regional stability.

Japan certainly faces some serious security challenges today. China is rapidly strengthening its military power, including expanding its nuclear arsenal and missile and naval capabilities. Japan is particularly concerned about increasingly frequent Chinese intrusions into the contiguous waters and air space of the contested Senkaku/Diaoyu islands and intensifying military activity in the East China Sea. The new NSS characterizes China as 'the greatest strategic challenge in ensuring the peace and security of Japan and the peace and stability of the international community'—which China was quick to react to.

Growing tensions between Beijing and Taipei also potentially threaten Japan's security interests. Any military conflict would turn Japan's reliance on energy imports and international trade into major liabilities. Indeed, Tokyo has become increasingly vocal about the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

North Korea's nuclear and missile developments have also been key factors. Since North Korea's 1998 Taepodong missile test, Japan has focused on developing and deploying missile defence systems such as Patriot and advanced

Bandar Charak could become tourist hub

TEHRAN – The small city of Bandar Charak in Hormozgan province could become a top tourist destination in the southern province, a local tourism official has said.

Charak can become a place to host thousands of tourists every year, said Saeid Pourzadi, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The location of Charak on the way to Kish Island makes it a perfect place for tourism, and if developed into a tourist attraction, this pristine area can be used for the sustainable development of the city, the official added.

A budget of 1.5 trillion rials (\$3.7 million) has been allocated to the tourism development of the city, he noted.

Bordering the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the south and bounded by Bushehr and Fars provinces on the west and northwest, Kerman on the east and northeast, and Sistan-Baluchestan on the southeast, Hormozgan is widely renowned for having incredible culture and heritage, stunning sceneries, and above all its warm and hospitable people.

It embraces arrays of islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most popular ones and top tourist destinations in the southernmost parts of the country.

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping



centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is situated some eight kilometers off the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts many tourists through its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and great local people.

Hengam Island has scenery on rocky shores, serene sunsets, and kind natives, which can attract travelers who enjoy a relaxing trip by spending time on this tranquil island.

Qeshm Island is heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature lovers.

Iron Age relics recovered in northern Iran



TEHRAN – Iranian police have recently confiscated some ancient relics from the house of a suspect in the city of Amol, which is situated in the northern Mazandaran province.

The police investigation resulted in the seizure of 28 objects, of which 17 ones have been estimated to date from the Iron Age, a police commander in charge of cultural heritage protection said on Monday.

Moreover, a metal detector was found at the house of the suspect who has been surrendered to the Judicial system for further investigation and trial, Mohammadreza Kordan said.

An early Iranian civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in the Mazandaran region. It was overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab general Yezid ibn Mohallab and was the last part of Iran to be converted to Islam.

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty. The northern section of the region consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

UNESCO sites at a glance

Baroque Churches of the Philippines

The Baroque Churches of the Philippines is a serial inscription consisting of four Roman Catholic churches constructed between the 16th and 18th centuries in the Spanish period of the Philippines.

The four churches are outstanding examples of the Philippine interpretation of the Baroque style and represent the fusion of European church design and construction with local materials and decorative motifs to form a new church-building tradition.

They are located in separate areas of the Philippine archipelago, two on the northern island of Luzon, one at the heart of Intramuros, Manila, and the other in the central Visayas island of Iloilo.

This group of churches established a style of building and design that was adapted to the physical conditions in the Philippines and had an important influence on later church architecture in the region.

The common and specific attributes of the churches are their squat, monumental



and massive appearance, which illustrates a fortress/protective-like character in response to pirates, marauders and the geologic conditions of a country that is prone to seismic activities.

The churches are made either of stone (tuff or coralline limestone), or brick, and consolidated with lime. Church, Intramuros).

The Baroque churches reflect excellent site planning principles following the Ley de las Indias (Laws of the Indies) enacted by Philip II in 1563 for all newly-discovered settlements within Spanish colonial territories.

TEHRAN – Tehran's international tourism and handicrafts fair opened to the public on Tuesday morning at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, CHTN reported.

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami attended the opening ceremony of the fair.

The fair brings together 200 exhibitors from 47 countries involved in the tourism industry, the report added.

Foreign participants will attend the exhibition as exhibitors and visitors, and a private-sector negotiation hall has been set up for them.

A number of countries have pavilions at the exhibition, including Qatar, Iraq, Japan, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Russia, and Venezuela.

The exhibition is also attended by countries such as Oman, Syria, Turkey, Armenia, Lebanon, Libya, Algeria, China, and Georgia, among others.

A total of 67,000 square meters has been devoted to the exhibition, which is running in 15 vast halls.



Tehran tourism fair opens doors to public

Over 70 licensed health It is a benchmark event in the tourism centers are also present tourism sector of the country at the exhibition. as a meeting place for industry

A peek into some of Tehran's most stunning buildings

From Page 1 ► tranquil gardens, modern cafes, and traditional teahouses, or while hiking through the mountains.

Here are 10 of the most impressive structures in the Iranian capital, ranging from structures with European influences to contemporary interpretations of old-world architecture.

Green Palace

One of the buildings of the Sa'ad Abad Complex and perhaps the most beautiful is the Green Palace. It was built at the end of the Qajar era and later remodeled by Reza Shah, serving as his residence for one year, before turning into a guest house.

Brought from mines in the Zanjan and Khorasan provinces, the marble used to construct its exterior has a unique hint of green. Just as elaborately designed are the interiors, with a mirror hall and a Persian rug woven over seven years, among their other ostentatious features.

Cinema Museum

You can't help but be mesmerized by a mansion that beckons attention as you stroll down Valiasr Street. Iran Cinema Museum is housed in a Qajar-era estate that is located behind Ferdows Garden.

The balcony is the most charming element, with its walls and columns covered in intricate floral plasterwork and arched wooden-framed windows. You can learn about Iran's century-old film industry through the exhibitions, and the nearby coffee shops to let you take your time admiring the structure while you sip tea.

Abgineh Museum

The Glassware and Ceramic Museum of Iran, or simply Abgineh Museum, was originally a mansion built by Ahamd Qavam, the 20th-century politician who served as Prime Minister of Iran.

The mansion later served as Egypt's embassy before becoming a museum in 1976. It skillfully combines Iranian and European architectural styles, and the staircase connecting the first and second floors is Russian.

The interior of this building is just as lovely as the exterior, if not more so, thanks to the elaborate plasterwork, carved wooden columns, and crystal chandeliers.

Golestan Palace

In 2013, UNESCO designated Golestan Palace as a World Heritage site. It is made up of a collection of royal structures that were once the Qajar era's administrative center.

It is a prime example of the blending of Persian and Western architecture, with immaculate archways, mirrored halls and ceilings, and ornamental tiles all positioned inside the boundaries of a lavish Persian garden.

Among the many highlights are the ancient Persian badgirs (or windcatchers), along with arrays of exquisite, varied mosaics bordering the rounded windows.

Shams-ol-Emareh

Shams-ol-Emareh, or the Edifice of the Sun, is a masterpiece that deserves to be recognized on its own even though it is a part of the UNESCO-designated Golestan Palace. A tower with a 360-degree view of the city was one of Nasser al-Din Shah's initial projects. Two years after work started, in 1867, it was completed.

The building has a central open hall and twin two-tiered towers on top with arched windows and elaborate tilework. It is simple to picture Nasser al-Din Shah achieving his desired view, even though it is not possible to climb to the top.

Te'atr-e Shahr

Constructed in the early 1970s, Te'atr-e Shahr (Theater of the City) deserves admiration for its cylinder-shaped design, which combines the conventional and contemporary.

The grand entrance has a cozy, earthy feel because it is made of wood. Moreover, its hypostyle roof adds geometric patterns that are then covered in ceramic tiles.

The monument still remains a top location for the performing arts and has multiple stages.

Saraye Roshan

On Naser Khosrow St. stands the captivating Saraye Roshan. This gothic-inspired structure, built in 1932 as one of the countries of Iran's first commercial centers, is remarkably out of the ordinary.

While the faces and statues, which are hardly ever seen elsewhere in Iran, are more akin to European architecture, Ahura Mazda, the Zoroastrian god at its center, gives it a

professionals and the premier trade show for destinations and destination markets. It turns the spotlight on new tourist segments, technological leadership in the management of tourism, and knowledge transfer tools.

It stages cultural evenings, B2B meetings, folk music performances, live workshops, 3D films of historical monuments and tourism destinations, and highlights of Persian cuisines, to name a few.

The handicrafts sales exhibition brings together craftspeople and artisans from all over the country, showcasing arrays of personal ornamentation, woodwork, illuminated manuscript, miniature, textile printing, enamel, leatherwork, handwoven textile, calligraphy, traditional musical instrument, metalwork, and marquetry to name a few. Nomadic culinary arts, live workshops, and performances are among other themes for the event.

The 36th National Handicrafts Exhibition and the 16th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition, which are held simultaneously, will be running until February 10.



distinctly Persian feel.

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art

The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is Iran's largest art gallery and an impressive concrete achievement.

The four buildings perched atop the structure, which resemble a modernized version of the wind-catchers from ancient Persia, are one way in which this is particularly expressed.

Masoudieh Palace

One of the most exquisite historical structures from the Qajar era is Masoudieh Palace, which was built in 1879.

It has been the site of numerous occasions, including the founding of the first ministry of education and the opening of the first official library.

Plasterwork, mosaics, and gardens are just a few of their distinguishing features. Today, it's a well-liked location where tourists enjoy brunch in the quaint café with stained-glass windows before exploring the area and taking pictures of the picturesque building.

Tamashagah Zaman

In addition to housing a sizable collection of timepieces and being the pinnacle of genuine Iranian architecture, Tamashagah Zaman (also known as the Time Museum) is set within a lavish Persian garden.

Many clocks and watches are on display in this historical manor house, which once belonged to renowned Iranian businessman Hossein Khoddad.

The interior never fails to astound with its ornamented ceilings, plasterwork, and vibrant stained glass windows. The pastel-blue exterior boasts windows that resemble cream-colored lace.

Tourism projects come on stream in Tehran

TEHRAN – Some 92 tourism-related projects have recently been inaugurated across Tehran province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 12 trillion rials (\$31.8 million) has been channeled into the projects, Parham Janfeshan said on Tuesday.

The projects include hotels, guest houses, eco-lodge units, tourist complexes, and travel agencies, the official added.

Over 1,000 job opportunities have been created upon the inauguration of the projects, he noted.

Moreover, 58 handicraft workshops have come on stream in the province, he mentioned.

The workshops received an investment budget of 340 billion rials (\$850,000), the official stated.

The workshops have generated over 670 job opportunities for the locals, he said.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.

Ray, in which signs of settlement date from 6000 BC, is often considered Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined

with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury

of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

EMBASSY OF BRAZIL IN TEHRAN

Job offer

Administrative Officer for administrative work. Portuguese, Persian and English required.

Resumes to be sent to

administ.teera@itamaraty.gov.br

by Esfand 03rd , 1401 (February 22nd , 2023).

Further details on the job position at

<http://teera.itamaraty.gov.br>.

TEHRAN – From 2006 to 2021, the publication of Iranian articles in the field of traditional medicine has increased by about ten times, according to data released by the SCImago Journal of Traditional Medicines.

Accordingly, Iran is fourth in the world after China, India, and the U.S., IRNA reported.

The number of articles published by the country has increased from 59 in 2006 to more than 500 in 2021.

By providing the structure in the Ministry of Health, and the establishment of traditional medicine colleges in 2006, the number of articles in the field of traditional medicine increased by about 10 times in 15 years.

The Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) put the share of Iranian articles in the field of medicinal plants and herbal medicine in the world at 5.9 percent.

A plan for the integration of Iranian traditional medicine into the health network is supposed to be implemented in the first phase in 14 faculties and universities of Shahid Beheshti Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Shiraz, Tabriz, Kerman, Yazd, Kashan, Babol, Golestan, Mazandaran, Hamedan, Qom, Fasa, and Isfahan.

In case of successful implementation, other universities in the country will also be encouraged to launch the plan, she said, adding, in the next phases, the integration plan will be implemented at higher levels and in the field of treatment.

Hossein Farshidi, the deputy health minister, has said that one of the shortcomings of the country's health network system, which has been emphasized a lot in the national development plans, is benefiting from thousands of years of experience in Persian traditional medicine.

Free-of-charge tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment for all

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health provides diagnosis and treatment services for people infected with tuberculosis regardless of their nationality.

The infected person will be examined with tests and X-rays, and will receive treatment services completely free of charge, IRNA quoted Mahshid Nasehi, a health ministry official, as saying.

The important thing is that this issue is not limited to non-Iranians, that is, 30-40 percent of the people who may be covered by vaccination or TB treatment in this program are Iranians, she explained.

Family members of tuberculosis patients, people with HIV infection, people who have kidney failure and are on dialysis, those who have pulmonary silicosis or are candidates for transplantation, and patients who, due to the treatment process, need suppressive treatments, are the main groups that we are responsible for checking their status, Nasehi pointed out.

“Other groups such as people who live in underdeveloped areas, homeless people, drug addicts, and immigrants coming from countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis are also our second priority.”

Vaccination of foreign nationals

A plan for the vaccination of foreign nationals against three contagious diseases was started on December 31, 2022, and is progressing according to the schedule.

The program was started in 27 universities of medical sciences in the country, and fortunately, the work has progressed well and has been welcomed by the target community, Mohsen Zahraei, the head of the preventable diseases department of the Ministry of Health, said on January 11.



Iranian articles on traditional medicine surge in 15 years

“We all must join hands to improve Persian traditional medicine and integrate it into the country's health network system.”

He went on to note that if primary healthcare is not paid the necessary attention as the basis of all health services, we may not be able to control the heavy burden of chronic diseases in 50 years.

Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood

(Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Saouda). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

Iran's share of species

So far, about 30,000 plant species have been identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species which is more than the whole of species found in Europe.

Some 2,300 species of medicinal plants have been identified in the country, accounting for one-third of the medicines used in human societies.

The per capita consumption of

medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$4 million) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States is 2.5 kilograms.

The export revenue of medicinal plants is estimated at \$700 million, the Vice President for Science and Technology, Rouhollah Dehghani, has said.

Over 17,000 books have so far been published about Persian traditional medicine, which has been recognized by the World Health Organization, she noted.

people were vaccinated with a national program to eradicate measles in the country.

Concerns about the spread of measles in the country are growing as the Afghan population grows.

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease that largely affects children under 5 years of age. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the fecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiples in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and cause paralysis.

Measles is caused by a virus in the paramyxovirus family and it is normally passed through direct contact and through the air. The virus infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body. Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.

More than 140,000 people died from measles in 2018 – mostly children under the age of 5 years, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine.

The inhumane sanctions have had devastating effects on the health system and the question is who is responsible for the deaths of some innocent patients due to the lack of essential medicines, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said.

He made the remarks at the 69th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, which was held in Egypt on October 10-13, 2022.

Einollahi said in July 2022 that despite the sanctions that have existed since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution to prevent the country from progressing, Iran has the strongest health system in the region.



By referring to health centers and bases, they receive the oral vaccines of polio, double measles, and rubella, he said.

On December 23, 2022, a national specialized workshop for ‘risk communication and social participation’ was held in order to empower health workers in the supplementary vaccination campaign for the refugee population with the participation of UNICEF.

Considering the Risk Communication and Social Participation Program (RCCE) is one of the most important health promotion programs the program was a combination of information campaigns, health promotion, social mobilization, attracting people participation and other organizations, and establishing effective communication.

In May 2022, it was announced that all foreign immigrants and refugees under the age of five would be vaccinated against polio and measles. Children under the age of five and foreign immigrants will be inoculated through door-to-door visits in high-risk areas across the country.

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Special plan prepared to attract overseas Iranian researchers

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has prepared a special plan to attract scientists and researchers living abroad, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The project aims to promote “supporting technological activities and startups”, “postdoctoral facilities”, “supporting employment in innovation centers and accelerators as a trainer and consultant”, “providing facilities for opportunity studies”, “providing housing facilities”, “supporting employment in reputable domestic companies”, “support for lectures and specialized workshops” and “support for cooperation as invited and appointed professors”.

It is estimated that about one percent of all Iranian students are studying abroad, which is not above the international average of around 3 percent.

طرح ویژه برای جذب پژوهشگران ایرانی مقیم خارج

جذب محققان و پژوهشگران خارج از کشور یکی از اولویت‌های کشور محسوب می‌شود و در این راستا معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری طرحی ویژه پیشنهاد کرده است.

به گزارش ایرنا، معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، این طرح شامل «حمایت از فعالیتهای فناورانه و ایجاد شرکتهای نوپا»، «تسهیلات پسا دکتری»، «حمایت از اشتغال در مراکز نوآوری و شتابدهنده‌ها به عنوان مربی و مشاور»، «تسهیلات دوره فرصت مطالعاتی»، «تسهیلات مسکن»، «حمایت از اشتغال در شرکتهای معتبر داخلی»، «حمایت از برگزاری سخنرانی و کارگاههای تخصصی» و «حمایت از همکاری به عنوان اساتید مدعو و معین» است.

بر اساس برآوردها نزدیک یک درصد از کل مجموع دانشجویان ایرانی در خارج از کشور تحصیل می‌کنند. این رقم در مقایسه با میانگین بین‌المللی که حدود ۳ درصد است، رقم بالایی محسوب نمی‌شود.

SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Health indices significantly improved after Islamic Revolution

From page 1 ► It should be noted that in the early years of the Revolution, even for a cataract, which is a routine ophthalmic operation, the patient was sent abroad, but now patients from abroad come to Iran for the most advanced surgeries, he highlighted.

“At the beginning of the Revolution, there were just 56,000 hospital beds, but now we have 156,000 hospital beds,” he noted.

Meanwhile, there were just seven thousand specialists, but now there are 70 thousand specialists and sub-specialists in the country, he added.

Therefore, the health indicators after the victory of the Islamic Revolution cannot be compared with the conditions before the Revolution, Karimi said, adding that although 40 years have passed, many countries have not found such a leap in their healthcare.

Iran, a leading country

He went on to say that improvements have been made in the field of life expectancy, and the mortality rate of pregnant mothers, children, and infants has declined.

“In Iran, treatment costs are not very high, and although the quality of the services we provide is high, the costs are not very high.”

“One of our plans is to make the services free once the family physician plan is finalized.”

Medical tourism

In the field of medical tourism, conditions are very good due to the trust that neighboring countries have in the Iranian health sector, he said.

Even Iranians who live in America and Europe perform their medical procedures in Iran and

trust in the country's doctors. At the same time, infrastructure is needed to expand medical tourism, he added.

“Currently, 220 hospitals in the country have the necessary infrastructure to accept medical tourists. However, the tourist who comes should be provided with suitable accommodation, convenient transportation, and amenities.”

If these infrastructures and conditions are available, Iran will be at a very high level for services and can take good measures in the field of medical tourism, he concluded.

In 2005, Family Physician (FP) program was started, which targeted almost 25,000,000 citizens residing in rural areas, and was piloted in two provinces of Fars and Mazandaran.

Based on the program, a physician and a midwife offer services in rural areas, every 3,300 villagers have a physician and there is a midwife per 5,200 people in villages.

Some screenings and diagnoses regarding the common cancers of men and women are also offered actively and free of charge to the rural community and cities with less than 20,000 people, Rezaei also said.

People living in villages are covered by free insurance and benefit from all service packages without paying, he stated, highlighting that all rural care services are free.

In October 2021, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain, said that Iran's health system can be a model for other countries in the region, especially in the field of health and the use of valuable forces such as healthcare providers.

RAMSAR SITES IN IRAN

Part 61

Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran & Sorkh Ruds

Ab-Bandans

Overview

Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran & Sorkh Ruds Ab-Bandans, located in the northern Mazandaran province, is an artificially maintained wetland in the South Caspian lowlands.

It comprises four “damgahs”, i.e. shallow freshwater impoundments based on rice paddies developed as duck-trapping areas, surrounded by forest strips and reedbeds, and including a Wildlife Refuge (48ha).

The area is of outstanding importance as wintering grounds for the entire western population of the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), listed as ‘critically endangered’ in the IUCN Red Book.

Having reappeared at the site in 1978 after 60 years' absence, the number of Siberian Cranes now fluctuates between 7-14.

Other endangered species using the site include Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*, Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*, Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* and occasionally Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, and wintering raptors such as *Falco* sp. and *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

The site's agricultural lands are flooded during summer, thus supporting groundwater recharge and water supply for irrigation during

the dry months.

Apart from rice farming the land is used for forestry and fishery. An important traditional activity is duck trapping, originally a main source of income during the winter months but now done primarily for sport.

During the trapping procedure, domestic ducks are thrown into the air in the direction of the pond. The heavy, poorly-flying ducks land noisily in the pond.

The sight and sound of these flying and feeding ducks arouse the curiosity of wild ducks in the main flooded field.

They swim up the narrow channel to the pond where they are netted by trappers. Because of the height of the brush surrounding the pond and the narrowness of the channel, the wild ducks are unable to take flight and quickly trapped.

In the past at the end of each trapping season the area was opened up for gun hunting in a massive “shoot-out”, creating a potential threat for Siberian Cranes to be shot accidentally, but in 2001 the Department of Environment designated the whole site as a Non-Shooting Area.

Conservation measures include annual mid-winter waterfowl censuses and an MoU on Siberian Cranes with 9 ‘range states’ of the Convention on Migratory Species.

Source: Ramsar.org

To be continued



Migratory swans return to Mazandaran wetlands

Every year, as the weather gets colder in the north of the Caspian Sea and parts of Siberia, migratory swans return to Mazandaran province's wetlands as of mid-December.

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is reward for kindness to every living thing.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18 Evening: 17:57 Dawn: 5:33 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:58 (tomorrow)

Adab in Arabic Literature

Part 7

Although al-Ameri in his E'lam states that al-Aadaab al-Kabir is based on the Avesta's moral precepts, many of the sayings included in that book occur in Greek gnomonology.

Thus the saying: "Let the ruler be suspicious of the hungry noble man and the sated wicked man" is ascribed also to Plato; the saying: "Let it be known that the wicked are physically more solid and the noble spiritually so," is said to be Aristotle's.

Other sayings go back to Asclepius, Socrates, and other Greek philosophers. This does not necessarily mean that the author resorted to Greek sources.

It is more convincing to say that Greek wise sayings were taken over into Persian literature at a very early date. Ebn al-Moqaffa did not rely on a defined Persian text; he was not a mere translator and compiler but a real author with a clear plan.

The introduction shows a desire to make a personal, if modest contribution. Although he exalts the tradition of the ancients and their comprehensive outlook in every field, he holds that there remain certain small, albeit

shrewd, points for later generations to add.

Two main topics occupy the book; one is the ruler and the man who associates himself with the ruler; and the other comprises rules of behavior in society.

The first part is, to an extent, a "mirror for princes" but with little of the idealism of most later Islamic works in this field. The companion of the ruler is advised to take care of the ruler and stick by him, even if he does not approve of his behavior.

"Do not take insult or harshness from the ruler to heart," he is told, "because the air of power may endow the tongue with words that do not carry their real meanings" (Rasa'el).

The material relating to the second topic is more fragmentary; but the theme of the friend (and hence, the enemy) occupies a large space.

By combining these two topics, the author tried to cover the whole field of statecraft (siasa), in which counsel (tadbir) is a very essential part.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
Concluded.

Persian literature: pre-Islamic

Until the late Sassanid period, pre-Islamic Iran was mainly an oral society.

As a result, Iranian "literature" was for a long time essentially of oral nature as far as composition, performance, and transmission are concerned.

Many products of this oral type of literature (whether in verse or in prose) have thus not survived to the present day or were committed to writing only many centuries after their original composition.

In these circumstances, the art of the court singers flourished from the first bards (Greek oïdoi) who exalted the courage of Cyrus the Great at the Median court of Astyages until the gusan of the Parthian and Sassanid periods.

A change of literary taste and a preference for the work of writing poets was brought about at the time of the Arab conquest.

In the early times of the Persian empire, writing was used almost exclusively for reasons of prestige in royal inscriptions or for practical purposes of administrative and economic order.

It thus remained for centuries a privilege of the various scribes at the service of the dominant class or the clergy. Although writing had of course been known in Persia before the time of the Achaemenids—it may be recalled that the verb OPers. nīpaīštānāy "write" is of Median origin, as is shown by the consonantal cluster sht, but no records written in that language are extant: the Old Persian version of the great inscription of Darius I at Bisotun is the first dateable text ever to have been written in an Iranian language (519 BC).

It is not until the 3rd century CE that works of religious content came to be written down, when Mani was the first religious teacher in Persia to recognize the importance and force

of the written word.

Because of the oral character of pre-Islamic Iranian literature and the restricted use of writing, little of what has come down to us in written form can therefore be considered to be literature in its narrow sense as belles-lettres.

Old Persian literature

Old Persian literature is restricted to the inscriptions in cuneiform script, which were a privilege of the Achaemenid Great Kings.

With the partial exception of the Bisotun inscription, they are not narrative documents but pursue an ideological purpose in that they celebrate the power of the Great King.

Except for that one inscription, Achaemenid royal inscriptions are therefore largely "timeless," which explains why the inscriptions of Xerxes I are so often interchangeable with those of his father Darius, or why the so-called daiva inscription (XPh) against the false divinities does not refer to a particular historical event but is actually a programmatic declaration.

Most of the inscriptions come from the center of the empire (Persia, Elam, Media); more than half date from the reigns of Darius I (522-486) or Xerxes I (486-465); and, until the time of Artaxerxes I (465-424), many are trilinguals (written in Old Persian, Elamite, Neo-Babylonian, in hierarchical order).

The Avesta: Like the theogonies (theogoniai) recited by the magi according to Herodotus (1.132), the Avesta was orally composed, and its genesis took place over a long period of time.

The language in which it was composed belongs to the Eastern Iranian group, though it remains impossible to localize the region(s) of its creation.

To be continued.

Iranian children’s drawings of favorite foods awarded at Japan le-no-Hikari contest

TEHRAN – Drawings by Iranian children have won prizes at the 30th edition of Japan's World Children's Picture Contest, which was held on the theme "Me and My Favorite Food".

Baran Ehterami is among the 20 children from across the world winning the gold prize at the competition, which is organized annually by the le-no-Hikari Association and the Tokyo-based family magazine le-no-Hikari.

In addition, Maysa Vafa won a silver prize along with 39 children from around the globe.

Yasna Zarei, Mersana Dashtizadeh, Delsa Heidari, Abolfazl Barzegar, Elena Omid and Hasti Najafi were among the bronze prize winners.

Kamran Khalkhali, Avina Aliasghari, Artina Zaer, Pamaz Gudarzi, Atrin Fardai, Ava Moqaddasian, Melisa Tahmasebi and Razieh Modarresi were awarded honorable mentions.

All the Iranian children are members of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon.

A jury comprising the director-general of the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo, an associate professor from the Tokyo University of the Arts, a professor from the University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo, the chairperson of the

A poster for the 30th World Children's Picture Contest.

National Formative Education Union and an author of art picture books selected the winners.

The 30th anniversary prizes were given to Barira Tasnim Laya from Bangladesh, Divna Jelyazkova Jelezcheva from Bulgaria, Hyun Ji Kim from South Korea, Zi Feng Chong from Malaysia, Valentin Serghei Turcanenco from Moldova, Matej Sajko from Slovakia, Thivein

Nethdinu Mawalla Vithanage from Sri Lanka, Ninlada Anowannaphan from Thailand, Daria Gurenko from Ukraine and Maho Yaguchi from Japan.

All winners will be awarded a shield attached a winning work and a commemorative gift. In addition, all prize winners and participating organizations will also be given a copy of "Commemorative Book of Winners".

The le-no-Hikari Association works hard to foster the cultures of rural villages by publishing books such as the magazine and implementing various cultural activities.

As a part of its diversified activities, the association has held the World Children's Picture Contest since 1993 to create friendships and mutual understanding between children worldwide.

“I Want to See Mioussov” at Tehran theater

This file photo shows members of director Mohammad-Javad Habibi's troupe performing "I Want to See Mioussov" at the Tehran Theater Complex. (Tiwall/Amir-Hossein Qasemi)

TEHRAN – "I Want to See Mioussov", a comedy written by Russian Valentin Kataev, went on stage at the Nazerzadeh Kermani Hall of the Iranshahr Theater Complex on Monday.

Mohammad-Javad Habibi directs the play based on a Persian translation by Mahmud Azizi.

Starring Hasti Jafari, Erfan Sheikhhossein, Amir-Hossein Qasemi, Aisan Behzadi, Mohammad Ekhtiarzadeh, Mehdi Khazemlu, Samaneh Abbasi, Hadis Nejat, Sahar Rajabi, Davud Abbasi and Nikukhalifeh, the play will

remain on stage until March 8.

Written in 1947, the comedy is about Zaitsev, a worker doing repair work for a Moscow nursery, who goes to a rest home called Les Tourmesols to meet a patient there, comrade Mioussov, so that he can sign a delivery receipt for 50 kilograms of white enamel paint.

The comedy is based on a misunderstanding over obtaining the privilege of staying for twenty-four hours

“I Had That Same Dream Again” published in Persian

TEHRAN – "I Had That Same Dream Again" by Japanese novelist Yoru Sumino has been published by Peydayesh in Persian.

Ghazal Baghdadi is the translator of the book originally published in 2016. An English translation by Igor Cima was published in 2020.

It is a layered coming-of-age story from the author of "I Want to Eat Your Pancreas" and "At Night, I Become a Monster".

An unhappy girl who engages

Front cover of the Persian edition of Yoru Sumino's novel "I Had That Same Dream Again".

in self-harm, a high schooler ostracized by her classmates, and an old woman looking to live out her twilight years in peace—what could three such different people have in common?

That's what grade schooler Nanoka Koyanagi is trying to find out. Assigned by her teacher to define what "happiness" means to her, Nanoka tries to find her place in the world by exploring her relationships with these three strangers, and through them, comes to know herself.

Sumino started writing in high

Become a Swallow and Come Soon

An interview with Gholam Ali Nesaei

The book "Become a Swallow and Come Soon" is a total of 14 memories of chemical veterans, written by Gholam Ali Nesaei.

It is the narration of Mohammad Sadegh Roshni and how he and his martyred brother became chemical veterans. Roshni was the first person who became a chemical veteran during the war, and because at that time they did not know that Iraq was using chemical bombs, he suffered severe injuries and was sent to Switzerland for treatment. While he was there, he began to expose the crimes of America and the countries that support Iraq in the war.

* Why did you make chemical veterans the focus of this book's memories?

The veterans are the living documents of our history, and in a way, God made them witness to

the event of eight years of war, for you and me.

* How come you become a writer?

I don't know how to answer this question. After the war, I went to the village; Life began and gradually everything was forgotten. It is in a time of peace and tranquility that a person falls asleep with the slightest negligence and surrenders to his surroundings.

It had been torturous for me to think why I didn't become a martyr, like many of my friends. It was then that I knew that the purpose of my existence today was to write about the people who sacrificed their lives and share their stories with people like me.

* Is the swallow a special symbol for you that you chose as the name of the book?

The swallow is a symbol of liberation and

migration. These people are also being freed.

* Do you think that most of the readers of the holy defense books are young people or warriors of the holy defense?

Young people are the most audience for books in the field of holy defense.