

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran new generation pays tribute to bright future: Hello Commander



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TEHRAN – A new epic song themed with generational support for the Islamic Revolution has revealed the vivid hopes Iranian families and their children pin on the Islamic Republic in their quest for achieving the goals of the Revolution.

Very few countries around the world are subject to the kind of media warfare that Iran is facing nowadays. An army of media outlets from news television networks to online publications and accounts on social media platforms are working around the clock to achieve one common goal: driving a wedge between the state and society.

A hit single by a less known panegyrist proved that these efforts were all an epic failure. The song in question, dubbed “Hello Commander” (in Persian: Salam Farmandeh), was produced by Abouzar Rouhi who rose to national, if not international, prominence for his tuneful song though he isn’t a singer in the true sense of the word.

The song features a kid who was born after 2011 and is speaking to Imam Mahdi, the last of twelve Imams in Shiite eschatology who has been living in occultation ever since 941. It also addresses the current Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, whose political position is deeply rooted in occultation-related theology. ▶ Page 3

Report T

Israel finally admits assassinating IRGC colonel

TEHRAN — In an article published late Wednesday, the New York Times quoted senior Israeli officials as saying that they told the Americans they have assassinated Colonel Sayyad Khodaei in downtown Tehran.

“The Israelis told the Americans the killing was meant as a warning to Iran to halt the operations of a covert group within the Quds Force known as Unit 840, according to the intelligence official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss classified information. Unit 840 is tasked with abductions and assassinations of foreigners around the world, including Israeli civilians and officials, according to Israeli government, military and intelligence officials,” the New York Times claimed.

Big revelation! Israel has become so impudent that it openly and brazenly acknowledges committing state terrorism. ▶ Page 2

Report T

Israeli forces “aimed to kill” Abu Aqleh

The Palestinian Public Prosecution’s office has revealed the killing of veteran Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh was caused by an armor-piercing projectile fired directly and deliberately at her head by an Israeli sniper.

Speaking at a press conference in the occupied territories, the Palestinian Attorney General, Akram Al-Khatib, made the announcement as Israel faces mounting global anger over its refusal to conduct a criminal investigation into its soldiers’ actions.

Al-Khatib says that according to a Palestinian Public Prosecution report, it has been established that an Israeli sniper directly fired a bullet at Abu Aqleh’s head as she was trying to escape Israeli forces storming the occupied city of Jenin. ▶ Page 5

Iran eyeing new destinations for oil shipments: NIOC

TEHRAN – The managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has said Iran is looking into potential new destinations for the country’s oil cargoes to diversify the list of oil buyers, IRNA reported.

Mentioning a 40-percent increase in the country’s oil exports over the past few months, Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr told IRNA that: “This increase in exports has been both

Opinion T

Iran football federation is to blame

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – It’s true that Canada Soccer has cancelled the friendly with Iran but Iran football federation is responsible for preparing the team ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

With less than six months away from the start of the 2022 World Cup, the federation has yet to arrange a single warm-up match.

And time flies.

Iran football team have a historic chance to qualify for the next stage of the FIFA World Cup for the first time ever but the federation’s chaotic situation has lessened the team’s chance to make it happen.

The federation is leading by acting president and it seems to find a president for the country’s football is more important than finding an opponent ahead of the 2022 World Cup. ▶ Page 3

Translation of millennia-old cuneiform tablets unveiled

TEHRAN – The translation of four millennia-old cuneiform tablets has recently been unveiled in a cultural heritage museum located in central Iran.

“Two of the cuneiform tablets have been unearthed from (the UNESCO-registered) Tchogha Zanbil, and they date from the Elamite era,” ILNA quoted Arak’s provincial tourism chief as saying on Thursday.

“Two other cuneiform tablets, which their

due to having new destinations and new customers and also the hard work carried out for reviving part of the traditional markets.”

noted that the Oil Ministry is also going to modify the process of offering crude oil at the country’s energy exchange known as the IRENEX.

He noted that new negotiations have also been underway for attracting investment for the country’s oil industry projects which have

Iran FM: U.S. is stuck in sanctions-madness

TEHRAN— Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian who had participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos told CNN’s Fareed Zakaria on Thursday that the United States is “sanctions-madness”.

Amir Abdollahian also said it is not just a refusal by the U.S. to remove the IRGC from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) that has hampered the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal, saying what has slowed down the negotiations are several issues such as obtaining the necessary guarantees, ensuring that all “maximum pressure” components are removed and the assurance for full economic dividends once the nuclear deal is resurrected.

“Therefore, what is left should not be reduced to one issue,” he remarked.

The talks which started in Vienna in April last year to revitalize the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have stalemated since March. ▶ Page 2

translations unveiled today, date some 3,000 years and they belong to the Sumer civilization,” Mostafa Marzban said.

Sumer was situated in the southernmost part of Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in the area that later became Babylonia and is now southern Iraq, from around Baghdad to the Persian Gulf.

“They are among the rarest cuneiform clay tablets being kept in Iran,” the official noted.

mostly been focused on domestic investors, and solutions such as the issuance of commodity deposit certificates for selling oil on the energy exchange are also on the agenda.

Khojasteh-Mehr said NIOC plans to use all the resources available in the country in order to neutralize the U.S. sanctions and this is what the policies related to the resistance economy are. ▶ Page 4

Iran criticizes discrimination in global health

TEHRAN – In an address to the seventy-fifth World Health Assembly which was held in Geneva, Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi criticized discrimination in the global health.

He began his speech in the main hall of the Assembly by criticizing the existing health discrimination in the world and that the World Health Organization (WHO) has so far failed to address these injustices.

Einollahi earlier on Wednesday went into detail about these injustices and discriminations in a meeting with the Secretary-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom.

He stated that the COVAX facility, despite receiving the money, failed to meet all its obligations in a timely manner under the difficult conditions of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Minister called on the senior official of the World Health Organization to complete the legal process for the approval of Iranian-made coronavirus vaccines as soon as possible. ▶ Page 7

UNESCO-listed Tchogha Zanbil is widely known as the world’s best surviving example of Elamite architecture. The ruined ziggurat stands in Khuzestan province, southwest Iran. It was made a UNESCO site in 1979.

Tchogha Zanbil is the largest ziggurat outside of Mesopotamia and the best preserved of this type of stepped pyramidal monument. Lonely Planet says that even if you’re not a fan of ancient ruins, ▶ Page 6

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Kingston festival to screen movies from Iran

TEHRAN – Five Iranian movies will be screened at the Kingston International Film Festival (KIFF) in England.

“For the Clean Up” directed by Mohammad Moravvej and “Naji” by Hossein Torkjush will be competing in the short film section of the festival, which will take place in Kingston from June 24 to 26.

“For the Clean Up” follows a fallen-from-grace old man trying to change things for the good while “Naji” tells a story about human trafficking.

“Duchenne Boys” has been chosen to be screened in the documentary film section.

A personal narrative documentary that follows its creator, Sohrab Kavir, as he returns to Iran, battling survivor’s guilt after the deaths of three of his brothers. Once there he embarks upon an epic quest to form a virtual football team made up of young sufferers of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, the same disease that took his brothers. ▶ Page 8

Foreign Ministry says new U.S. sanctions shows Biden’s ill intentions

TEHRAN— Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Thursday that the new round of unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States shows two things: that the Biden administration does not intend to give up the failed legacy of the “maximum pressure” policy; and that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is a nightmare for the terrorists.

Regarding the new U.S. sanctions against the Iranian citizens, Khatibzadeh said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran and its official and legal armed forces, especially the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, have always been a nightmare for terrorist and extremist groups in the region.”

The spokesman added that it is natural that the U.S. government, as a mother who nurtures these terrorist groups, should not refrain from making any effort to support them, as it has imposed cruel and illegal sanctions against the Iranian people for years.

“At the time of Trump, they cowardly assassinated martyr Qassem Soleimani,” he added.

Iran summons Greek charge d’affaires

TEHRAN — Following the seizure of a ship with the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Greek waters, the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday summoned Greece’s chargé d’affaires in the absence of its ambassador to strongly protest the move.

During the meeting, the director of the Mediterranean Department of the Foreign Ministry reminded the Greek government of its international obligations given that the vessel had stopped due to a technical problem.

He also condemned Greece’s surrender to U.S. pressure in this regard as unacceptable.

The Iranian official noted that confiscation of the cargo of the ship bearing Iran’s flag was an example of international piracy for which Athens and those who seized the ship illegally will be responsible.

He added that Iran will not relinquish its legal rights and expects the Greek government to abide by its commitments regarding navigation and shipping.

Economic deputy FM meets Italian diplomat

TEHRAN — Ettore Sequi, Director General of the Italian Foreign Ministry, met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari during a visit to Tehran on Thursday.

In the meeting, Safari referred to cooperation possibilities of Iran and Italy, especially the economic sector, and underlined the need for maximum use of the capacities.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister also reviewed the areas of cooperation with the Italian Foreign Ministry official, saying Iranian businesspeople have a positive view of Italian companies and Rome should seize this opportunity.

Israel finally admits assassinating IRGC colonel

From page 1 ► From the very beginning, it was clear as a day that the Israelis were behind the assassination. The pattern, the execution, and every single bit of evidence proved so.

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

Majid Mir-Ahmadi, secretary of the country’s Security Council (SCC), had said with certainty Israel was behind the assassination. “The assassination of Martyr Khodaei was unquestionably carried out by the Zionist regime, and the culprits must brace themselves for a heavy slap in the face from Iran,” Mir-Ahmadi told IRNA on Monday.

“The criminals who committed such a crime must be prepared for a tremendous slap in the face, because our vengeance will be such that they

Khatibzadeh noted that it is clear that the Biden administration, despite the initial talks that were deceptive, has continued the same failed policy.

“This recent action is another sign of the U.S. government’s prejudice against the Iranian people and the continuation of the scandalous policy of maximum pressure,” he reiterated.

The spokesman described the United States’ unilateral sanctions as a clear violation of international law, as stated in a recent statement by Alena Douhan, the UN Special Rapporteur.

He added that these sanctions seek nothing more than to inflict suffering on the Iranian people and the region.

The diplomat went on to emphasize that “these behaviors will not have any effect on the will of the people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in pursuing its lofty goals, including the eradication of terrorism in the region, and the Islamic Republic of Iran has the right to confront these actions proportionately and decisively, according to international law.”

Greece’s diplomat said he will convey Iran’s protest and displeasure to the Athens government.

On Wednesday, Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) issued a statement about the arrest of an Iranian cargo vessel in Greek waters, describing the move as an act of piracy and violation of international standards.

The PMO asked the Greek government to fulfill its international obligations and immediately release the vessel.

“The vessel had faced bad weather conditions, and experienced a number of technical problems, which led the vessel to call for assistance. Under international and technical regulations and standards, the State with the nearest coastline to the vessel calling for assistance due to safety threats should cooperate by guiding the vessel to a place of safety. The vessel can then take the required measures to resolve any technical problems and resume her international voyage once the danger has been completely eliminated,” the statement wrote.

The Italian diplomat, for his part, said he was pleased to visit Tehran.

Sequi also expressed hope that the Vienna talks intended to lift sanctions on Iran by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal would bear fruit.

He also underlined Italy’s willingness to tap economic opportunities in relations with Iran.

The Italian diplomat noted that his country’s companies have had an active presence in the Iranian market and this can be strengthened in the new era of ties.

In the meeting, the two diplomats discussed ways to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

will regret their deed,” he warned.

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

Iran will surely respond with a devastating blow to this vicious act which is a concrete example of state terrorism.

The Israeli regime has now shifted its focus. Previously, they were solely interested in striking Iran’s nuclear facilities and assassinating nuclear scientists, but now they have assassinated an IRGC officer who was instrumental in the advancement of Iran’s drone manufacturing industry.

Israel cannot get away this time! Well, whoever sows the wind reaps the storm.

Iran FM: U.S. is stuck in sanctions-madness

We have left the door open for Saudi Arabia

From page 1 ► Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian said a return of the United States to the JCPOA would mean that Iran’s economic and trade ties with the world “should be normalized”, and that Iran should be able to fully reap the benefits of the agreement.

Under the JCPOA, which is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, Iran agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanction. However, former U.S. president Donald Trump unilaterally quit the agreement in May 2018 in violation of the UN resolution and imposed the heaviest sanctions against the country in line with his “maximum pressure” campaign against the Islamic Republic

Amir Abdollahian went on to say the American side has delayed the necessary responses to Iran’s initiative to put the JCPOA back on the track.

Regarding the FTO issue, the foreign minister said that it was the Israeli regime that deliberately exaggerated the issue in order to undermine the Vienna talks.

“I explicitly declare that what is our definitive guide and criterion for a good agreement is the benefit of the Iranian people from the full economic benefits of the JCPOA. If Mr. Biden has good intentions, he must show it on the ground. Everyone should know that the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved great peaceful nuclear achievements, which if the JCPOA is revived, it should suspend part of it in accordance with its obligations. It is important to note that the American side will not pay anything out of its own pocket, and ultimately, if it adheres to its obligations, it must return our rights, which has been illegally taken from the Iranian nation,” Amir Abdollahian emphasized.

Due to the “illegal sanctions” Iran has lost at least between 200 to 300 billion dollars. Iran was subjected to the heaviest sanctions in history despite the fact the UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, confirmed in its regular reports that Iran was fully honoring its commitments.

He added, “We are ready for a good and lasting agreement if Mr. Biden makes his political decision and chooses to finally return to the full commitments of the United States under the 2015 nuclear deal.”

In response to a question about Iran-U.S. relations, Amir Abdollahian said Iran’s foreign policy is based on



certain principles and it the practical behavior of the United States which would shape the quality of relations.

“Unfortunately, Washington has only increased distrust over the past 40 years. Right in the middle of the Vienna talks, Mr. Biden is adding new sanctions. In fact, Americans have gone so far as to sanction one person three times. This is a kind of sanctions madness. Any relationship requires a minimum of trust, which is non-existent in the case of the United States,” he stated.

Iran’s energy capacities are vast

Responding to a question about Iran’s return to the energy market in the light of international developments, the foreign minister said Iran has several abundant capacities in the field of energy, including oil and gas production and transmission.

“Due to its geopolitical position in terms of transit with respect to the North-South and East-West corridors, Iran’s capacities are vast. In the same context, at a recent OPEC meeting in Qatar, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed the idea of using gas capacity for the post-Covid period, which can be used to improve and develop the global economic situation,” he elaborated.

The top Iranian diplomat added that his country is ready to participate in the global economic reconstruction, but there are requirements that must be considered.

Saudi Arabia severed ties with us; we have left the door open

When asked about the Iran-Saudi Arabia relations, the foreign minister reminded Zakaria that it was Riyadh who first cut the cords with Iran.

“It is clear that geography, history and cultural commonalities connect us. We and Saudi Arabia are neighbors. Of course, it was Saudi Arabia that severed diplomatic relations. The Islamic Republic of Iran has left the

door open for a Saudi return,” he reiterated.

Amir Abdollahian further added that there has been good progress in the recent round of negotiations between Iran and the Saudi Kingdom.

“We even agreed to meet at the senior political and diplomatic level and at the level of foreign ministers if the conditions allow,” he told the CNN.

Regarding the war in Yemen, the Iranian foreign minister said there is a humanitarian tragedy in the country.

“We tried to help calm the developments in Yemen from the very beginning. Our principled view is that all Yemeni parties should play a role in the future of that country. Ansarullah, of course, has been able to create the safest areas inside Yemen over the past years. The start of the war by Saudi Arabia was a grave mistake from the very beginning, so the focus should be on continuing the ceasefire and lifting the siege. The future of Yemen should be decided only by an all-Yemeni decision,” he elaborated.

Israelis invent stories about Iran’s nuclear program

Responding to another question posed by Zakaria regarding the recent media report on Iran’s nuclear program, Amir Abdollahian said that the Israelis are making up baseless stories.

“For decades, the Israeli regime has been lying that Iran will have a nuclear bomb in six months, and it is repeating this lie in different ways.... The Zionist pattern is that wherever there is progress in an area, they invent stories.”

Tehran made the right decision on war in Syria

Responding to a question on Syria, Amir Abdollahian said Iran stands by its decision to support Syria during the war with Daesh.

“The Syrian President was recently in Tehran and the situation in Syria has changed completely. Tehran made the right decision in the war on terror against the Syrian people and stood by the Syrian people so that Daesh and terrorists would not rule in Damascus, and if that happened, we would have a different world,” he elaborated.

Iran’s top diplomat noted that today Syria has overcome these dangers, and everyone must realistically contribute to the stability of Syria.

“Unfortunately, from Syria to Afghanistan, we are witnessing the use of terrorists as instruments. For a better future in Syria, the task of the coordinated presence of terrorists in that country must be clarified and the occupation of Syria by foreign forces must end,” he underlined.

We must pay attention to roots of war in Ukraine

In response to a question about the Ukraine war, Amir Abdollahian stressed, “Iranian officials have clearly rejected the war from the very beginning, but at the same time we must pay close attention to the roots of this war and the widespread provocations of NATO, the West and the United States against Russia.”

The foreign minister further stated that Iran is upset from the war and displacement of the people, whether in Ukraine, Palestine, Yemen or Syria, and firmly rejects it.

“Therefore, instead of confrontation, we should all focus on ending the war, and in this context, Iran has announced its readiness to facilitate the peace process through mediation, and will continue its efforts in the future,” Amir Abdollahian concluded.

BETTER TO BE A SOLDIER IN AFGHANISTAN THAN TO BE A U.S. CITIZEN!

2022 killing spree is getting out of control. More than ten mass shooting happens every week in America. These toll more than 80 dead Americans each month. To put it in perspective, the U.S. army had ten dead soldiers every month in Afghanistan.

Month	Number	Dead	Injured	Total
January	34	43	112	155
February	36	37	162	199
March	42	41	171	212
April	57	61	255	316
May	37	35	174	209
To Today	206	217	874	1091

www.gunviolencearchive.org



Iran new generation pays tribute to bright future:

Hello Commander

From Page 1 ▶ The song masterfully blurs the lines between addressing the Hidden Imam and his “ordinary deputy” that is Ayatollah Khamenei.

Imam Mahdi went through two occultation periods. The Minor Occultation took place in 841 and lasted until 941. In this period the system of the deputy was introduced. During the Minor Occultation, Imam Mahdi had four deputies who acted as courier-like agents between the imam and the believers. A year after the death of the fourth deputy – Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn Muhammad al-Samarri –, Imam Mahdi went into the Major Occultation which continues to this day. In this period the system of deputies also underwent some changes; the system of special deputies came to an end. In other words, Imam Mahdi has no special deputies in the Major Occultation. But he does have “ordinary or public” deputies who are often chosen from prominent Faqihs (jurists). Under this system, Ayatollah Khamenei serves as the “ordinary deputy” of Imam Mahdi.

“O, the love of my soul, my Imam of the time, the world is meaningless without you. O, the love of my time, when you are present, our world is in spring-time. Hello commander, hello from this zealous generation that is left off. Hello commander, Seyed Ali has called his children of the 1390s [the Iranian equivalent of the 2010s],” the song reads.



It was produced a few months ago but was thrown to the center of public debates only recently when Iranian children along with their families began arranging public gatherings in their thousands to recite the melodious song.

On Thursday, Iranian children and their families flocked in large numbers to the 100k-strong Azadi Stadium of Tehran to celebrate the song and show their support for the Islamic Revolution.

And that’s been a killer, both for the proponents and opponents of the Islamic establishment of Iran. For the proponents, it was an excellent occasion to enjoy a mellifluous song that spoke volumes about their feelings toward those who are working their butts off to undermine the Islamic Republic. For opponents, the sight of a large number of people heading to the stadium

and chanting slogans in support of the Islamic Republic was no less than a disaster.

The song showed how people view their country and its future. Many Iranians appreciate the breakthroughs that their country was able to achieve over the last four decades. Despite being under sanctions for a long period of time, Iran has made remarkable progress in various spheres. A case in point is the Covid vaccines Iran produced under what American officials called “the strongest sanctions in history” that were levied by the Trump administration. On Friday, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said Iran has made preparations for the export of 4 million domestically-produced covid vaccines.

This may explain why opponents severely inveigh against the Thursday gathering. They used everything in their power to find fault with the gathering. But

their efforts came to naught.

Iranian users of social media platforms highlighted this failure. Many Iranians said the gathering reflected the Iranian people’s belief that they have a wonderful country for which a bright future beckons.

“A manifestation of [the children of] the 1390s pledging allegiance to the Revolution,” tweeted Ali Bahadori Jahromi, spokesman for the government.

The ceremony came at a time when the Islamic Republic faces a multidimensional attack from an array of enemies who differ in everything except their hostility to the Islamic Republic. They are keen to exploit any minor public discontent that might happen to undermine the Islamic establishment. The recent sporadic protests over the Raisi administration’s move to cut subsidies for some basic goods were one such occasion that created some hopes among the enemies of Iran for the possibility of stoking nationwide unrest. Of course, the protests subsided and the people chose to support the government in its quest for a more equitable distribution of subsidies.

The Hello Commander gatherings indicated that the people staunchly back the government. “I promise to be loyal to this system,” tweeted Gowharshad, an Iranian Twitter user, posting a photo of an Azadi Stadium packed with families.

Iran football federation is to blame

From Page 1 ▶ The federation has said it is working diligently to find an alternative opponent ahead of the World Cup and has negotiated with Paraguay but the match will likely be canceled as the match against Ecuador was not finalized.

The federation’s priorities have been seemingly changed at the moment. There’s a power struggle in Iran football and it will be a big setback in preparation for the prestigious tournament.

Iran have been drawn in a tough group along with England, the U.S. and one of Ukraine, Wales or Scotland and it means we are already behind schedule.

The best possible way is the federation holds camp in Tehran and Team Melli play with the Iranian clubs because we waste the time and no other big team are ready to play our team.

Iran’s men’s into IWBFA Oceania Championships final

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s team defeated Thailand 74-46 on Friday to advance to the final match of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBFA) Oceania Championships.

Iran will play the winners of Australia and South Korea in the final match on Saturday.

Iran have already booked their place at the 2022 Wheelchair Basketball World Championship as one of top four teams.

Earlier in the day, Iran’s women’s team won a bronze medal in the competition above Thailand. Australia and Japan claimed gold and silver medal respectively.

The competition is being held in Phuket, Thailand from May 20 to 28.

Gol Gohar coach Ghalenoei signs extension

TEHRAN – Amir Ghalenoei signed a one-year contract extension with Gol Gohar football team on Thursday.

He was named head coach of the Sirjan based club in September 2020.

Under his coaching, Gol Gohar finished in fifth place in the 2021/22 IPL season.

He is the most successful coach in the Iran Professional League and managed several clubs, including Esteghlal, Mes Kerman, Sepahan and Tractor, with two of which he won a total of five championships and two Hazfi Cup titles.

Fajr Sepasi relegated to Iran Division A

TEHRAN – Fajr Sepasi football team were relegated from Iran Professional League (IPL) Wednesday night.

The Shiraz based team, who won promotion last year, lost to Tractor 2-1 in Tabriz and the result meant that they have no chance to stay in Iran league and were relegated to Azadegan League.

Omid Mansouri was on target for the visiting team but Mohammad Abbaszadeh and Saman Nariman Jahan scored two goals for Tractor to seal the win.

Aluminum and Paykan shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw and Sanat Naft earned a late 2-2 draw with struggling team Naft Masjed Soleyman.

Iran learn rivals at 2022 AFC Futsal Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran were drawn in Group C of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Kuwait 2022 on Thursday.

The 12-time winners will face Lebanon, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia in the Sept. 27 to Oct. 8, 2022 Finals, to be hosted by Kuwait for the first time.

Kuwait will be making their 12th appearance in the tournament and will aim to impress in front of home support when they face Iraq, 16-time ASEAN champions Thailand and debutants Oman in Group A.

Bahrain will face the Central Asian trio of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in Group C.

Japan, the only other team to lift the continental trophy, were drawn in Group D with Vietnam, Korea Republic and Saudi Arabia for company.

- Draw**
- Group A:** Kuwait, Iraq, Thailand, Oman
- Group B:** Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
- Group C:** Iran, Lebanon, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia
- Group D:** Japan, Vietnam, Korea Republic, Saudi Arabia

Canada, Iran match called off

TEHRAN – Canada Soccer has cancelled a planned friendly with Iran scheduled for June 5.

In a one-paragraph statement, the governing body gave no reason for the cancellation of the game at B.C. Place Stadium in Vancouver.

“Canada Soccer has cancelled the international match that was scheduled for 5 June, 2022 against Iran as part of the men’s national team preparations for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Additional details will be provided to all ticket purchasers,” the statement read.

The friendly match against Ecuador has been already canceled.

“Over the past week, the untenable geopolitical situation of hosting Iran became significantly divisive, and in response, the match was cancelled,” Canada Soccer said in a statement.

“While we considered the external factors in selecting the optimal opponent in our original decision-making process, we will strive to do better moving forward.”

Canada Soccer also said it will conduct a review of its process for the hosting of international matches and that it is working to find an alternative opponent.

Persepolis close in on signing Pouraliganji

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club are reportedly closing in on signing Shenzhen defender Morteza Pouraliganji.

The Iran international defender had previously said he would join Persepolis in the near future and now local media reports suggest that the Iranian club has reached an initial agreement with him.

The 30-year-old defender is recovering from ACL surgery at the moment.

Persepolis have also reached an initial agreement with Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand.

Younes Delfi parts company with HNK Gorica

TEHRAN – Iranian winger Younes Delfi parted ways with Croatian football club HNK Gorica.

The 21-year-old player singed for the team in September 2020 on loan from Belgian club Charleroi.

“Always (it) is so hard to say goodbye, unfortunately is end of my journey with HNK Gorica. I really enjoyed next to you guys and thank you for everything. Hope to see you again,” Delfi shared on his Instagram account.

Delfi has reportedly been linked with a move to Persepolis football club.

Developing ties with Moscow strategic for Tehran: Veep

TEHRAN – Mohammad Mokhber, the vice president of Iran, has underlined the willingness of Tehran to comprehensively develop relations with Moscow, saying that the development of ties is one of Iran’s strategic policies.

In a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, Mokhber stressed the need to set goals for boosting bilateral ties. He asked the Joint Commission of Iran-Russia to seriously work in that regard.

The joint commission is headed by Novak.

Mokhber said Iran has a serious will to comprehensively enhance ties with Russia. “The development of relations with Moscow in all dimensions is one of Tehran’s strategic and serious policies,” he noted.

He called for the improvement of relations between Iran and Russia as a basis for providing the necessary conditions for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

“There are many capacities and areas of cooperation between the two countries, and if we can activate these capacities, we will see a serious leap and change in the relations between the two countries” the vice president said, according to Mehr News.

Underlining that the level of trade relations between Iran and Russia is low compared to the level of political relations, Mokhber said,

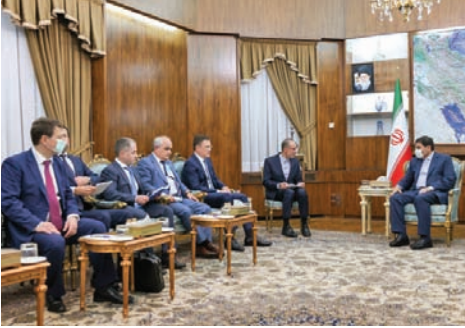
“There is a serious will in Iran to develop trade relations with Russia, and if Moscow is determined in this regard, we will see serious growth and development in economic and trade relations between the two countries.”

Mokhber mentioned transportation and transit as areas of joint cooperation between Iran and Russia. “Transportation is a serious component in the development of relations, and Iran is ready to increase the level of its cooperation with Russia in this field,” he added.

He also pointed to the cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including oil and gas. “Fortunately, the barriers to joint ventures between the two countries have been removed, and the recent meeting of the two presidents has paved the way for the development of cooperation,” Mokhber noted.

The vice president mentioned banking issues as obstacles to the development of cooperation between the two countries and stressed the need to work to eliminate these obstacles and use the national currency in trade exchanges as much as possible.

For his part, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a long-time friend and reliable partner and said, “Moscow has always attached great importance to the development of re-



lations with Tehran.”

Underlining that Iran and Russia have a common approach on many issues, he described the positions of Iran in the face of developments and international issues as measured, and expressed his country’s serious will to develop relations with Iran.

Referring to increase in exchange of political and trade delegations between the two countries, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister said, “During this visit, positive and constructive talks were held between the Russian delegation and Iranian counterparts, and the fields of joint cooperation in various fields were examined.”

He announced Russia’s readiness to use the national currencies of the two countries in trade between the two countries and said, “Moscow is ready to expand its investments in Iran in various sectors.”

Iran summons Swiss chargé d’affaires over U.S. seizure of oil cargo

TEHRAN – The most senior Swiss diplomat in Tehran was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Friday over a U.S.-orchestrated seizure of an Iranian oil cargo off the Greek coast.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the Swiss chargé d’affaires was summoned in the absence of ambassador. The chargé d’affaires was summoned as the representative of the U.S. interests in Iran.

The Thursday report by Reuters news agency cited statements by unnamed source showing that the U.S. Department of Justice had confiscated 700,000 barrels of Iranian oil cargo seized last month off the southern Greek island of Evia on-board a Russian-operated ship, according to Press TV.

A Greek source said that the

oil cargo had been transferred to another ship hired by Washington and will be sent to the U.S.

The source said the Department of Justice had “informed Greece that the cargo on the vessel is Iranian oil.”

Another source confirmed the American seizure and said that the Iranian oil cargo is currently being transferred to the Liberia-flagged tanker Ice Energy, which is operated by Greek shipping company Dynacom.

The Swiss chargé d’affaires has been told to hand over Iran’s “severe concern and protest” to the government of the United States over the cargo seizure.

The Iranian foreign ministry said the seizure took place under pressure from the government of the United States. It also de-

scribed the U.S. move as “a continuation of flagrant violation of international maritime laws and regulations as well as relevant international conventions especially the principle of free navigation and free international trade.”

The Iranian Foreign Ministry called on the U.S. to “immediately release the ship and its cargo.”

Earlier, following the seizure of a ship with the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Greek waters, the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday summoned Greece’s chargé d’affaires (in the absence of its ambassador) to protest the move strongly.

In the meeting, the director of the Mediterranean Department of the Foreign Ministry reminded the Greek government of its international obligations given that the vessel had stopped due

Tehran, Moscow ink 3 cooperation documents

TEHRAN – Iran and Russia have signed three documents of cooperation following the visit of a high-ranking Russian delegation to Iran earlier this week, Mehr News Agency reported.

The documents were signed by Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak on Wednesday after they discussed potential areas for cooperation in an official meeting.

The documents cover cooperation in a variety of areas including the petrochemical industry equipment, and transportation.

During the meeting, the Iranian oil minister stressed the need for expanding collaborations between the public and private sectors of Iran and Russia.

Novak, for his part, said that the cooperation between Iran and Russia is comprehensive, and called for implementing the agreements reached between the two countries during the visit of the Iranian president to Moscow.

Oji and Novak also signed a joint statement after their meeting.

Tehran hosted an Iran-Russia business forum on Wednesday which was attended by senior officials from the two sides.

During the forum, Novak said that there are various needs in his country's market that can be met through Iranian commodities.

According to the official, the trade between the two countries can be increased significantly by reducing import-related restrictions and conducting trade using the



Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji (R) and Russian Deputy PM Alexander Novak signing cooperation documents in Tehran on Wednesday.

national currencies of the countries.

Pressures put on Russia by unfriendly countries increase the need to develop Moscow-Tehran ties, Novak added.

As Novak stressed, a good opportunity was created last year for fostering bilateral trade exchange as the two countries witnessed an 81-percent growth in their trade volume.

Referring to Russia's willingness to complete North-South Transport Corridor, the official said his country wants to develop the corridor to facilitate access to the Persian Gulf littoral region and expand activities in that region.

North-South Transport Corridor is a sea, rail, and road route expected to facilitate and boost the exchange of goods between Iran, India, Russia, Europe, and the Central Asian states.

Iran eyeing new destinations for oil shipments: NIOC



From page 1 ► Asked about NIOC's long-term plans for increasing the country's oil production to 5.7 million barrels per day (bpd), the official said: "The estimate for achieving a production capacity of 5.7 million barrels of oil per day is realistic and based on the production potential of Iran's oil reservoirs and has a scientific basis."

Of course, to achieve this production level, \$90 billion of investment is needed. We plan to use the maximum domestic financing capacity in the first

place, while foreign companies can also invest in the implementation of the country's development projects, and we do not rule out the presence of foreign companies.

Back in April, the Wall Street Journal reported that Iran has been boosting oil exports in the current year as major oil buyers like China are cutting back imports from Russia due to the war with Ukraine.

Based on the report, Iranian oil exports increased by 30 percent in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the previous year, to reach 870,000 bpd.

The jump in Iran's oil exports in Q1 was the fastest among all producers in West Asia, while the volume of exports is estimated to be the highest since former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the so-called Iranian nuclear deal in 2018, the report said.

Annual copper cathode output up 2.8%

TEHRAN- Production of copper cathode in Iran rose 2.8 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry reported.

As reported, the country produced 299,000 tons of the product in the past year.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rods for the wire and cable industry.

Earlier this month, Head of Iran Copper Association Bahram Shakouri said the country is going to increase its copper cathode production from the current 300,000 tons to one million tons by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts on March 21, 2025).

"Although less than 300,000 tons of copper cathodes are currently produced in the country, with the development of reserves and more exploration and extraction, the production of one million tons of the product is projected by 1404," Shakouri stated.

"For the 1404 horizon, production of 800,000 tons of copper is targeted, and if we develop mineral reserves and expand exploration operations while creating more processing plants, the production ceiling of one million tons of copper cathode can be considered for the mentioned year," he explained.

Referring to the global target for copper production in 2050, the official added: "According to forecasts, copper production in the world by 2050 should reach four times the current level which is over 1.8 million tons."

Being located on the Alpine-Himalayan

orogenic belt, of which about 12.5 percent is located in Iran, the country should contribute greatly to the fourfold increase in the world's copper production by 2050, Shakouri said.

Stressing the need for planning to increase Iran's share in the world's copper production, he added: "To increase our share in the global copper production in the 2050 horizon, we must develop both exploration and extraction and discover new world-class reserves."

According to the official, Iran Copper Association is currently leading the country's copper exploration programs in collaboration with the private sector.

"New copper mines recently discovered in Sistan-Baluchestan Province (in the southeast of the country) have been the result of such efforts," he said.

Shakouri stressed that the mining sector, especially in the field of copper, has a bright future considering the elimination of fossil fuels and the movement towards new technologies, saying: "If the country's mining capacities in the copper field are realized, given the rising global prices for the mentioned product, at least \$10 billion of revenues could be generated for the country, along with creating more employment and production which ensures the development of deprived regions."

The official noted that currently, most of the country's copper cathode production is exported due to the underdevelopment of downstream industries.

"The government should support

Annual bank loans paid to knowledge-based firms up over 108%

TEHRAN – The Iranian banking system paid 669.4 trillion rials (about \$2.585 billion) of facilities to 1,362 knowledge-based companies in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), an increase of 108.2 percent year on year..

As reported by Mehr News Agency, Bank Mellat accounted for the biggest share of the paid facilities with 112.9 trillion rials (about \$436 million), followed by Bank Melli with 94.4 trillion rials (about \$364.6 million) of offered facilities.

The Islamic Republic has developed plans to support and empower knowledge-based companies as a step forward to materialize the goal of the year

which is "Knowledge-based Production and job creation" as the economy is fighting the U.S. sanctions.

Back in April, Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin said supporting knowledge-based products was one of the country's new priorities in setting foreign trade policies for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

"One of our priorities in foreign trade is to export knowledge-based goods instead of raw or semi-raw materials," Fatemi-Amin said.

"This year, considering the slogan of the year which is "Knowledge-Based Production and Job-Creation", we are completely revising the criteria



for selecting the country's top exporting companies, so that companies exporting knowledge-based goods are given more importance and would be among the top manufacturers," the minister said.

The law for promoting and supporting knowledge-based companies was approved by the Majlis (Iranian parliament) in 2010, paving the way for a jumpstart in the march toward scientific progress.

Over the past couple of years, the concept of 'knowledge-based company' has changed to 'knowledge-based society', meaning that supporting knowledge-based companies will lead to many social and economic advantages for the

public.

The number of knowledge-based companies has increased from around 50 in 2013 to more than 5,700 in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Currently, many knowledge-based companies are active in different fields, ranging from information and communication technology to health, agriculture, and energy.

Various knowledge-based companies have made advancements in different fields, however, the level of progress in the fields of health, ICT, agriculture, and energy has been more noticeable. Of course, other sectors such as the automotive industry have removed many bottlenecks so far.

Iran ranks 43rd among world's top importers of food products

TEHRAN – Despite being the 17th most populous country in the world, Iran is ranked 43rd in the world in terms of food imports, the latest data released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows.

Based on the FAO data, the Islamic Republic of Iran imported only \$8.3 billion worth of food products in 2020 which indicates that Iran is very self-reliant in terms of agricultural and food products, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported.

FAO statistics show that industrialized countries are the largest importers of food products in the world.

Based on the mentioned data, the United States was the second-largest importer of agricultural products among 195 countries according to the 2020 statistics.



The United States imported more than \$146 billion worth of agricultural products in the mentioned year, more than any other country except China.

Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Italy, Belgium, and Canada are also ranked third to tenth in the world in the ranking of the largest

importers of agricultural products in 2020.

German agricultural imports in 2020 amounted to \$95.7 billion, the Netherlands imported \$69.9 billion of food products, while the United Kingdom imported \$61.7 billion, Japan \$56.8 billion, France \$56.2 billion, Italy \$42.5 billion, Belgium \$38.4 billion and Canada \$35.8 billion worth of such commodities.

According to FAO, Iran currently stands among the world's top producers of agricultural products.

The Islamic Republic is the third-largest producer of dates, honey, pistachios, and walnuts in the world.

The country is also ranked third in the world in the production of walnuts with 356,000 tons of annual output, while in terms of almond and watermelon production Iran is also ranked fourth.

More than 63m tons of cement produced in a year

TEHRAN- Iran produced 63.076 million tons of cement in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry reported.

As reported, the cement output fell 9.1 percent in the past year, from the preceding year.

Iran's cement industry has a history of more than eight decades of activity.

Currently, there are 96 cement production lines active in 74 factories across Iran, and nearly half of them are less than 10 years old. This is an indication

that new production units have a greater share of the total output in this sector.

Neighboring countries are not only the consumers of Iranian cement but also demand the transfer of the cement industry's technology to their countries.



Commodities worth over \$2b traded at IME in a month



downstream industries, including wire and cable production units, and provide incentives to other high-tech industries that use copper products," Shakouri stressed.

Meanwhile, last November, the managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) said: "NICIC has it on the agenda to be placed among the world's top 10 copper-producing companies within the next four years."

"NICIC has defined 45 new projects to this end, of which three will be put into operation by late-May 2022 to add 350,000 tons to the country's copper concentrate production capacity", Ardeshtir Sa'd-Mohammadi said at the time.

Mentioning the company's new exploration operations across the country, the official noted that recently two billion tons of new copper reserves have been discovered in a region near Sarcheshmeh in Kerman Province.

Stating that NICIC is currently in a good position, the official noted that with new discoveries, the company is on a good upward path.

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar month Ordibehesht (ended on May 21), the second month of Iranian calendar year, 7.939 million tons of commodities worth more than 665 trillion rials (about \$2.519 billion) were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the trades show 11 percent and nine percent growth in value and weight, respectively, as compared to the first month.

Some 6.68 million tons of commodities valued at over 403 trillion rials (about \$1.55 billion) were traded on the metals and minerals trading floor.

Furthermore, the IME saw the trade of 1.215 million tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued at 249 trillion rials (about \$956 million).

IME's agriculture products trading floor hosted trades of five tons of saffron in the second month.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 43,644 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, 7.231 million tons of commodities worth more than 599 trillion rials (about \$2.154 billion) were traded at IME in the first Iranian calendar month Farvardin (ended on April 20).

Some 5.748 million tons of commodities valued at over 338 trillion rials (about

\$1.3 billion) were traded on its metals and minerals trading floor in the first month.

Furthermore, the IME saw the trade of 1.372 million tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued at 248 trillion rials (about \$954 million).

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 110,781 tons of commodities traded on it.

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

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

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

Israeli forces “aimed to kill” Abu Aqleh

From page 1 ▶ The Palestinian Public Prosecution's office has revealed the killing of veteran Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh was caused by an armor-piercing projectile fired directly and deliberately at her head by an Israeli sniper.

Speaking at a press conference in the occupied territories, the Palestinian Attorney General, Akram Al-Khatib, made the announcement as Israel faces mounting global anger over its refusal to conduct a criminal investigation into its soldiers' actions.

Al-Khatib says that according to a Palestinian Public Prosecution report, it has been established that an Israeli sniper directly fired a bullet at Abu Aqleh's head as she was trying to escape Israeli forces storming the occupied city of Jenin.

The Attorney General says she was shot dead despite wearing a helmet and a blue vest that was clearly marked with the word "PRESS". He says other journalists who were accompanying Abu Aqleh were also deliberately targeted by the regime troops' gunfire.

He announced the bullet that killed Abu Aqleh was a 5.56 mm round with a steel component used by NATO forces, reiterating that the Palestinian Authority will not hand over the bullet to the occupying regime.

Al-Khatib also say the bullet was fired from a distance of 170 to 200 meters away by a sniper with "a clear line of sight". He further announced that the bullet had general and specific markings that match a Mini Ruger semi-automatic sniper weapon.

The Palestinian judiciary official pointed out the remains of the gunfire still at Abu Aqleh's murder scene support the fact that the journalist was killed with what he described as premeditation, emphasizing that the Israeli troops also fired at anyone who tried to reach Abu Aqleh to rescue the Al Jazeera journalist.

Al-Khatib says the Palestinian Public Prosecution concluded that the facts on the ground

confirm the absence of any armed clashes at the time when the murder took place, pledging that the investigation carried out by the Public Prosecution will be the cornerstone in the prosecution of the Israeli killers. "The only source of firing was by the occupation forces with the aim to kill," he said.

According to Al-Khatib, an autopsy and forensic examination conducted in the occupied city of Nablus following Abu Aqleh's assassination showed she was shot from the back, indicating that she was trying to flee as Israeli forces continued to fire as the group of journalists.

Aside from Abu Aqleh, another Al Jazeera employee, Ali al-Samoudi, sustained injuries from an Israeli bullet also fired towards his back during the same incident. Al-Samoudi is now in a stable condition.

"Ali Samoudi was hit by a bullet in his back, and the Israeli occupation forces continued their attack on the journalists, who tried to escape and leave," al-Khatib said.

The findings of the probe came days after the Palestinian Foreign Ministry announced it had formally asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate Abu Aqleh's killing.

Israel has ruled out a criminal investigation into Abu Aqleh's death. The regime's military claims that under its policy, a criminal investigation is not launched if a person is killed in the "midst of an active combat zone," unless there is credible and immediate suspicion of a criminal offense.

Apart from the regime's top ally, the United States, lawmakers in Washington, the United Nations, and the global community have been calling on Tel Aviv to allow for an independent investigation.

So far, the regime has refused to arrange for international investigators make their way to the murder scene fueling further suspicions that Israeli troops were behind the killing.

Meanwhile, an investigation by American news outlet CNN has shed further evidence



backing the Palestinian Attorney General's account. The probe includes videos of the scene of the shooting which show that there was no active combat, nor any armed Palestinians, near Abu Aqleh in the moments leading up to her murder.

The news outlet says it has obtained videos, which it corroborated by testimony from eight eyewitnesses, an audio forensic analyst, and an explosive weapons expert, which suggest that Abu Aqleh was shot dead in a targeted attack by the Israeli military.

According to CNN, the footage shows a calm scene before the reporters came under fire in the outskirts of Jenin refugee camp, near the main roundabout. At least four other journalists and three local residents said that it had been a normal morning in Jenin, home to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, many on their way to work or school, and the street was relatively quiet.

About a dozen or so Palestinians had gathered to watch Abu Aqleh, a household name in the Arab world after she and her colleagues arrived in Jenin to report on an uptick of Israeli army raids on the Palestinians living there. Some of the Palestinians filmed the scene on their phones.

In one 16-minute phone video shared with the American news network, a Palestinian man who is filming is reported said to be walking towards the spot where the journalists had gathered, zooming in on the Israeli armored vehicles (who had been preparing to raid the area) parked in the distance, and says "look at the snipers."

This year, Israeli regime raids on the Jenin refugee camp, in particular, have become a regular occurrence. This follows a series of lone-wolf retaliatory attacks by Palestinians against Israeli settlers, after the regime repeatedly stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque and its compounds, in addition to others regions of the occupied territories killing dozens of Palestinians and injuring hundreds of others.

One witness, Salim Awad, who filmed a 16-minute video, told CNN that there were no armed Palestinians or any clashes in the area, and he hadn't expected there to be gunfire, given the presence of journalists nearby.

"There was no conflict or confrontations at all. We were about 10 guys, give or take, walking around, laughing and joking with the journalists," he said. "We were not afraid of anything. We didn't expect anything would happen, because when we saw journalists around, we thought it'd be a safe area."

Abu Aqleh can be seen turning away from the barrage. The footage shows a direct line of sight towards the Israeli convoy.

"We saw around four or five military vehicles on that street with rifles sticking out of them and one of them shot Shireen. We were standing right there, we saw it. When we tried to approach her, they shot at us. I tried to cross the street to help, but I couldn't," Awad said, adding that he saw that a bullet struck Abu Aqleh in the gap between her helmet and protective vest, just by her ear.

CNN says it reviewed eleven videos showing the scene and the Israeli military convoy "from different angles, before, during and after Abu Aqleh was killed". Security consultant Cobb-Smith told the network Abu Akleh was killed in discrete shots, not a burst of automatic gunfire.

Reviewing the videos, he says "the number of strike marks on the tree where Shireen was standing proves this wasn't a random shot, she was targeted."

The Al Jazeera Media Network says it has assigned a legal team to refer the killing of its journalist to the International Criminal Court.

In a statement, it said "The Network vows to follow every path to achieve justice for Shireen, and ensure those responsible for her killing are brought to justice and held accountable in all international justice and legal platforms and courts."

Iraq parliament illegalizes normalization of ties with Israel

Iraq's parliament passes a law making it illegal for the country to ever normalize its relations with the Israeli regime.

The legislative body gave its blessing to the legislation on Thursday—amid several regional states' push to endear themselves to the occupying regime, Reuters reported.

"Approving the law is not only a victory for the Iraqi people but to the heroes in Palestine and [the resistance movement of] Hezbollah in Lebanon," said Iraqi Shia lawmaker Hassan Salim.

The law had been proposed by influential Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Other regional countries have also been fraternizing Israel, including Saudi Arabia, which received a visit by the regime's former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in November 2020.

The Iraqi law took effect amid widespread reports pointing to the northern Iraqi Kurdistan region's cooperation with the Israeli spy agency Mossad.

On Wednesday, Iraq's resistance groups said the Kurdistan region's prime minister Masrour Barzani was training armed militias with "Israeli support" to create chaos and disorder in the country.



Its passage cemented the Arab country's invariable and age-old policy of refusing to recognize the occupying regime.

Back in 2020, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain entered United States-brokered so-called "peace deals" with the Israeli regime. Some other regional states, namely Sudan and Morocco, followed suit.

Putin approves procedure of payments to ‘unfriendly’ holders of rights

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on the temporary procedure of honoring liabilities to certain holders of rights. According to the document, authorities and residents of the country will be able to pay the fee and make other payments related to exclusive rights to 'unfriendly' companies by way of remitting funds to a special type 'O' ruble account. The relevant decree of the head of state was posted on Friday on the official web portal of legal information.

The debtor is to open an account in an authorized bank in the name of the holder of rights, which is intended to make payments against obligations. If the holder of rights does not give a written consent to payment making to a special account, the debtor will have the right not to make payment until receiving

such consent and will not be regarded as the violator of liabilities in such case. "When the debtor performs properly requirements of this decree, its right to use the intellectual property deliverables and/or identifications will remain under earlier applicable conditions," the document says.

The decision will cover foreign holders of rights related to countries unfriendly to Russia along with holders of rights that publicly supported introduction of sanctions against Russia, performing public actions on discrediting of Russian Armed Forces, prohibiting or limiting use of their intellectual property deliverables in Russia after February 23, 2022, suspending or significantly limiting production or supplies of goods to Russia or provision of services.

(Source: TASS)

US preparing to approve advanced long-range rocket system for Ukraine

The Biden administration is preparing to step up the kind of weaponry it is offering Ukraine by sending advanced, long-range rocket systems that are now the top request from Ukrainian officials, multiple officials say, according to CNN.

The administration is leaning toward sending the systems as part of a larger package of military and security assistance to Ukraine, which could be announced as soon as next week.

Senior Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelensky, have pleaded in recent weeks for the US and its allies to provide the Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS. The US-made weapon systems can fire a barrage of rockets hundreds of kilometers — much farther than any of the systems Ukraine already has — which the Ukrainians argue could be a gamechanger in their war against Russia.

Another system Ukraine has asked for is the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, known as HIMARS, a lighter wheeled system capable of firing many of the same types of ammunition as MLRS.

Russia has in recent weeks pummeled Ukraine in the east, where Ukraine is outmanned and outgunned, Ukrainian officials have said.

The Biden administration waived for weeks, however, on whether to send the systems, amid concerns raised within the National Security Council that Ukraine could use the systems to carry out offensive attacks inside Russia, officials said.

The issue was at the top of the agenda at last week's two meetings at the White House where deputy Cabinet members convened to discuss national security policy, officials said. At the heart of the matter was the same concern the administration has grappled with since the start of the war— whether sending increasingly heavy weaponry to Ukraine will be viewed by Russia as a provocation that could trigger some kind of retaliation against the US.

One major hang-up, the sources said, had been the rocket systems' extensive range. The MLRS and its lighter-weight version, the HIMARS, can launch as far as 300km, or 186 miles, depending on the type of munition. They are fired from a mobile vehicle at land-based targets, which would allow the Ukrainians to more easily strike targets inside Russia.

Ukraine is already believed to have carried out numerous cross-border strikes inside Russia, which Ukrainian officials neither confirm nor deny. Russian officials have said publicly that any threat to their homeland would constitute a major escalation and have said that Western countries are making themselves a legitimate target in the war by continuing to arm the Ukrainians.

Another major concern inside the Biden administration had been whether the US could afford to give away so many high-end weapons drawn from the military's stockpiles, the sources said.

Asked on Monday whether the US would provide the systems, Secretary of Defense Lloyd



Austin demurred. "I don't want to get ahead of where we are in the process of resourcing requirements," he told reporters.

The administration had similar concerns about providing Ukraine with additional MiG-29 fighter jets, which some worried could allow the Ukrainians to take the fight into Russia. Ultimately, the US decided against backfilling Poland with new jets, which would have allowed the Poles to equip Ukraine with the Soviet-era MiGs.

The debate about the MLRS is also similar to one that played out before the US decided to begin sending heavier, long-range Howitzers, to Ukraine last month. Weapons packages focused on anti-tank Javelin and short-range Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, as well as small arms and ammunition. At the time, the M777 Howitzers marked a significant increase in range and power over previous systems, but even those top out at around 25 kilometers or 18 miles in range. The MLRS can fire much further still than any of the artillery the US

has sent to date.

One workaround could be to provide Ukraine with shorter-range rocket systems, officials said, which is also under consideration. It would not take too long to train the Ukrainians on any of the rocket launcher systems, officials told CNN — likely about two weeks, they said.

Every drawdown from existing inventories involves a review of its potential effect on US military readiness. With the previous drawdowns, the risk has been "relatively low," said Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley on Monday. The military is watching "very, very carefully" to make sure the stockpiles don't drop below levels that create a greater risk, he added.

The concern grows significantly with more capable, more expensive systems of which the US does not have as large a supply, the sources said.

Pentagon officials met with the CEO of Lockheed Martin last week to discuss supply and ramping up production of the MLRS, one source familiar with the meeting told CNN. The meeting was led by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Bill LaPlante.

The UK is also still deciding whether to send the systems, two officials told CNN, and would like to do so in conjunction with the US.

Frustration has grown on the Ukrainian side with the US' indecisiveness in recent weeks, because they believe that once the US sends the systems then other countries will quickly follow suit.

As recently as this week, the Pentagon had told Ukraine "we are working on it," said one irritated Ukrainian official, who added that Ukraine is asking for an update on the decision "every hour."

"We are in great need of weapons that will make it possible to engage the enemy over a long distance," Ukraine's top military commander, General Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, said Thursday. "And this cannot be delayed, because the price of delay is measured by the lives of people who have protected the world from [Russian fascism]."

When Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba was asked Thursday what his country's most urgent needs are, he responded: "If you really care for Ukraine, weapons, weapons and weapons again."

"My least favorite phrase is 'We are working on it'; I hate it. I want to hear either 'We got it' or 'It's not going to happen,'" he added.

Democratic Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado, who was part of a congressional delegation trip to Kyiv earlier this month, told CNN he believes the systems could help Ukraine gain significant momentum against Russia.

"I think it could be a gamechanger, to be honest with you," Crow said, not only for offensive attacks but also for defense. He explained that Russian conventional artillery, which has a range of about 50km, "would not get close" to Ukrainian urban centers if MLRS systems were positioned there. "So it would take away their siege tactics," he said of the Russians.

Translation of millennia-old cuneiform tablets unveiled



From page 1 ► the great bulk and splendid semi-desert isolation of the site can't fail to impress. Try to catch it in the soft, golden light of late afternoon rather than the harsh midday sun.

The massive ziggurat is located approximately 30 km southeast of Shush and 80 km north of Ahvaz. Reaching a total height of some 25m, the gigantic monument was used to be surmounted by a temple and was estimated to hit 52m during its heyday.

The ziggurat was excavated during six archaeological seasons of excavation between 1951 and 1961 by Roman Ghirshman, a Russian-born French archeologist who specialized in ancient Iran.

According to Encyclopedia, ziggurats, in general, are pyramidal stepped temple towers that bear architectural and religious characteristics of the major cities of Mesopotamia from approximately 2200 until 500 BC. They were usually built with a core of mud brick and an exterior covered with baked brick. Approximately 25 ziggurats are known, being equally divided among Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria.

Situated in a region inside the modern-day provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan, Elam was

one of the most impressive civilizations of the ancient world. It was never a cohesive ethnic kingdom or polity but rather a federation of different tribes governed at various times by cities such as Susa, Anshan, and Shimashki until it was united during the Middle Elamite Period, briefly, as an empire.

Evidence suggests the name Elam was given to the region by others – the Akkadians and Sumerians of Mesopotamia – and is thought to be their version of what the Elamites called themselves – Haltami (or Haltamti) – meaning “those of the high country”. ‘Elam’, therefore, is usually translated to mean “highlands” or “high country” as it was comprised of settlements on the Iranian Plateau that stretched from the southern plains to the elevations of the Zagros Mountains.

Elamite language, an extinct language spoken by the Elamites in the ancient country of Elam, included the region from the Mesopotamian plain to the Iranian Plateau. According to Britannica, Elamite documents from three historical periods have been found. The earliest Elamite writings are in a figurative or pictographic script and date from the middle of the 3rd millennium BC.

Rocky cave discovered accidentally in western Iran

TEHRAN – A cave has recently been discovered accidentally in a mountainous region in western Iran where Mehran-Ilam Road passes through, Ilam's tourism chief has said.

“Construction workers discovered the cave during a project for widening the road for the convenience of travelers in the region,” ILNA quoted Farzad Sharifi as saying on Friday.

The limestone cave has narrow corridors, some of which are not accessible, and it is stalactite-covered at the top, the official added.

As the cave is located on the main road, it has the potential to become one of the region's tourist attractions, he added.

However, more geological studies and research on the cave, its age, length and width, type of rock texture, possible living organisms, number of corridors and halls, and other items will be needed, he explained.

Exploring a cave may not be on the “to-do list” of travelers in Iran. However, Karafu, Ali-Sadr and Quri Qaleh, and Katala-Khor are among the most visited caves.



Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-Himalayan organic belt. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, the enigmatic evidence of human presence on the Iranian plateau is as early as Lower Paleolithic times.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

Home to almost half of Iran's UNESCO sites, western Iran is a

land of hospitable people, wild extremes, and wilder history, and it may be an independent traveler's adventure playground. The region also witnessed the rise and fall of many great empires once bordering Mesopotamia, Ottoman Turkey, and Czarist Russia.

From the fecund Caspian coast to the stark, mountainous northern borders, and the crumbling desert ruins of the southern plains, the region hosts everything from paddy fields to blizzards to Persian gardens.

Venezuela adds Iran to its safe travel list as COVID eases

TEHRAN – Venezuela has added Iran to its safe travel list as the Islamic Republic experiences very low COVID-19 levels.

Iran has been added to the list of countries authorized for commercial passenger and cargo flights, Aviacionline reported on Friday.

Nations with permitted air operations in Venezuela also include Panama, Russia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Turkey, Cuba, Bolivia, Spain, Portugal, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (an island country in the Caribbean), the aviation media outlet said.

Furthermore, Venezuela's National Institute of Civil Aeronautics (INAC) has recently announced new mandatory entry regulations for entry to Venezuela by air. These provisions will be effective as of May 30.

According to the INAC, a certificate of vaccination (complete scheme) against COVID-19 is required in a physical or digital format with a QR code or other validation



method, whose last dose was at least 14 days before the date of entry into the country.

Having completed more than 270 days after the last dose of the complete scheme, a booster dose will be required. The passenger who does not present the referred vaccination schedule must show a negative result of a molecular test (PCR-RT) with a maximum validity of 72 hours upon arrival. Upon arrival, all passengers exceeding five years old must

take the PCR-RT test at the airport.

Last November, Iran's deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Ali-Asghar Shalbafian met Venezuela's Tourism and Foreign Trade Minister Ali Padron Paredes and exchanged views on the expansion of ties.

Shalbafian stated widening cooperation with Venezuela is high on the agenda for the Islamic Republic as he briefed Iran's efforts focusing on both the coronavirus and post-pandemic eras.

Both officials acknowledged that their approach was to expand tourism ties and strengthen interactions to control the pandemic impact on the tourism industry.

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

Iranian village to mark its ‘thanksgiving’ as COVID restrictions ease

TEHRAN –After two years of limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional thanksgiving ceremony of the northeastern village of Namanlu in North Khorasan province will be held this summer, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The ritual, which has been registered on Iran's national list of intangible cultural heritage, has been passed down for generations, Ali Mostofian explained on Friday.

After harvesting the crops and orchards, the villagers participate in this ceremony, which is based on the beliefs of the locals and their ancestors, the official added.

The ceremony usually takes place in late July or early August at a place called Mount Zakaria, located next to the tomb of Zakaria



Nabi, which is about 13 kilometers northeast of the village, he noted.

Villagers estimate that the celebration is several hundred years old and that the elderly remember it from up to four generations ago, he mentioned.

Rituals like this bring participants together and in a way, cause their social cohesion and because they are accompanied by passion and determination, it strengthens their spirituality, he explained.

Though North Khorasan province may not be the first choice of travelers, its tourism is getting momentum.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, towards Esfarayen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roein some 20km north. Although a lot of new buildings spoil the effect in parts of the village, Roein is considered Khorasan's answer to the well-known Masuleh and is a possible starting point for hikes to little-visited mountain villages.

Eshqabad nominated for national village of wickerwork

TEHRAN – Eshqabad, a small village in Poldasht county, West Azarbaijan province, is planned to be named the national village of wickerwork, Poldasht's deputy governor said on Thursday.

Although this handicrafts field has been recognized as a national intangible cultural heritage, it must be revitalized and promoted more effectively, CHTN quoted Amir Asadzadeh as saying.

Being recognized as a national hub of wickerwork would develop the handicrafts field in the region, the official added.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and



villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”. Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a “world city of filigree”. And Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

Museum dedicated to Gol-o-morgh paintings inaugurated in Shiraz



TEHRAN – On Thursday, a museum dedicated to Gol-o-morgh (a unique style of Persian painting featuring bird and floral motifs in different colors) was officially inaugurated in Shiraz, the capital of southern Fars province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Owned by the private sector, the museum is showcasing artworks such as Gol-o-morgh paintings, woodcarving, khatamkari (a form of marquetry), Haft-Rang tiles (meaning seven-colored tiles), Seyyed Moayyed Mohsen-Nejad explained on Friday.

As a result of opening this and another museum dedicated to dolls in Fars, there are now 50 museums spread across the province, the official added.

It is estimated that the Gol-o-morgh museum attracts 30,000 visitors a year, he noted.

The ancient region of Fars, also spelled Pars or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (c. 550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights including Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, and Jameh Mosque of Atigh.

Archaeologists start tracing Paleolithic sites on eastern Iranian plateau

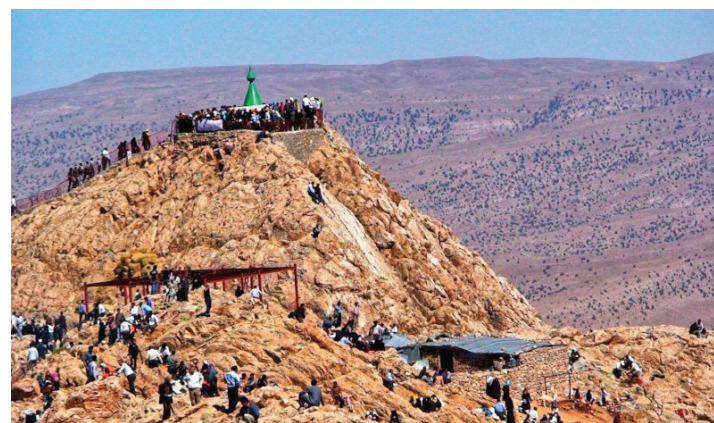
TEHRAN – A team of Iranian archaeologists has commenced tracing Paleolithic sites on the eastern sides of the Iranian plateau.

“Research has begun to find further evidence for Paleolithic sites and settlements across the Shotoran-Paskuh corridor in South Khorasan province,” archaeologist Ali Sadraeiz said on Thursday.

The eastern side of the Iranian plateau has long been considered an ecological and geological hub of the Paleolithic era by many researchers and archaeologists, Sadraeiz was quoted by CHTN as saying.

“We have commenced long-term studies tracking human populations of the Pleistocene era in this part of the Iranian plateau.”

The current archaeological season, which will come to an end on May 31, is supervised by the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research,



Sadraeiz said.

Talking about the history of Paleolithic studies in the eastern Iranian plateau, he noted: “This part of the Iranian plateau has undergone several Paleolithic studies in the past.”

“However, these studies were paused for decades, and only in

recent years, some case studies have been conducted in this area.”

“In the meantime, and for the first time in 1399 (2020), the first season of Paleolithic studies was carried out with the financial support of the provincial directorate of cultural heritage, handicrafts, and tourism.”

A 2019 study published in the

Journal of Human Evolution suggests Neanderthals roamed across the Zagros Mountain range between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

Until the late 20th century, Neanderthals were regarded as genetically, morphologically, and behaviorally distinct from living humans. However, more recent discoveries about this well-preserved fossil Eurasian population have revealed an overlap between living and archaic humans.

Neanderthals lived before and during the last Ice Age of the Pleistocene in some of the most unforgiving environments ever inhabited by humans. They developed a successful culture, with a complex stone tool technology, that was based on hunting, some scavenging, and local plant collection. Their survival during tens of thousands of years of the last glaciation is a remarkable testament to human adaptation.

Medicinal herbs effective in COVID-19 treatment hit markets

TEHRAN – Twenty medicinal herbs effective in COVID-19 treatment have been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration, 10 of which were commercialized, Nafiseh Hosseini Yekta the director of the Iranian Medicine Office of the Ministry of Health, has announced.

More than 100 medicinal plants research projects have been launched since the beginning of the pandemic in various universities and research centers to help prevent and treat the disease, she noted.

The results of some projects led to the production of herbal medicine; So, about 20 herbal medicine licenses were issued by the Food and Drug Administration and 10 of these drugs were distributed in the country's pharmaceutical market, she explained.

The licensing of these products is based on research plans, and the research plan states that each of these natural products will affect what symptom, and will be used accordingly, she also stated.

Earlier in September, Hosseini Yekta said that the instructions for the use of Iranian traditional medicine to treat COVID-19 have been prepared.

Simple instructions that help patients along with the treatments available in conventional medicine. Many of the contents of this guideline were also subjected to clinical trials, which clearly had a positive effect on the symptoms and duration of hospitalization of patients compared to the control group.

Scientists are trying to play a role in the production of effective medicine for the treatment of various



diseases, including COVID-19, despite sanctions and global pressures.

Alireza Abbassian the health ministry's director of the traditional medicine department, said in March that Iranian traditional medicine can play an effective role in strengthening the immune system to resist the novel coronavirus infection.

Moreover, a center offering traditional medicine services to coronavirus patients was inaugurated in Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in November 2020.

Iranian traditional medicine 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 (Sauda). The concept of four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

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

8,000 herbal species grow in Iran

So far, about 30,000 plant species

are identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species its plant diversity is more than the whole of Europe.

Currently, about 2,300 species of medicinal plants have been identified in the country; while medicinal plants account for one-third of the medicines used in human societies, the share of world trade in these products is about \$124 billion and Iran's share is \$570 million, which is only 0.5 percent of the total.

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.

Iran criticizes discrimination in global health

From page 1 ► The successful experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran in controlling the coronavirus pandemic was made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly.

Stating that the country has been able to reduce the Covid mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10, he added that this success has even been considered by the world's scientific circles.

Focused on the theme of "Health for Peace, Peace for Health", the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22 to 28.

Last year, the former Iranian deputy health minister Alireza Raisi warned the World Health Organization of a 'vaccine apartheid' which 'can be a threat to the global health'.

Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with Jaffar Hussain, WHO Representative & Head of Mission to Iran, saying that the world can become immune just through public vaccination.

The WHO official has also said it is a great achievement for Iran that the government is vacci-



nating every Afghan refugee going to the vaccination center even before receiving COVID vaccines from Humanitarian Buffer (COVAX).

Without any discrimination, Iran has provided various services to a large number of refugees and foreign immigrants in the fields of education, health, treatment, livelihood, vocational training, and employment, with minimal assistance from the international community.

The same happened for the vaccination when the country has generously considered refugees for vaccination against coronavirus.

Tribes in Iran

Part 13

On the tribes of the ostan of Kordestan proper, not much information is available. Most have become fully sedentary or only make short transhumances. Among the numerous tribes reported to be settled in the shahrestans of Sanandaj and Marivan are the Kumasi in the dehestan of the same name in the east of Marivan, the Kalatarzan (or Kalantarzan) between Kumasi and Sanandaj, and the Kashki and Kamangar tayefehs in the bakhsh of Kamyaran south of Sanandaj.

The now sedentarized Kohnapush and Kani Sasani tayefehs also live in Marivan. The Soltani tayefeh of the Owraman-e Takht tribe is settled in Owraman in the south of the shahrestan of Marivan. Around Divandarra in the north of the shahrestan of Sanandaj, specifically in the dehestans of Qara Tura, Ubatu, and Saral, live various tayefehs of the Galbagi tribe, such as the Qomri, Kameli, Ju-rashi (Chukharashi), Morad Gurani, Qalqali (or Qalqali), etc.

The Hendomi tribe lives at Hasanabad, north of Sanandaj and south and west of the Galbagi territory, and is made up of tayefehs called Mohammad Moradi, Tari Moradi, and Akha Suri.

The tribes and tayefehs in the shahrestan of Saqqez are also numerous and varied: Geverg of Saqqez (related to the Geverg of Sardasht and Mahabad in West Azarbaijan), Feyzallah Begi, Tila Kuh (or Tilaku), Kalali, Kalhor, Ardalan, Wakili-e Qabaglu, Dehbokri of Saqqez, Sarshiv of Saqqez, Khorkhora, and Gura of Qal'a-ye Divani.

The Jaf of Saqqez, consisting of the Miska'ili, Shateri, Tirkhali, Esma'il Gadiri, and other tayefehs, are settled in the dehestans of Sarshiv of Saqqez, Khorkhora, and Tilaku; they are considered to be offshoots of the Moradi (as opposed to Javanrudi) tribe of the Jaf.

Among the tribes of the shahrestan of

Bana, tayefehs called Ahmadi, Lotfallah Begi, Shahidi, and Bahram Begi have been mentioned. (Mardukh, 1351/1972; Sazman-e Barnameh wa Budjeh, 1355/1976, III, pp. 1-32).

The Kurdish tribal zone stretches into West Azarbaijan. The Bilbas tribe, in three tayefehs, the Mangur, Piran, and Mamash, is dispersed over the shahrestan of Piranshahr and part of the shahrestan of Mahabad; these groups are in effect sedentary, finding pasturage for their flocks either "vertically" in the mountains or "horizontally" in the plain, but in either case close to their homes.

The Mokri and Dehbokri tribes live in the shahrestan of Mahabad (formerly Savoj Bolag) in settlements at Shahr-e Veyran, Akhtachi, Behi, and Gurek-e Mokri. The Gurek tribes occupy the dehestans in the north of the shahrestan of Sardasht, and the Melkari, Alan, Baryaji, and other tirehs of the Susni tribe live in the south and west of the same shahrestan.

The Haraki tribe moves between summer and winter quarters in the dehestans of Targavar, Dasht, and Margavar. The well-known Shakkak tribe is settled in the bakhshes of Baradust and Sumay, west of the Lake Urmia on the frontier with Turkey.

The abodes of the Zarza and the Qara Papaq are reported to be around the town of Oshnuya, and that of the Sadat, around the villages of Dasht and Mangur. The Milan tribe, said by some to be one of the two tirehs of the Jalali tribe (the other being called Qizilbash), is of Kurdish origin but today mainly Turkish-speaking; they are settled near Maku (Majidzadeh, 1342/1963; Shamlu, 1342/1963, pp. 21-25; Sazman-e Barnameh wa Budjeh, 1355/1976, I, pp. 103-49).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Italy ready to invest in Iran health sector

TEHRAN - Italian and Iranian companies will soon cooperate in the field of medical and health equipment, Giuseppe Perrone, the Italian Ambassador in Tehran said in his visit to the 23rd Iran Health International Exhibition.

Plans have been prepared for the joint production between Iran and Italy as well as the investment of Italian companies in the field of medical and health equipment in Iran soon, he highlighted.

In Italy, there are good opportunities to cooperate and use the knowledge of Iranian businesses, especially knowledge-based companies in the field of medical equipment and health, and we would welcome the presence of these companies to operate in Italy, he further emphasized.

Attending this event can help expand further relations not only in the field of trade but also in the field of science and investment between the two countries, Perrone said.

Stating that the importance of this exhibition made the Italian pavilion the largest foreign pavilion in this international exhibition, he noted that it was very important for us to participate in this event, which is on a par with other health exhibitions in the world.

The 23rd International Exhibition of Medical, Dental, Laboratory, and Pharmaceutical Equipment (Iran Health 2022) is the largest and first important trade-based event in the field of



health in Iran and the second in West Asia [Middle East].

Held on May 24-27, the event was participated by 434 domestic companies and 18 foreign exhibitors.

Iran's health sector and development

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.

A total of 1,670 knowledge-based firms are operating in the health sector, ISNA quoted Younes Panahi as saying.

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

The health technology development is evaluated by the Global Innovation Index with seven indicators, including institutional structure, human capital and research, infrastructure, market and business complexity, technological knowledge, and creativity, he explained.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

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

"At the outset of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Islamic Republic of Iran made its primary health care system a core part of its national response. This PHC infrastructure allowed systematic outreach activities for early case detection, contact tracing, and triage for hospital referral (if necessary) by community health workers.

Plans have been prepared for launching joint production projects.

COVID-19 takes lowest toll on foreign nationals in Iran

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

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

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

ایران کمترین تلفات کرونا اتباع خارجی را داشته‌است

مهدی محمودی مدیرکل امور اتباع و مهاجرین وزارت کشور گفت در خصوص ابتلا به بیماری کرونا در بین اتباع خارجی، ایران کمترین ابتلا و کمترین تلفات را نسبت به جمعیت داشته‌است.

او در گفت‌وگو با ایلنا درباره اقدامات صورت گرفته برای اتباع غیرایرانی در ایام کرونا گفت: از همان ابتدا که کشور درگیر این بیماری شد، جامعه اتباع خارجی هم در کشور ما مستثنی از این موضوع نبود و برنامه‌های پیشگیری و تمهیدات لازم نیز برای این گروه نیز در نظر گرفته شده است.

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

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COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 27

New cases	185
New deaths	6
Total cases	7,231,284
Total deaths	141,302
New hospitalized patients	42
Patients in critical condition	591
Total recovered patients	7,042,871
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,148,137
Doses of vaccine injected	149,820,522

