

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 44th year | No. 14235 | Wednesday | June 8, 2022 | Khordad 18, 1401 | Dhi Al Qada 8, 1443

Iran Vows Response as U.S., E3 Proceed with Resolution

► Page 3

Report **T** Johnson narrowly wins confidence vote as rebellion emerges

The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has narrowly survived a vote of confidence by his own conservative party MPs, but the results show he has suffered a significant rebellion within the ruling party.

Johnson needed a simple majority, 180 votes or more, to continue in office.

211 Tory MPs voted in favor of the prime minister, compared to a huge 148 MPs who voted against his leadership.

The majority of just 63 MPs means more than 40 percent of the Conservative party no longer have confidence in their leader.

Despite the prime minister being immune from another leadership challenge for 12 months, the number of MPs who view Johnson as liability will seek to severely undermine his leadership by opposing any legislation the government tries to pass in parliament.

Experts say it's difficult to see Johnson staying in his capacity as UK Prime Minister when the country heads to the next general election.

To put the vote into perspective, Johnson has suffered a bigger rebellion than his predecessor, Theresa May, when she faced her own confidence vote in 2018 amid the Brexit impasse.

Despite his leadership severely undermined, Johnson has claimed the "convincing" and "decisive" result means the government can "move on". ► Page 5

Report **T** Hassan Yazdani warms up for international competitions

TEHRAN – Iranian wrestler Hassan Yazdani Charati said that he competed at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup Ranking Series event in Almaty, Kazakhstan to keep his body and mind for the international competitions ahead.

The 28-year-old won the gold medal in the 86kg class after defeating Boris Makoev from Slovakia in the 86kg, UWW.org wrote.

"It's been about eight months since I had not taken part in any competitions," Yazdani said. "I decided to wrestle at this competition to re-evaluate my weaknesses and keep my body and mind on edge so that I can be fully prepared for the international competitions ahead."

Winning the final 11-0 was just a testimony of how he is still in top form and nothing mattered more to any.

He first made it past Fatih Erdin from Turkey 11-0 in the quarterfinals and was then tested by Asian champion Azamat Dauletbekov from Kazakhstan in the semifinals. The Kazakhstan wrestler was the only one who could wrestle Yazdani for more than four minutes but he ultimately lost 12-1.

The final against Makoev only lasted 4:33 but Yazdani put it on record that he is ready for another season and defend his world title in Belgrade, Serbia.

"The level of this competition was good," he said. "My main purpose here was to be on the mat and be able to keep my body prepared and these matches helped me with that purpose quite well."

"If my coach sees fit yes, I would like to compete," he said. "However, after so many months of being away from the mat officially, I got the results I was hoping for and now at this point, I will be willing to do so as long as the coach sees competing in a match fitting," he concluded.



Iran's answers to IAEA were 'accurate': top nuclear official

TEHRAN – Iran's chief nuclear official has said that Iran provided "accurate" answers to questions raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) but there is no serious will on the part of the UN nuclear watchdog to consider Iran's answers convincing.

In remarks to Al Jazeera, Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said the IAEA is under the influence of Iran's enemies, particularly Israel.

"What we have provided so far in response to the IAEA's questions has been accurate.

There is no serious will on the part of the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency to describe our answers as convincing. The International Agency refers to intelligence reports from our enemies, the first of which is Israel," Eslami said. ► Page 3

Iran, Qatar ink MOU to conclude 8th Joint Economic Committee meeting

TEHRAN – Iran and Qatar inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the end of the two countries' eighth Joint Economic Committee meeting in Doha on Monday to outline avenues for future cooperation, IRIB reported.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Energy

Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Thani who co-chaired the committee meeting.

This memorandum determines the framework of cooperation in various fields including transit, transportation, industry and

trade, energy, customs and free zones, tourism, culture, agriculture, sports, etc.

Speaking at the eighth meeting of the Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee, Mehrabian emphasized the Iranian government's approach to developing international relations and said: ► Page 4

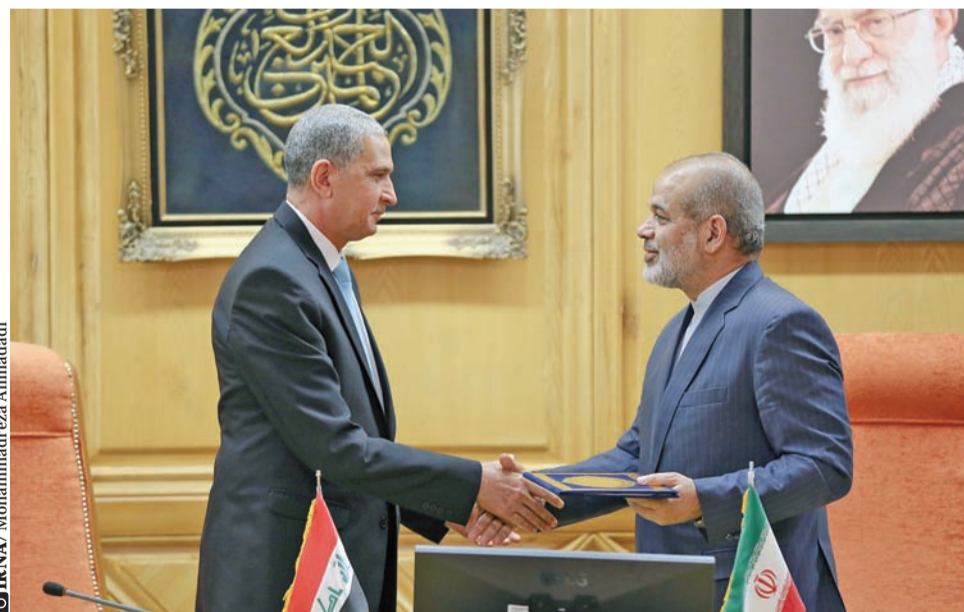
Iran, Syria to develop health tourism, pharmaceutical co-op

TEHRAN – Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi and Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of health tourism and pharmaceuticals.

In a meeting on Monday, Einollahi welcomed the exchange of medical services and equipment by the two countries, referring to the memorandum of understanding signed in various fields.

He called for the elimination of bureaucratic barriers to the activities of doctors and the exchange of medicines, referring to the provision of education for students of the two countries.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Einollahi announced his readiness to hold a joint congress of Iranian and Syrian medical sciences. "As U.S. sanctions continued, the difficulty of COVID-19 control increased, however, we strived to handle it." ► Page 7



Iranian interior minister meets Iraqi counterpart

TEHRAN — Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi discussed facilitation of Araba'een pilgrimage with his Iraqi counterpart Osman al-Ghanemi in Tehran on Tuesday. Referring to the strong cultural and religious affinities of the two countries, Vahidi said that the Araba'een ritual is "an inseparable cultural and religious link" between the two nations.

Tehran meeting to commemorate Islamic scholar Wilferd Madelung

TEHRAN – The Iranian Society of Cultural Works and Luminaries has arranged an online program to commemorate German author and scholar of Islamic history Wilferd Ferdinand Madelung, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

Several Islamic scholars, researchers as well as members of the association including its director Hassan Bolkhari are scheduled to attend the program set for Wednesday, the report added.

Born in 1930, Madelung specializes in Islam and Shia studies and has written about 200 books and essays about these subjects throughout his career. "The Succession to Muhammad (s)" is one of his major works in which Shia's view of succession after the Holy Prophet (s) is affirmed. His introduction of Shia to the West is also noteworthy.

His view in comparison with other orientologists is more knowledgeable and fair but

due to his cultural, political, and social limitations, he was not able to explain the problem completely.

Madelung has referred to the Holy Quran's view in regards to the prophet's successorship at the beginning of his book and believes that the Quran has no verse in regards to this matter, however, it has many recommendations for looking after the family and relatives of the Prophet. ► Page 6

From Inside **T**

- Gharibabadi: IAEA is not independent **P2**
- Army commander: We will destroy Tel Aviv, Haifa in case of any wrong move **P2**
- JCPOA a fundamental pillar of peace and security in the region: Qatari FM **P3**
- Russia will not back BoG resolution on Iran: diplomat **P3**
- Intl. kitchen, pool, sauna, bath industries expo running in Tehran **P4**
- Tehran hosting 6th Iran-Nigeria Joint Economic Committee meeting **P4**
- TEDPIX gains 1,000 points on Tuesday **P4**
- Archaeologists discover early example of administrative management in eastern Iran **P6**
- World's 'biggest' adobe fort to host overnight trippers **P6**
- 58 Iranian universities listed in Times rankings of Asian countries **P7**
- Shiftegane Del, Melal Vocal Ensemble team up for Persian music performance **P8**
- "Parizad" wins Don Quixote Award at Krakow Film Festival **P8**

Interview **T**

Biden persuading S. Arabia to normalize ties with Israel: GSA chief

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Giorgio Cafiero, chief executive officer of Gulf State Analytics (GSA), believes that the administration of Joe Biden is encouraging Saudi Arabia to follow the UAE and Bahrain when it comes to normalizing ties with Israel.

"The U.S. leadership would very much like to see Saudi Arabia follow in the UAE and Bahrain's footsteps in terms of entering the Abraham Accords," Cafiero tells the Tehran Times.

"Yet given the high levels of risk that Riyadh would have to accept in normalizing relations with Tel Aviv, my personal view is that it is highly unlikely that Saudi Arabia would do so," Cafiero notes.

President Joe Biden's planned visits to Saudi Arabia and Israel later this month have been postponed until July, after a wave of criticism.

The White House is now planning a broader trip to West Asia next month, U.S. officials said.

"We are working on a trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia for a GCC+3 Summit," a senior administration official told NBC News.

Following is the text of the interview with Cafiero: ► Page 5

Iranian House of Cartoon lampoons "Holy Spider" win by "Cannes in Close-up"

TEHRAN – The Iranian House of Cartoon is mocking the Cannes Film Festival decision to award "Holy Spider" by organizing three exhibitions entitled "Cannes in Close-up".

Iran has found the film insulting to Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Imam of the Shia.

One of the exhibitions opened on Monday in the Vali-e Asr Station of the Tehran subway, where the Iranian House of Cartoon's statement was read.

"The Western art and cultural festivals are not compatible with divine values," the statement said, and added that the cartoonists of the house have come together at the exhibition to express their opposition to the Cannes organizers' action.

Copies of the cartoons from "Cannes in Close-up" are on display in an open-air exhibition from Vali-e Asr Square to Hejab Street on Keshavarz Blvd. Another exhibit is also underway at the gallery of the Mellat Cineplex. ► Page 8

Army commander: We will destroy Tel Aviv, Haifa in case of wrong move



TEHRAN — The Iranian Army's Ground Forces commander on Tuesday warned leaders of the Israeli regime that in case of making any wrong move, Iran will pulverize Tel Aviv and Haifa, referring to the remarks of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

"By the order of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, we will raze Tel Aviv and Haifa with any wrong move of the enemy," Brigadier General Kiomars Heydari asserted.

Iran offers condolences over deadly Bangladesh inferno

TEHRAN— The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, Saeed Khatibzadeh, conveyed condolences to the Bangladeshi government and people following a large fire at a container depot in a port city in southern Bangladesh, which claimed the lives of at least 49 people and wounded 100 others.

Khatibzadeh sympathized with the victims' families, and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

The fire broke out at midnight at the BM Inland Container Depot, a joint venture between the

Heydari added, "The usurper Zionist regime has occupied Muslim lands and these lands will return to Islam in less than 25 years."

The top army official went on to say that "the military and defense achievements of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran are a 'thorn' in the enemies' eyes."

All units of the Army are being equipped with precision-guided, long-range and smart weapons, adding that the range of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and operational missiles of the Army has increased, the commander underlined.

Referring to the Army's secret underground drone shown off recently, Heydari said, "All this equipment is to respond to the stupid aggressions of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution, and the light weapons of the ground forces are being 'changed, updated and localized.'"

MP says Iran ready to interact with neighbors to establish security

TEHRAN — The head of the Iranian parliamentary delegation to Armenia said on Monday that Iran is ready to cooperate and interact with neighboring countries in order to establish peace, stability and security in the region.

Abbas Moqtadaei, deputy chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, who has traveled to Armenia to attend a meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, said Iran emphasizes the need for cooperation and joint interaction between the countries of the region to achieve lasting peace and security.

Iran warns to give 'proportionate' response to any action by IAEA

TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh has said Tehran will respond "proportionately" to any action taken against its peaceful nuclear program during the current Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On the possibility of the Board of Governors adopting an anti-Iran resolution, Khatibzadeh stated in a TV interview on Monday, "We shall not pass any judgment in advance, but we will give our answers in proportion to any measure that is taken by the Agency."

He went on to say that IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi had prepared a hasty report on Iran, which he had already delivered to the European Parliament.

The spokesperson noted that the IAEA chief's report "overlooks all the measures and responses that Iran has provided with precision and in a technical way," adding that it is "not accurate."

Iran accepts neither the IAEA report nor the efforts by the U.S. and the three European signatories to the 2015 deal — France, Britain, and Germany — to push for an anti-Iran resolution at the Board of Governors in violation of diplomatic principles and in defiance of current developments, according to Khatibzadeh.

Iran does not consider the U.S.-E3 resolution to be constructive, and believes it will harm cooperation between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as well as negotiations between Tehran and the P4+1 group of countries aimed at reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he added.

Those who sponsor such a resolution must know that Iran would not accept it, according to the official, who also urged other members of

Netherlands and Bangladesh, after explosions in a chemical container. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained right away. The depot is located 216 kilometers southeast of Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, near the country's important Chittagong Seaport.

According to Brigadier-General Main Uddin, director-general of the Bangladesh fire service and civil defense, at least nine firemen were killed. He mentioned that more than 10 others were being treated for burns.

"Countries that have an exploitative and destructive approach to the whole region from outside, are ignoring the interests of other countries and harming the real peace and security process in the region," he lamented.

Moqtadaei continued by saying that this meeting has created an opportunity to redefine a new round of cooperation, coordination and unity based on friendship of nations in the Eurasian region.

"In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate and interact with neighboring countries to establish peace, stability and tranquility in the region," he concluded.

the 35-nation board to be mindful of the Zionist regime's ill-intentions and oppose it.

"The window that Iran has created for diplomacy will be kept open," he underlined.

The UN nuclear agency's regular Board of Governors meeting began in Vienna on Monday, with the Iran nuclear issue and Tehran's cooperation with the Agency anticipated to take center stage.

The board is expected to endorse an anti-Iran resolution produced by the European troika and the U.S., accusing Tehran of refusing to fully cooperate with the IAEA and failing to do enough to settle alleged unresolved concerns.

Iran has repeatedly warned that if the IAEA deviates from its technical nature and makes a political judgment over Iran's peaceful nuclear program, it will retaliate.

During a meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors, Iran's top diplomat cautioned that those who impede the diplomatic road hold responsibility for the consequences of any future resolution against the Islamic Republic.

The meeting comes as a three-month hiatus in the marathon negotiations to save the JCPOA enters its fourth month, with Washington describing the chances as "tenuous at best." Tehran holds the United States and its allies France, the United Kingdom, and Germany responsible for their failure to engage constructively.

Iran agreed to specific limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions under the JCPOA.

Despite Tehran's full compliance with its part of responsibilities, the U.S. unilaterally abandoned the deal in 2018 and re-imposed crushing sanctions.

TEHRAN— Kazem Gharibabadi, who previously served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iran to the international organizations in Vienna, attended a special talk show on national TV late on Monday.

Gharibabadi then answered questions about the recent report about Iran's nuclear program by Rafael Grossi, the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to the Board of Governors (BoG), and the draft resolution provided by France, Britain, Germany, and the United States against Iran.

"You are aware that the Agency has been submitting two reports to each BoG meeting for almost 3 years. One of the reports focuses on the verification of the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal obligations, while the other one is a report on the Non-Proliferation Treaty Safeguards of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Gharibabadi, the current chief Iran's Human Rights Headquarters.

"I think there are two main reasons why the IAEA has put this issue on its agenda as a major issue," he said, adding that one reason is the constant political pressure on the IAEA, which is clearly from the United States, some Western countries and the Israeli regime.

"In fact, it encompasses three spectrums. A spectrum that has always been hostile to the Islamic Republic and the people of Iran. A group that is owed to Iran in the JCPOA for not fulfilling its actions and obligations under the deal, and a spectrum that is the Zionist regime, which has nuclear weapons and is not a member of the NPT," the former diplomat and legal expert explained.

IAEA DG approach is political

Noting that the IAEA director general takes a political approach toward technical nuclear issues, Gharibabadi stated that another reason for this was that Grossi has strong political tendencies and this cannot be denied.

"The reports of all IAEA chiefs have been influenced by political pressures, but some of the IAEA's positions are also due to the political approaches of the IAEA chiefs," noted the former Iranian ambassador to the IAEA.

Regarding the importance of the draft resolution, the current human rights chief said that experts and observers in the nuclear issue themselves know that the issues of Safeguards are not a cause for concern. He added if uranium particles have been found in one or two places more than two decades ago, Iran has provided the necessary and sufficient explanations and cooperated in that regard.

He continued, "In one of the sites, they claimed to have found depleted uranium, which was also a non-nuclear place and was sampled by the Agency. The Agency itself informed us that this uranium was of the type of uranium discovered in one of the countries with nuclear weapons, not because it is used in nuclear weapons,

Gharibabadi: IAEA is not independent



but because it originated there."

According to Iran's studies, Gharibabadi said, when the Isfahan steel factory was launched before the Islamic Revolution, one of these countries was active in that place.

"All this data was provided to the Agency, but again they tried to keep the issue open politically. Obviously, this is just an excuse," he noted.

He continued by saying that issues related to the past have once been completely closed by the Board of Governors.

Mr. Grossi's visit to Israel was also a fatal blow to the Agency, its professionalism and independence.

In response to why the IAEA does not accept Iran's explanation, the former representative to the IAEA said the UN body has "no independent role."

"If there was no political pressure on the IAEA, the possibility of resolving the issue

between Iran and the IAEA was very high, because our explanations of these places are technically and scientifically valid. For example, in the case of maintaining some disks, which is not a confidential matter, but because it was mentioned in the Agency's report, we gave access to the Agency many times, but it was not convinced and repeatedly insisted on its own mistake, and we said that these disks do not exist. The Agency finally closed the issue recently, because the explanations of the Islamic Republic of Iran were convincing," he exemplified.

Iran doesn't need to be secretive

Elsewhere in the talk show, the expert posed a question to Grossi.

"Why shouldn't the director general of the Agency close such a small issue? Earlier, the Agency claimed that Iran had carried out clean-up operations at the site where the depleted uranium particles were found. When he saw the scene in that place, the sentence he told me was that when we see satellite images and the information we get, it means cleansing, but when I see the environment, it is not cleansing. So what causes these pressures? The political approach of the director general of the Agency? Political pressure? Both. Iran does not need to

be secretive. Iran has all the nuclear technologies," he noted.

According to the human rights chief, legally speaking, the resolutions of the Agency are not necessarily mandatory even if they are passed.

"I hope that the Western countries and the U.S. will come to their senses and refuse to formally submit this resolution, because they know that this will complicate the situation, and I hope that they won't do this destructive act. I am against any resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran, whether in the Board of Governors, the Security Council or the UN Human Rights Council," the human rights chief said.

He added that the authorities in Iran should make every effort to prevent the adoption of such resolutions, because Iran is not entitled to receive the resolution, as it is the most transparent country in the field of nuclear activities.

"Even if it is ratified, it has no legal status in the system of international organizations, but it can be an important achievement for them in

terms of psychological war and in terms of strengthening the political positions against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Gharibabadi underscored.

About possible adoption of the draft resolution, Gharibabadi said, "They themselves know how destructive their action will be and will seriously damage the initiatives on the Vienna negotiations table. Hence, if such a resolution cannot be prevented, the cost of issuing it must be borne by its drafters."

Regarding the remarks of Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in response to the possible issuance of the resolution, the expert on nuclear issues said that he is not in a position to comment on these remarks.

"As an expert I say that if such a destructive political action is taken against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran will naturally can take the necessary technical decisions," he

outlined.

Gharibabadi went on to say that Iran has always exercised restraint in the nuclear issue.

"On the other hand, the recording of data continues, and it is up to the relevant authorities to check whether they should take action in this area or not. It should be noted that according to the roadmap drawn up between the director general of the Agency and the director general of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, a delegation has been exchanged between Iran and the Agency several times since March and detailed answers and reports were given to the Agency," he noted, adding that the IAEA was supposed to close these issues in a report to the current meeting of the Board of Governors.

Iran is the most transparent country in terms of nuclear activities

He also noted that Iran is subject to 20 percent of the IAEA inspections worldwide, and this shows that Iran is the most transparent country in terms of nuclear activities.

"The draft resolution was originally written by three European countries. Which action should we believe? Their efforts to revive the JCPOA or their contradictory actions that send different messages to the Islamic Republic? The Russian envoy took a good position on the draft so that the Europeans, instead of moving towards a political resolution, would redouble their efforts to address Iran's concerns and bring an understanding closer," Gharibabadi underlined.

He reminded that in the recent report of the IAEA it is said that if these issues are not resolved, the IAEA will not be able to recognize the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

"Does Iran have the right to make a fundamental decision about the Agency inspections and reduce this 20% to a few percent? If the Agency is to treat Iran in such a political way,

we must also put more serious measures on the agenda," Gharibabadi offered.

Grossi's visit to Tel Aviv was a fatal blow to IAEA professionalism

Regarding Grossi's visit to the occupied territories, Gharibabadi said, "Mr. Grossi's visit to the Zionist regime of Israel was also a fatal blow to the Agency, its professionalism and independence. Despite our criticism of Yukiya Amano's performance, during his 2010 visit to occupied Palestine, he called on the regime's officials to sign the NPT

Amano's performance, during his 2010 visit to occupied Palestine, he called on the regime's officials to sign the NPT, or in his 2014 meeting with the regime's president in Vienna, he called for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons. Grossi did not even dare to ask the regime to join the NPT and accept the safeguards of the IAEA."

He added even if the resolution is adopted by the IAEA board, he would personally find it unlikely that the Security Council will enter the matter immediately.

Despite our criticism of Yukiya Amano's performance, during his 2010 visit to occupied Palestine, he called on the regime's officials to sign the NPT

Vitol says U.S. may allow more Iran oil to flow even without deal

The U.S. may allow more sanctioned Iranian oil on global markets even without a revival of the 2015 nuclear accord, according to the biggest independent crude trader.

While a new agreement would limit Iran's atomic activities and ease U.S. sanctions on its energy exports, talks between Tehran and world powers have stalled since March. Oil traders are increasingly pessimistic that negotiators will strike a deal.

Still, U.S. President Joe Biden could decide that the need to bring down record-high pump prices ahead of November's midterm elections outweighs the benefit of strictly enforcing sanctions, including by seizing more Iranian oil tankers, Bloomberg reported on Sunday.

"Uncle Sam might just allow a little bit more of that oil to flow," Mike Muller, head of Asia at Vitol Group, said Sunday on a podcast produced by Dubai-based Gulf Intelligence. "If the midterms are dominated by the need to get gas prices lower in America, turning a somewhat greater blind eye to the sanctioned barrels flowing out is probably something you might expect to see. U.S. intervention in these flows has always been pretty sparse."

The U.S. confiscated oil from an Iranian-flagged

vessel off Greece last month, which was followed days later by Tehran detaining two Greek tankers in the Persian Gulf. But Washington's move is unlikely to signal the start of more tanker seizures by the U.S., according to Muller.

Iran has raised oil exports this year, most of them ending up in China. A new nuclear deal would lead to an additional 500,000 to 1 million barrels per day coming on to international markets, enough to weigh on prices, according to energy analysts. The Islamic Republic also has around 100 million barrels of oil in storage that could be sold down quickly.

Crude prices have soared more than 50% this year to almost \$120 a barrel, mostly because of the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While many Republicans and some Democrats oppose any lifting of Iranian sanctions, Biden is under plenty of pressure to lower gasoline prices, which have shot up to an average of more than \$4.80 per gallon in the U.S.

There's little consensus about the direction of oil prices, according to Vitol, which traded 7.6 million barrels of crude and refined products a day in 2021. While supplies are tight, Washington's release of strategic reserves is helping balance the market.

Thursday's decision by OPEC+ -- a 23-nation group of producers led by Saudi Arabia and Russia -- to accelerate output increases is unlikely to have much impact, Muller said. That's because many members will struggle to pump more and Moscow's exports could drop due to sanctions over the war in Ukraine.

"The range of expert opinion out there has never been wider," said Muller, who's based in Singapore. "There are people who think the market's going to \$135-\$140 a barrel. And there are people who think we're going below \$100 again."

There's also a dichotomy emerging between richer and poorer countries, he said. Some in Asia such as Malaysia and Singapore are experiencing a demand rebound as coronavirus lockdowns ease. Others including Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which has defaulted on international bonds and is struggling to pay for fuel imports, are experiencing demand destruction.

"It's a tale of two worlds," Muller said. "The affluent world is going to have their holidays and burn jet fuel. But the impact elsewhere is a lot more profound. The divide between the prosperous and the countries that have a lower ability to pay for commodities is becoming extremely stark."

Iran vows response as U.S., E3 proceed with resolution

TEHRAN – After more than a week of back-and-forth diplomatic efforts, the United States and its European allies submitted a draft resolution to the UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors that will cast further doubt on the future of the already stalled talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

It has now become crystal clear that Washington and its European allies – France, Germany and the UK (E3) – have no intention of backing off on the draft resolution they jointly submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors. The Russian representative to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, announced the Western countries have submitted the draft resolution. "For unknown reasons they believe that a resolution is the best way to address outstanding safeguards issues. Extremely doubtful," he said on Twitter.

Stephanie Liechtenstein, a Vienna-based journalist covering diplomatic developments, said that "there will be a vote on the resolution submitted by U.S. & E3 to the IAEA Board of Governors either tomorrow (Wednesday) evening or Thursday morning."

According to the journalist, the resolution is "a mildly-worded



draft and there is no mention of the matter being referred to the UN Security Council."

Iranian officials also noted that the resolution will not be strongly-worded and binding. Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said the resolution, if adopted, will not result in the creation of new conditions. "The resolution that some in the Board of Governors are seeking will not impose new conditions. The Agency must stop political influence within it and abide by its charter," he said in remarks to Al Jazeera.

However, the resolution will not go unanswered by Iran. Iranian officials have said they will respond in kind. How Iran will respond remains to be seen.

the IAEA access to its cameras installed at Iran's nuclear facilities. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said those who pushed for resolution will be responsible for the consequences.

Iran also noted that it will not change its position on the Vienna talks. In a meeting with a number of religious and political leaders as well as officials of Lebanese and Palestinian groups, Amir Abdollahian underscored that Iran will not relinquish the rights of the Iranian people in the negotiations, nor will it ignore the rights of the Muslim people of Palestine with regard to the Palestinian issue, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The remarks came amid speculations by some pundits that the resolution is aimed, among other things, at sending a signal of Western defiance regarding the Vienna talks. If that's the case, then Iran is unlikely to change its negotiating position just because the U.S. and the E3 adopted a resolution Iran views unjustifiable and unprovoked. The resolution, however, may set the whole negotiations process on a dangerous path because its adoption could be viewed by Iran as a signal that the West is not serious about reaching a good, reliable, and lasting agreement in Vienna.

But Iran has technical options to respond, Kazem Gharibabadi, the former Iranian representative to the IAEA, said in an interview with state TV.

Gharibabadi, now Iran's human rights chief, called on the IAEA to stop its politically motivated behaviors.

Despite downplaying the resolution, Iran signified a willingness to respond while doubling down on its previous positions regarding the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

As for response, Iran indicated it has many options to respond ranging from raising the level of uranium enrichment to blocking

Russia will not back BoG resolution on Iran: diplomat

TEHRAN – Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, has said that Moscow will not support a draft resolution put forth by Western countries against Iran at International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

"It becomes more and more clear that the intention of the Western participants in the #ViennaTalks to adopt a resolution on #Iran at the current session of the #IAEA BoG is very counterproductive for the #JCPOA. Russia will not associate itself with such a resolution on any way," he said on Twitter.

In another tweet on Tuesday, the Russian diplomat said the U.S. and its European allies submitted a draft resolution against Iran at

the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

"The Western participants in the #ViennaTalks on the #JCPOA submitted a draft resolution on #Iran for adoption at the current session of the #IAEA BoG. For unknown reasons they believe that a resolution is the best way to address outstanding safeguards issues. Extremely doubtful," he tweeted.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has said Iran will respond in kind to any move by the IAEA board.

Iran has so far exercised restraint and seems to be waiting for the outcome of the board meeting, Khatibzadeh said. But, he added, Iran

could take new retaliatory measures should the board adopts a resolution.

"We will naturally respond to any unconstructive move at the Board of Governors firmly and appropriately and those who view the board and the report of the Agency's director-general as leverage for pressure and a tool for political games against Iran will be responsible for its consequences," Khatibzadeh said in a statement after the IAEA released its latest report on the state of cooperation with Iran.

Iranian lawmaker Fereydoun Abbasi, who served as the director of the Atomic Organization of Iran, said on Monday that Iran should ratchet up its enrichment in case the board adopted a resolution.

Iran's answers to IAEA were 'accurate': top nuclear official

'IAEA uses intelligence reports from Iran's enemies, mainly Israel'

From Page 1 ▶ He also downplayed the resolution that is expected to be adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors against Iran. "The resolution that some in the Board of Governors are seeking will not impose new conditions. The IAEA must stop political influence within it and abide by its charter. The IAEA did not criticize the targeting of our facilities, and this is a big question," Eslami remarked.

The nuclear chief went on to say that there is no place for nuclear weapons in Iran's strategy, and what is being said is just malicious accusations.

"Our share of global [nuclear] energy is 3% and 25% of the work of the Agency's inspectors is on our lands," he noted.

He also touched on the possibility of enriching uranium to 90%, saying that "the decision to enrich uranium

to 90% rests with the relevant officials."

He continued, "We don't make uranium enrichment decisions just to provoke."

Eslami also said that the IAEA's access to the cameras' recordings depends on the fate of the nuclear agreement.

"We will continue our peaceful nuclear activities regardless of the fate of the nuclear agreement. We are ready to abide by the agreement in return for the other parties to implement all its provisions," he said.

The remarks come against a backdrop of heightened tensions between Iran and the IAEA over the latter's recent report that laid the ground for the Board's resolution.

The Board of Governors' meeting kicked off on Monday with Iran being one of the issues on agenda.

The United States and its European allies – France, Germany, and the UK – made it clear that they would push for a resolution against Iran. Western media reported that these countries have tabled the resolution at a time when talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), continue to face growing uncertainty.

The West pushing for censure for the first time in two years raised concerns in Iran about opponents of the JCPOA throwing a wrench into the gears of the Vienna talks, especially after a war of words between Iran and the IAEA director-general, Rafael Grossi, who incensed Tehran by visiting Israel right before the Board of Governors meeting.

The trip to Israel was especially

worrisome because it also came after the IAEA released a report castigating Iran for allegedly not providing credible answers to the IAEA questions that were raised by Israel in the first place.

Of note, the UN nuclear watchdog has raised questions about a number of Iranian sites at which uranium materials were allegedly found. The sites and their coordinates were presented to the IAEA by Israel.

"Iran has not provided explanations that are technically credible in relation to the Agency's findings at those locations," the report said according to Reuters. It added, "The Agency remains ready to engage without delay with Iran to resolve all of these matters."

Iran strongly rejected the report, describing it as not reflecting the level of cooperation between Tehran and the IAEA.

JCPOA a fundamental pillar of peace and security in the region: Qatari FM

TEHRAN – Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdul Rahman has once again called for reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, describing it as a pillar of peace and security in the West Asia region.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, who is also Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar, said that Doha is talking with Tehran and Washington in order to find common ground to return to the Vienna negotiations.

In remarks to Al Jazeera, the Qatari foreign minister pointed out that his talks in Washington with his American counterpart Tony Blinken dealt with a number of regional and global issues, including Iran and Afghanistan, in addition to the Palestinian issue and the world's food and energy crises.

He indicated that the Vienna talks have not failed, and that Qatar's contacts with Iran are not a substitute for them, rather a helpful factor.

The chief diplomat noted that he discussed with Blinken the Vienna negotiations and the prospect



of reaching an agreement.

The Qatari foreign minister stressed that Doha wants the parties to return to the nuclear agreement because it constitutes a fundamental pillar of security and peace in the region, underlining that the nuclear agreement will open up prospects for broader regional cooperation and dialogue with Iran.

Earlier, Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani had said that the Qatari side had held extensive discussions with Iran, and that Doha had

expressed its willingness to help and support any agreement between Iran and Western countries within the framework of the negotiations in Vienna.

Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have been negotiating a return to the tattered pact ever since April 2021. The talks have come to a standstill more than three months over a range of issues, including U.S. indecision about removing the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from its terrorism blacklist.

In late May, the Qatari foreign minister spoke over the phone with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Qatar has been conveying messages between Iran and the U.S. in parallel with the Vienna talks, which are now overshadowed by a Western decision to get the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors to issue a censure resolution against Iran on the grounds that Iran allegedly failed to provide credible answers to questions raised by the IAEA.

SPORTS

Iran to meet Indonesia at 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship opener

TEHRAN – Iran will play Indonesia on June 13 in the opening match of the 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship.

The Persians are also scheduled to play Lebanon on June 14 in Group B.

The FIBA U16 Asian Championship will feature 13 teams. They will be divided into four groups seeded automatically based on the FIBA World Ranking Boys, resulting in the Groups as follows:

Group A: Australia, Bahrain, India, Qatar

Group B: Iran, Lebanon, Indonesia

Group C: Philippines, Japan, Kuwait

Group D: Korea, New Zealand, Kazakhstan

The group stage concludes on June 14 with the top teams in each group proceeding to the Final Phase in the Quarter-Finals, starting on June 17. Teams that finish 2nd and 3rd in each group however, will play in the Qualifying Phase on June 16.

The second-ranked team in Group A will play the third-ranked team in Group B and vice versa. Similarly, the second-ranked team in Group C will play the third-ranked team in Group D and vice versa as well.

After the Semi-Finals on June 18, the tournament will reach its climax on June 19 with the Final of the FIBA U16 Asian Championship 2022.

The four teams that advance to the Semi-Finals of the U16 Asian Championship will qualify for the FIBA U17 Basketball World Cup 2022 which will be played from July 2-10 in Malaga, Spain.

Persepolis handed 0-3 win over Tractor

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team have been awarded a 3-0 victory over Tractor by Disciplinary Committee of Iran Football Federation on Monday.

Tractor have been fined by the Disciplinary Committee after fans were found to be guilty of throwing objects onto the pitch during last month's match against Persepolis in Tabriz's Yadegar-e Emam Stadium.

Tractor have also been ordered to play their next two home matches behind closed doors and were fined 10,000 euros.

The referee finally halted the match in the 70th minute and the players retreated to the tunnel.

Faghani officiates Japan v Brazil match

TEHRAN – Iranian referee Alireza Faghani officiated the match between Japan and Brazil football teams.

The match was held at Tokyo's National Stadium on Monday, where Brazil defeated the host 1-0.

Neymar's penalty 13 minutes from time earned Brazil a win over fellow World Cup qualifier Japan.

Substitute Richarlison was brought down by Endo and referee Alireza Faghani pointed to the spot.

Faghani prepares to officiate in the 2022 World Cup. He has previously officiated at the 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Iran to open 2022 VNL with China

TEHRAN – Iran to begin the 2022 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) with a match against China on Wednesday.

The 2021 VNL champions and world's top-ranked Brazil will start the defense of their title at home as they welcome the Pool 1 participants to the nation's capital. All four Asian representatives – Australia, China, Iran and Japan – will get together in that pool, in the company of the U.S. and two European teams, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

The first competition day in Brasilia will also feature an interesting encounter between last year's semifinalists and EuroVolley silver medalists Slovenia and the U.S., who medaled at the previous two VNL editions.

An edition of the Asian classic between Japan and China will highlight Wednesday's program in Brasilia, while Saturday's encounter between Japan and continental champ Iran will offer a remake of the 2021 Asian Championship final.

The match that is likely to draw the most attention in Brasilia, however, is Friday's gigantic clash between the hosts and the U.S.

The 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League will be the fourth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League, an annual men's international volleyball tournament. The preliminary round will be held during five weeks between 7 June and 10 July 2022.

The final round will be held from 20 to 24 July 2022.

Javad Nekounam shortlisted for Esteghlal hotseat

TEHRAN – Javad Nekounam is one of the names on Esteghlal's shortlist as the club continues their search for a new coach.

Farhad Majidi parted ways with the Blues at the end of the season to join Emirati club Ittihad Kalba.



Ex-Esteghlal midfielder Nekounam had a successful stint with Foolad and led the Ahvaz-based football team to title of Iran's Hazfi Cup and Super Cup last year.

Italian coach Andrea Stramaccioni is among the candidates.

Iran to compete at 2022 Beach Volleyball World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran beach volleyball team left Tehran on Tuesday for Rome, capital of Italy to take part at the 2022 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships.

Iran's Bahman Salemi/Arash Vakili is drawn with Brazil, Latvia and Austria in Pool E.

Iran will start the campaign on Friday with a match against Brazil.

Rome is the first city in the history of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships to host a second edition of the elite competition. After welcoming the world's best pairs back in 2011, the Italian capital is set to do it again when the 2022 World Championships take place from June 10 through 19 at Foro Italo.

Interestingly, the 2022 trophies will be issued on the exact same date, June 19, that the 2011 medal matches were played 11 years ago. And one of the winners at that tournament, Brazil's Alison Cerutti, who was a 2011 world champion alongside Emanuel Rego, will be back for more in 2022, this time with Gustavo Carvalhaes (Guto) as a partner.

Iran, Qatar ink MOU to conclude 8th Joint Economic Committee meeting



Iran's Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian (L) and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Thani sign MOU documents in Doha on Monday.

From page 1 ▶ "Considering our good relations in the past, this meeting should be a new chapter in the development of cooperation between the two countries."

"We hope to see a significant increase in interactions with the agreements reached in this meeting," he added.

"One of the most important goals of the meeting is to support the Iranian and Qatari private sectors, and we are happy to see that a large conference with the participation of Iranian businessmen is being held in Doha at the same time as the meeting of the joint committee," Mehrabian said.

According to the official, eight MOUs on food, medical industry, knowledge-based companies, etc. were also signed between businessmen of the two countries on the sidelines of the mentioned meeting.

The Iranian energy minister noted that Iran and Qatar have set financial goals for 2023 and hope to see doubled economic relations and trade balance between the two countries.

Referring to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Mehrabian said that the Qatar World Cup is definitely one of the golden opportunities for business people, which can enhance economic and trade relations between the two countries in various ways.

Tehran, Doha form Joint Economic Council

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry also signed an MOU on Monday to form a Joint Economic Council.

The document was signed by Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Thani, Chairman of Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and his Iranian Counterpart Gholam-Hossein Shafeie in Doha.

In the signing ceremony, Al-Thani hailed

the formation of the council that makes up of elites of different economic sectors of the two countries.

He said that the council will help discover investment opportunities in both countries and develop mutual cooperation.

The Qatari official stressed the importance of the positive role that the private sector can play in developing trade between the two sides.

Shafeie, on his part, announced Iran's willingness to boost trade ties with Qatar and said that there are numerous grounds for cooperation in this regard.

Iran offers full support for Qatari businessmen

In another event held on the sidelines of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting, TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak held talks with the private sector representatives of the two countries to discuss trade related issues and challenges.

Speaking in this meeting, Peyman-Pak expressed the Iranian government's determination to fully support Qatari traders and investors who decide to do business in Iran.

"Holding joint meetings between businessmen and private sectors of the two countries is one of the issues emphasized by the governments of Iran and Qatar, and both countries are working to establish stable trade relations," he said.

Iran to dispatch commercial attaché to Qatar

According to the TPO head, as the first step to pave the way for the expansion of economic ties, a commercial attaché from Iran will reside in Doha to pursue the issues of the two sides' businessmen.

"Dispatching an Iranian commercial attaché in Qatar was the first step in the development of trade between the two countries, which took place in recent days with the aim of coordinating and supporting more trade activities between the two countries," he said.

Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian arrived in the Qatari capital Doha on Sunday to hold talks with senior Qatari officials and attend the two country's eighth Joint Economic Committee meeting.

A high-ranking delegation of Iranian government officials, including Sports Minister Hamid Sajjadi and head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak and ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie accompanied Mehrabian during his visit.

export markets, identify problems, barriers, and weaknesses in the industry, and also to create a healthy competitive environment for domestic producers to improve their production quality.

In this exhibition, various tools and equipment used in the home, industrial, and field kitchens such as cabinets, sinks, air conditioners, ventilators, lighting systems, kitchen tables and chairs, food processing equipment, food preparation equipment, food service equipment (self-service and catering lines) maintenance equipment, fixed and mobile refrigeration, industrial dishwashers, restaurant and coffee shop equipment, as well as bathroom equipment, bathtubs, bathrooms, toilets, partitions and showers, sauna and swimming pool equipment, sauna and swimming pool facilities are being showcased.

Intl. kitchen, pool, sauna, bath industries expo running in Tehran

TEHRAN - The 19th International Exhibition of Kitchen, Bath, Sauna, Pool Industries, and Equipment kicked off on Tuesday at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRNA reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior officials including the managing director of Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC).

Attended by 80 foreign and domestic companies, the event is going to be a place for showcasing the latest advancements and achievements in the kitchen, bath, sauna, and pool industries.

Covering four main categories of kitchen, pool, sauna, and bath, the four-day event aims to increase the efficiency of Iranian factories and production units, expand the industry's

TEDPIX gains 1,000 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 1,073 points to close at 1.515 million points on Tuesday.

As reported, over 5.525 billion securities worth 35.175 trillion rials (about \$135.2 million) were traded at the TSE.

A market analyst believes that the Iranian stock market has the potential to grow despite the distrust created in the market as a result of some bad decisions.

Emphasizing that there is potential for growth in the market, Hassan Kazemzadeh told ISNA on June 5: "Given this potential, the market will grow. Of course, there are ups and downs, but no matter how much distrust there is, the changes of major economic factors will affect the market, but this effect takes place gradually and over time."

According to the analyst, uncertainty about monitoring policies, especially interference in valuing the shares of companies, imposition of various duties, imposing corporate expenses such as taxes and export duties, etc., has caused shareholders to be pessimistic about the market.

"Although there is a 30 to 40 percent growth potential in the market, even professionals are disappointed," he regretted.

Tehran hosting 6th Iran-Nigeria Joint Economic Committee meeting



TEHRAN - The sixth meeting of the Iran-Nigeria Joint Economic Committee is being held in Tehran from June 6 to 9, during which senior officials of the two countries are scheduled to sign numerous economic and trade agreements.

A high-ranking delegation from Nigeria, headed by the country's Foreign Minister Zubairu Dada, has traveled to Tehran to participate in this event which is held after a seven-year hiatus, IRIB reported.

With a population of more than 220 million, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. The

country's gross domestic product exceeded \$430 billion in 2021, making it Africa's largest economy.

Nigeria is Iran's third-largest trading partner in Africa, however, considering the friendly relations between Tehran and Abuja and the two countries' great potential the level of bilateral trade is not favorable.

According to Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data, the value of trade between the two countries increased from \$5 million in 2019 to \$18 million in 2020 and to more than \$130 million in 2021.

Despite a 26-fold increase, the level of trade between Tehran and Abuja is still unsatisfactory and could be much higher.

Transportation is one of the most important obstacles to Iran's trade with African countries, and to this end, the Islamic Republic of Iran has already begun talks with Nigeria to resolve this issue and the two sides hope that the first Tehran-Abuja flight will be established in the next few months. Both sides are also considering establishing a shipping line between the two countries.

Nigeria is a large economy with

vast oil and mineral resources and extensive agriculture, and its problem today is a lack of infrastructure and skilled manpower, especially in areas like energy and technology. If diplomatic relations between Iran and Nigeria continue to expand and more attention is paid to trade development, Nigeria could become a great market for Iranian companies in a variety of fields, from the petrochemical industry to the food industry. It could also act as a regional hub to facilitate trade between Iran and West African countries.

Over 250,000 tons of basic goods cleared from Chabahar port in 2 months

TEHRAN - More than 250,000 tons of basic commodities were cleared from Chabahar port, in the southeast of Iran during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), the director of cereals and commercial services of Chabahar Free Zone Organization announced.

Barat Khajeh said that the clearance of basic commodities, including wheat, rice and corn, from the port indicates 70 percent rise in terms of weight, and 118 percent growth in terms of value in the said two-month period as compared to the same time span of the past year.

As previously announced by a provincial official, 1,981,156 tons of basic commodities were transported from Chabahar port to the designated destinations throughout the country in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

Mehrollah Damough, the head of goods transportation office of Road Maintenance and Transportation Department of Sistan-Baluchestan province, where the strategic port lies, said that the mentioned commodities were transported by 79,990 trucks.

Chabahar is an important port and a low-cost route for Central Asian countries, which



with its strategic unloading and loading equipment has the potential to become a key transit corridor for international transit and transportation, the official further underlined.

As announced by the deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), 30.9 million tons of basic goods worth \$19.6 billion were cleared from the customs in the past Iranian calendar year.

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

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

calendar year 1399.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar port holds great significance for the country both politically and economically. The country has taken serious measures for developing this port in order to improve the country's maritime trade.

In this regard, the Islamic Republic has been welcoming investors from all over the world to take part in the development of this port and benefit from its distinguished position as a trade hub in the region.

Chabahar port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

In May 2016, India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement for the strategically-located Chabahar to give New Delhi access to Kabul and Central Asia.

Based on an agreement with Iran, India is going to install and operate modern loading and unloading equipment including mobile harbor cranes in Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

Modern irrigation systems being established in 3,800 ha of Qazvin farmlands

TEHRAN - As announced by a provincial official, modern irrigation systems are being established in 3,800 hectares of farmlands in Qazvin province.

Saying that the development of modern irrigation in the farmlands is one of the prioritized projects of Agriculture Ministry, Ahmad Mostakhdemi, the director for technical and engineering affairs in the province's Agriculture Department, said, "We are trying to expedite implementation of the plans in this regard".

The official further announced that 5,000 hectares of farmlands is planned to be equipped with modern irrigation systems in Qazvin province in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

As stated by the project manager of the Agriculture Ministry's smart irrigation systems development program, so far 2.6 million hectares of the country's farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems.

Fariborz Abbasi has said that completing semi-finished agriculture projects is the priority of his ministry in the current Iranian calendar year, and expanding the modern irrigation network across the country is of significant importance in this regard.

The deputy agriculture minister noted that the project for implementing irrigation

networks in the west and northwest of the country is about 70 percent completed and the ministry is pursuing to get the necessary funding for the remaining 30 percent.

The official expressed hope that considering the budget allocation for the provinces at the beginning of the current Iranian year, the ministry would be able to develop the project in terms of both quantity and quality.

The purpose of implementing the plan of modern irrigation systems is to increase the productivity and sustainability of water and soil resources in the country to ensure the sustainable production of agricultural products.

"Over the past three years, each year, an average of 150,000 hectares of farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems, and we have witnessed a 300 percent jump", the official said.

Agriculture Ministry is also taking the necessary measures for supporting the domestic manufacturing of equipment used in these systems, he added.

Back in September 2021, Abbasi had said that 95 percent of the equipment used in such systems is manufactured inside the country.

The official said the ministry has comprehensive plans for indigenizing the knowledge for the production of the other five percent as well.

Regarding the situation of the capital market in the second half of the year, Kazemzadeh said: "According to the fundamental analysis, many stocks that are profitable, regardless of whether their profit margins or profitability are high or low, have the potential to reach their price ceiling of the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021). If this happens, the market index will also pass the ceiling of that year."

Meanwhile, as stated by the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the monthly sales of the shares of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange has been very good in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), and it is predicted that the growing trend of the exchanges will continue in the present year as well.

"Considering the general provisions approved in this year's budget bill we expect that companies will have good capital increase and take positive development measures, and it will be easier for investors to make decisions," Majid Eshqi told the press on March 12.

Mentioning the measures taken for the improvement of the market in the past year, the official said: "For nearly 12 years, no new brokerage companies were established across the country, but since late October 2021, a licensing permit has been issued in this regard and a new brokerage firm has also been established."

The establishment of new financial institutions including investment funds, investment consulting companies, financing firms, and financial information processing companies were also mentioned as other steps taken in this regard.

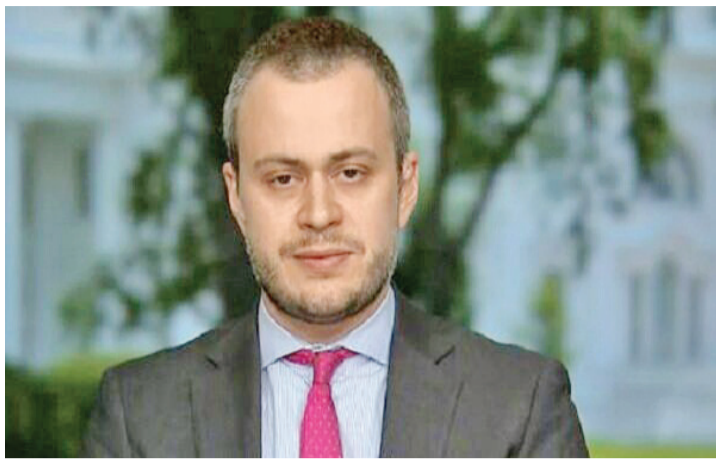
Biden persuading S. Arabia to normalize ties with Israel: GSA chief

From page 1 ► What are the main reasons for President Biden's planned visit to West Asia, especially Saudi Arabia, a country he had vowed to treat as a 'pariah'?

Team Biden, like previous U.S. administrations, believes that Washington's partnership with Saudi Arabia is important to U.S. national interests. Irrespective of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action's fate in Vienna, the Biden administration will want to continue U.S. efforts to counter Iran's regional influence. The view in Washington is that the U.S. must work with Israel and Arab states such as Saudi Arabia to pursue this agenda aimed at weakening the Islamic Republic. At the same time, Washington is worried about Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-states moving closer to China and Russia in an increasingly multipolar world, especially amid the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine. One of Biden's major motivations for visiting Saudi Arabia is to assert U.S. influence in the Persian Gulf and to try to mend ties with Riyadh, which the U.S. administration fears would move closer to Beijing and Moscow without Washington taking steps aimed at improving relations with Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

We can't ignore domestic politics in the U.S. There are midterm elections this year and the Democrats are worried about high gas prices as a political liability. There is a determination on the part of the Biden administration to push the Saudis to increase oil production. At the beginning of this month, the Saudis announced that in July and August they will modestly boost production. Team Biden will certainly try to convince Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing Arab states to go much further and make substantially greater increases.

Do you think Biden is planning



to strike a deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia? Is that a continuation of the Abraham Accords?

The U.S. leadership would very much like to see Saudi Arabia follow in the UAE and Bahrain's footsteps in terms of entering the Abraham Accords. Yet given the high levels of risk that Riyadh would have to accept in normalizing relations with Tel Aviv, my personal view is that it is highly unlikely that Saudi Arabia would do so. There are members of the Al Saud family as well as many Saudi citizens who would strongly oppose their country signing such a diplomatic deal with Israel. The Kingdom joining the Abraham Accords would also be risky from the standpoint of Saudi Arabia's reputation and standing throughout the wider Arab-Islamic world. Nonetheless, Saudi Arabia and Israel have a decades-old tacit partnership and I expect this relationship to continue growing albeit without any formalization of diplomatic relations in the foreseeable future.

How do you see the international

reputation of MBS?

Governments worldwide that want to continue dealing with Riyadh must come to terms with the fact that there is no good reason to believe that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will not become the next King of Saudi Arabia. Western governments which strongly condemned him for his role in the Khashoggi killing might feel uncomfortable engaging the crown prince. But there is a general understanding among foreign policy analysts that statesmen across the world have no choice, at least if they seek to maintain their relationships with the Kingdom. At the end of the day, governments make decisions based on perceived national interests, not values.

Governments in the West are no exception.

Do you think President Biden is going to follow Trump's policies when it comes to Saudi Arabia? I mean regarding Saudi Arabia as a "milk cow" in words of Trump.

There has been much continuity

in U.S.-Saudi relations from one American administration to the next. However, compared to his predecessor, Biden is less transactional in dealing with Riyadh. Although with Biden at the helm the U.S. has continued selling arms to the Saudis, Biden is less cavalier than Trump when it comes to discussing these sales and the extent to which American firms profit from them. Also, with Trump's administration, the relationship was very personality-driven and that is not the case with Biden's team which deals with Saudi Arabia much more through institutions such as the Pentagon and State Department.

How do you see Biden's foreign policy shift in regard to Saudi Arabia?

Biden going to Saudi Arabia should not harm him much politically at home in America. A few years have passed since the Khashoggi murder. While that killing is not forgotten, the level of outrage surrounding the murder among many in the U.S. has decreased with time. At this juncture, with Americans dealing with inflation and other problems, I think Biden going to Saudi Arabia and trying to push the Saudis to boost oil production is a move that will receive significant support from the U.S. public. Nonetheless, there will be voices among the more progressive wing of the Democratic Party who criticize Biden for not allowing the Khashoggi murder to be a reason to continue not meeting with Saudi Arabia's crown prince. But among centrists in the Democratic Party and Republicans, there is a general understanding that the U.S.-Saudi partnership is very important. If Biden can come home and convince politicians in Washington and the American public at large that he secured concessions from Riyadh, I think the American president will not pay any real political price this year.

Johnson narrowly wins confidence vote as rebellion emerges

From page 1 ► The scale of the win here has given the public an idea about the vast level of rebel backbenchers who are extremely angry with their party leader.

With a divided party, experts are asking how the British Premier can now unite the Tories and pass legislation through parliament. There may be a time frame where Johnson stays in Downing Street but lacks any real control or power.

The other question now is whether the cabinet will move against him amid pleas by MPs to end the significant prospect of an ongoing civil war in the party or as one senior Tory MP called it a "guerilla war".

Experts say the scale of the rebellion means some government ministers and aides must have voted against Johnson in the secret ballot while remaining supportive of him publicly.

support of a significant proportion of his party and consider his position, but I don't think he'll do that."

The confidence vote has also had major repercussions in Scotland where leading parties have seats in the British parliament at Westminster.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) leader Nicola Sturgeon has pointed out that only two of (Scotland's) 59 MPs have confidence in the prime minister, calling Johnson "an utterly lame duck" prime minister.

In a post on social media, Sturgeon said the "result is surely the worst of all worlds for the Tories. But much more importantly: at a time of huge challenge, it saddles the UK with an utterly lame duck PM. And for Scotland, it just underlines the democratic deficit - only 2 of 59 MPs have confidence in the PM."



Reports suggest that up to five members of the cabinet may have voted against Johnson, but the ballot was conducted in complete secrecy, and party members making their real position known public has clearly been a very sensitive matter.

Johnson could be ousted like his predecessor May after she won her confidence vote or he could take the Tories down to defeat at the next general election like former Tory Premier John Major.

The leader of the main opposition Labour party, Keir Starmer denounced the Conservative MPs who he said: "ignored the British public" by voting in favor of Johnson.

Speaking to reporters, Starmer says "the Conservative Party had a decision to make. To show some backbone or to back Boris Johnson."

"The British public are fed up. Fed up with a prime minister who promises big but never delivers. Fed up with a prime minister who has presided over a culture of lies and lawbreaking at the heart of government. Fed up with a Prime Minister who is utterly unfit for the great office he holds."

"Conservative MPs made their choice tonight. They have ignored the British public and hitched themselves and their party firmly to Boris Johnson and all he represents."

The Labour leader also described the last few months as "a farce" and claims that Labour will "get rid of this tired, out of touch government and get Britain back on track." Something that remains to be seen.

Speaking to British media, senior Tory MP Roger Gale says he "won't support" Johnson despite the confidence vote win.

Gale says "there are a lot of hurdles ahead" and that the PM should "consider his position" following the result.

The Tory MP added that "Johnson should reflect on the fact that 148 MPs - more than four in ten - said they do not have confidence in his leadership and that he should 'stand aside'."

Gale who submitted both a letter of no confidence in Johnson's leadership and voted against him, says he will continue to voice his view that the PM should go.

"I don't believe that he should take the party into the next general election and I think there are other elephant traps down the road - two by-elections coming up, the Privileges Committee report in the autumn - there are a lot of hurdles ahead and I think a prime minister of honor would look at the figures, accept the fact that he has lost the

The SNP Westminster leader, Ian Blackford, says the position of the Scottish Conservative Party leader Douglas Ross, who confirmed he had voted for Johnson to be ousted, "is completely untenable."

Blackford says "he has made himself look utterly ridiculous by flip-flopping over Boris Johnson's future and will have no authority or credibility if he tries to cling on."

"The UK is now stuck in limbo with a lame-duck prime minister who has lost the confidence of the public - and more than forty percent of his own MPs - and is left limping around on borrowed time while the Tory party descends into bitter division," Blackford added.

Other rebel MPs have also reiterated their calls that Johnson should not lead the party into the next election.

Julian Sturdy, who voted against Johnson, says the prime minister must consider his position despite his majority.

The MP says "the scale of the vote against the prime minister this evening is clear evidence that he no longer enjoys the full-hearted confidence of the parliamentary party and should consider his position."

"I no longer have confidence in his ability to lead us through the challenges we face as a nation."

Before the vote experts said anything between 100 and 179 votes against Johnson would be regarded as a "wounding rebellion" for the PM.

Critics say Johnson will seek to downplay the result and try to distract the nation with announcements on issues such as the Northern Ireland protocol or the war in Ukraine, but the horizon doesn't look bright for the British Prime Minister.

Johnson has been left clinging to his premiership after a ballot that exposed the vast rifts within his party.

Many Conservative MPs including some of his supporters believe the attempted coup is the beginning of the end of his three-year premiership.

With so many of his party having voted against him, the PM has effectively lost his majority support in parliament and the risk of his government being paralyzed is now real.

This critical statement of the PM by former foreign minister Jeremy Hunt and a possible contender for the conservative party leadership sums Johnson's conundrum.

"Today's decision is change or lose."

NATO to kick off Baltic war games with Finland, Sweden

Helsinki's intelligence says Moscow has not responded to its NATO membership bid

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization announced it will launch military drills with 7,000 troops in the Baltics. The provocative war games will include Sweden and Finland. Stockholm is hosting the exercises after applying for NATO membership last month.

The war games, dubbed Baltic Operations (BALTOPS 22), are based in Stockholm. BALTOPS 22 will primarily consist of naval operations and run from June 5-17. The drills will involve 45 ships and 75 aircraft. Sixteen nations will participate, including Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The annual war games are taking on

increased significance as Helsinki and Stockholm recently submitted their applications to join NATO. The USS Kearsarge is in the Swedish capital city for the war games. According to Chairman of the Joint Chief, Gen. Mark Milley said, part of the ship's mission is a show of force to Russia.

"I think the Kearsarge being here is a pretty strong statement," Milley said. "This is a big exercise with 7000-8000 soldiers from 16 countries, two of which are not NATO members."

Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson added, "This shows President Biden's security assurances are followed by actions." Several NATO members gave security guarantees to Sweden and Finland as they go

through the membership process. The security guarantees are meant to prevent a Russian attack before Stockholm and Helsinki receive protection under the alliance's mutual defense pact.

Russia says it will not react to Finland and Sweden joining the North Atlantic alliance but warned against a military buildup in the Nordic countries.

Antti Pelttari, head of Finland's intelligence service, confirmed Moscow had not targeted Helsinki with reprisals since it submitted its NATO application. "It has been rather quiet, and let's hope it stays that way," he said in an interview with Financial Times. "It's a positive thing that nothing has happened."

(Source: antiwar.com)

Chinese envoy warns against providing weapons to Ukraine or imposing sanctions on Russia

A Chinese envoy on Monday warned against constantly providing weapons to Ukraine or imposing sanctions on Russia, Xinhua reported.

Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said only through cease-fire and the restoration of peace can the trauma of conflict for women and children be fundamentally avoided.

"The international community should work together to promote peace talks, and encourage Russia and Ukraine to come back to the negotiation track," he told a Security Council meeting on sexual violence and human trafficking in the context of the Ukraine conflict.

Constantly providing weapons or imposing sanctions and pressure will not solve the problem, but will

only perpetuate and expand the conflict, Dai warned.

People in Ukraine and other developing countries should not pay the price for geopolitical and bloc confrontations, the diplomat said.

At a time when humans have a shared future and when global security is indivisible, no country can or should seek its own absolute security at the expense of the security of others, Dai pointed out.

And international and regional security cannot and should not be guaranteed by strengthening military blocs and cutting off supply and industrial chains, said the Chinese diplomat.

"China once again calls on the parties concerned to put international and regional peace and security first and to play a

constructive role in the proper resolution of the crisis in Ukraine," he said.

The security risks faced by women and children are particularly worrisome, the envoy said, adding parties to the conflict should comply with international law and take measures to protect civilians from all forms of violence, including sexual violence and human trafficking against women and girls.

The use of sexual violence as a tactic of war is a serious crime and any allegations should be investigated impartially on the basis of facts, he asserted.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, 6.8 million Ukrainian people have crossed borders into neighboring countries for refuge, the vast majority of whom are women and

children.

China's deputy permanent representative to the UN said his country appreciates the humanitarian spirit shown by Ukraine's neighbors in providing safe shelter and basic livelihood for women and children refugees but the growing number of cases of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse is disturbing.

China calls for immediate international cooperation to identify and punish relevant criminal acts, he remarked.

The relevant UN agencies should strengthen monitoring and analysis and provide professional and technical support to combat human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse against Ukrainian refugees, he said.

Tehran meeting to commemorate Islamic scholar Wilferd Madelung

From page 1 ▶ Also, he has mentioned the approach of previous prophets in choosing the successor which states that they usually tend to choose one among their relatives as their successor and had this idea that through those verses it could be concluded that the Holy Prophet was concerned with the severity of this matter and had liked to choose a person among his family to be his successor, but before he was able to do so, his death arrived suddenly and he was not able to complete his task.

Making the balance between concision and loyalty to texts and traditions was one of the goals Madelung had when writing the book. He argued that most Western historians mistrust Islamic sources of early Islam, which have been characterized as old myths. He sought to review the analysis of these events based on the most relevant sources of the period while



maintaining a balance between concision and loyalty to texts and traditions.

"Religious Trends in Early Islamic Iran", "Religious and Ethnic Movements in Medieval Islam", "An Ismaili Heresiography", "The Advent of the Fatimids: A Contemporary Shi'i Witness", and "Religious School and Sects in Medieval Islam" are among his credits.

World's 'biggest' adobe fort to host overnight trippers



TEHRAN – The UNESCO-registered Bam citadel, which is the biggest adobe fort worldwide, is prepared to host overnight guests, the director of the World Heritage site has said.

"Restoration work has commenced on ten historical houses which are located on the premises of the adobe citadel. And five of the houses will be hosting overnight guests when fully restored," IRNA quoted Mohsen Qasemi as saying on Monday.

The five other houses will become destinations for sightseers, the official said.

The restoration projects are underway in collaboration with the private sector, Qasemi said.

The massive fortress and its environs were almost completely brought down to earth due to a devastating earthquake on December 26, 2003. Since then, the citadel has undergone a series of restoration projects to regain its former beauty.

Called Arg-e Bam in Persian, the citadel dated from the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC) and even beyond. The heyday of the citadel was from the 7th to 11th centuries, being at the crossroads of important trade routes and known for the production of silk and cotton garments.

According to UNESCO, Arg-e Bam is the most representative example of a fortified medieval town built in vernacular technique using mud layers (Chineh), sun-dried mud bricks (khesht), and vaulted and domed structures.

Bam and its Cultural Landscape represents an outstanding example of an ancient fortified settlement that developed around the Iranian central plateau and is an exceptional testimony to the development of a trading settlement in the desert environment of the Central Asian region. This impressive construction undoubtedly represents the climax and is the most important achievement of its type not only in the area of Bam but also in a much wider cultural region of Western Asia.

The cultural landscape of Bam is an important representation of the interaction between man and nature and retains a rich resource of ancient canalizations, settlements, and forts as landmarks and tangible evidence of the evolution of the area.

The UNESCO-designated Bam and its Cultural Landscape is situated on the southern edge of the Iranian high plateau close to the Pakistan border.

Practical handicrafts still untapped potential, Iran tourism minister says

TEHRAN – Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami believes many Iranian handicrafts have untapped potential for becoming practical.

"We must incorporate handicrafts into everyday life and make them practical."

He made the remarks on Monday during the official induction ceremony of the new deputy for handicrafts Maryam Jalali Dehkordi, who replaced Pouya Mahmoodian.

These handmade products are still far from what they should be and every related organization needs to get involved to fill this gap, the minister explained.

Handicrafts must become an integral part of people's lives, which means that colors and designs must change, and the products need to be diversified, inexpensive, packaged, and branded, he added.

"I request all the colleagues in this section to engage all their experience and energy into this task since that is where good ideas will flourish," he said.

"With the entire country as our supply points, markets, and shops, everywhere can be a place to distribute and sell our handicrafts," he mentioned.

The handicrafts industry is not subject to [the U.S.-imposed] sanctions and can significantly contribute to the rebuilding of the economy, Zarghami noted.

It is necessary to use new technologies to introduce, promote and teach handicrafts, he said, adding "it is also necessary to display handicrafts' beauties and inspire people to consider it in their lifestyle."

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. For instance, Shiraz is named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts", Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the title of a "world city of filigree".

In addition, the ancient city of Shiraz has been chosen to host the 39th General Assembly of the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in May 2023. Shiraz has a remarkable amount of handicraft pioneers. With an average age of 70, some of these pioneers are still active at their workshops. The occupational records of about 100 pioneers are collected and are annually praised by the custodians of the WCC General Office.

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts suggests the value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months

of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornaments with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

Archaeologists discover early example of administrative management in eastern Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian archaeologists have found what they say is an early example of administrative management in an eastern Iranian region and hope it will offer new clues about people who lived there some 6,000 years ago.

The discovery was made during the third archaeological excavation season which is currently underway in Kale-Kub, which is situated in Sarayan county of South Khorasan province.

"More than ten days after the start of the excavation, we found remnants of industrial architecture, adobe brick walls, and potteries, which offer evidence of social complexity and an administrative management system," CHTN quoted Archaeologist Mohammad-Hossein Azizi Kharanaghi as saying on Tuesday.

Kale-Kub is one of the few historical sites in the region that has archeological evidence of the sequences of different cultures from the fifth to the second millennium BC, Azizi Kharanaghi, who leads the survey, explained.

Referring to previous excavations of the site, the archaeologist has said: "In 2018,



two trenches were opened to identify the stratigraphy of the high amount of beveled rim bowls in addition to other pottery styles belongs to fourth millennium BC which are already known in southwestern Iran."

The archaeologist hopes their studies would clarify the importance of the Kale-Kub site for identifying the dispersal zone of "Beveled rim bowl pottery style" through the classification and typology of the discovered potteries and then a comparison between the pottery style in this site with other sites related to this

period.

"Also, we attempt to trace the possible routes for this pottery style to the East and the interaction between the east and west of Iran. Pottery collection from the excavation in Kale-Kub includes a high amount of beveled rim bowls, Banesh tray, and some other pottery styles which are well-known from the fourth millennium BC such as nose handle and spouted wares."

In modern Iran, these pottery styles are reported from the southwest, central Zagros, central plateau, and southeast. Experts believe findings in Kale-Kub show the extension of this culture to the east part of Iran.

Inter-regional interactions had a significant effect on the movement of raw material and production in the extended area. Because of the geographical situation of Kale-Kub in the east of Iran and the existence of metal mines in the region, this site possibly appeared as a supplier place in the interaction networks for the southwest of Iran during the fourth millennium BC.

'Tribal Rugs of Southern Persia' appears in Persian

TEHRAN – James Opie's "Tribal Rugs of Southern Persia" has been published in Persian.

Using various images and drawings in his book, Opie shows a series of rugs that exhibit various degrees of urban vs non-urban influences. As he goes along, he also talks about ancient design motifs that occur in south Persian rugs.

The magnificent book presents a unique and colorful view of the extraordinary weaving achievements of the five major tribal groups in southern Persia (Iran).

Moreover, the book describes a variety of the rugs of these nomadic and village peoples whose crafts have long been mislabeled or lumped together under inexact trade names.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally. Each Persian carpet depicts a scene that seems as ageless, a procedure that can take as long as a year, these efforts have long put Iran's carpets among the most complex and labor-intensive handicrafts in the world.

Weavers spend several months in front of a loom, stringing and knotting thousands of



threads. Some practice established patterns, some make their own. When the weaving is finally done, the carpet is cut, washed, and put out in the sun to dry.

Throughout history, invaders, politicians, and even enemies have left their impact on Iran's carpets. As mentioned by Britannica Encyclopedia, little is known about Persian carpet making before the 15th century, when art was already approaching a peak.

For instance, the Mongol invasion of the 13th century had depressed Persia's artistic life, only partially restored by the renaissance under the

Mongol Il-Khan dynasty (1256-1353). Although the conquests of Timur (died 1405) were in most respects disastrous to Persia, he favored artisans and spared them to work on his great palaces in Samarkand.

Later in the 17th century, there was a growing demand for the production of so many gold-and-silver-threaded carpets that were ultimately exported to Europe. Some were made in Kashan, but many of the finest came from Isfahan. With their high-keyed fresh colors and opulence, they have affinities with European Renaissance and Baroque idioms.

At the end of the 17th century, nomads and town dwellers were still making carpets using dyes developed over centuries, each group maintaining an authentic tradition. Not made for an impatient Western market, these humbler rugs of the "low school" are frequently beautifully designed and are of good material and technique.

"Tribal Rugs of Southern Persia" was translated into Persian by Iranian researcher Tahereh Nouri and hit bookstores by the Tehran-based publisher Nameh-e Parsi.

650,000 travelers tour Kordestan attractions in three days

TEHRAN – More than 650,000 sightseers visited the cultural and natural sites of the western Kordestan province from June 3 to 5, the provincial tourism chief has said.

"A total of 654,789 people visited historical sites and natural sights throughout the province during the mentioned period," Yaqub Guylian explained on Tuesday.

Travelers also made some 188,000 overnight stays in the official accommodation centers across the province during the time noted, the official added.

Last month, the official announced that some 73.5 billion rials (\$284,000) were allocated to five tourism projects across the western province including traditional accommodation centers and a traditional restaurant.

The projects are estimated to generate over 40 job opportunities upon their completion, the official added.

Kordestan has excellent capacities in the tourism sector, which can be a better ground for



the province's development if tourism projects are supported, he noted.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuq period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Abandoned caravansary undergoes renovation

TEHRAN – Cheshmak caravansary, an abandoned roadside inn in western Iran, has undergone restoration.

Worn-out bricks and traditional insulation of the rooftops will be amended in this round of restoration, Lorestan province's tourism chief said on Monday.

The Safavid-era caravansary is one of those inns that Iran seeks to win a UNESCO recognition for, Seyyed Amin Qasemi said.

The Islamic Republic has recently submitted an inclusive dossier on its caravansaries to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The dossier comprises the obligatory data about a selection of 56 caravansaries, which are located in 24 provinces.

The structure is named after Shah Abbas the Great (r. 1588 – 1629), who ordered the construction of some one thousand caravansaries across his empire.



Caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara"; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building.

Iran's earliest caravansaries were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravansaries across the country.

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even

visiting a centuries-old caravansary, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It's not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

58 Iranian universities listed in Times rankings of Asian countries

TEHRAN - Fifty-eight universities from Iran are among the top universities in Asia, according to the 2022 Asia University Rankings of the Times Higher Education (THE).

Times Ranking Database is one of the most reputable international ranking systems which has been ranking Asian universities alongside its international rankings since 2013.

The ranking is based on the same 13 performance indicators as the flagship THE World University Rankings, but the weightings have been adjusted to give less weight to reputation.

The universities are judged across all their core missions – teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook – to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons available.

In the latest ranking of Asian universities, some 616 universities from 31 countries were ranked, 58 of which were from Iran, and 6 of them were among the top 100.

This is while the number of Iranian universities last year was 47 universities.

The Noshirvani University of Technology with the rank of 57 is the first university in Iran and Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences, Mazandaran University of Medical



Sciences, and the Sharif University of Technology with the ranks of 64, 68, and 70, respectively, obtained the best rankings in Iran.

In this ranking, Tsinghua University and Peking University from China, as last year, top the list, respectively.

Out of 27 Islamic countries in Asia, 7 universities in 17 countries are listed in the Asian Times 2022 ranking. In terms of the number of universities, Iran ranks first with 58 universities, and Turkey and Pakistan rank second and third with 54 and 21 universities, respectively.

Academic quality

Most recently, the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2022 has ranked 694 Iranian institutions

among 30,000 top universities across the world.

Also, 59 Iranian universities have been listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP).

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

Meanwhile, 41 Iranian universities in engineering sciences and 12 universities in computer sciences

have made a place among the top 1,188 universities in the world with the announcement of Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 by subject.

It also has introduced 59 Iranian universities among the top institutions in World University Rankings 2022.

The THE Education Young University Rankings 2021 listed 26 Iranian institutions among the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger.

Moreover, 34 Iranian universities and institutions were listed among the top 1,000 in the world, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021.

The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2022 has ranked 694 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities across the world.

Iran, Syria to develop health tourism, pharmaceutical co-op

From page 1 ▶ Arrous, for his part, said that there is a need to increase the exchange of medical research, especially now that there is ample opportunity for collaboration.

He further emphasized that Syria would support any agreement between the two countries to promote health.

Sanctions for countries bring more solidarity and we must stay together, he further noted.

Rise in pharmaceuticals, medical productions

The import of pharmaceuticals has declined in Iran by 91 percent, which shows the capability of the country's pharmaceutical industry, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz,

former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said last October.

Today, all medicine used in the treatment of coronavirus are produced by domestic manufacturers, and if we wanted to import all the items,

there would be a high exchange rate, he further stated, emphasizing that COVID-19 vaccine development indicates the pharmaceutical industry's capability.

In 2018, 67 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to produce drugs in Iran were made locally.

A total of 227 knowledge-based firms are supplying medical equipment for health centers across the country, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

The Baseri tribe, one of the components of the Kamsa confederacy in Fars, is relatively small and probably for that reason has not developed a hierarchical structure of the type found in the province's Turkish and Arab tribes. It is divided directly into thirteen tirehs, named Kolomba'i, Abdul, Labu Musa, Juchin, Ali Shahqoli, Zohrabi, Farhadi, Hana'i, Karami, Sarvestani, Ali Qanbari, Ahl-e Qoli, and Il-e Kass.

Most of these tirehs, and especially the populous ones, are made up of several awlad; in the Farhadi tireh, for example, there are two awlad, one called Bahmani, of 65 families (kuna), the other called Farhadi, of 42 families. All, or more often some, of the members of an awlad, depending on the season and the year, form an ordu (camping group) ranging in size from 2 to 5 tents in winter and from 10 to 40 tents in other seasons, and they move together in search of pasturage for their flocks.

It is therefore clear that the Baseri subdivisions are simplified forms of the basic elements of tribal structure (Amanallahi,

1360/1971, pp. 194-95; Barth, 1961, pp. 25, 51).

In some tribes the meanings of tayefeh and tireh are reversed; the tribe is first divided into tirehs, and then the tireh into tayefehs. This is the practice among the Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad tribes and also those of Ilam.

In the case of the Bahme'i tribe, first the tribe is divided into two sections called Mohammadi and Ahmadi, then each section into three tirehs, and then each tireh into several tayefehs. The tash (or daha or chala) is here a component of the tayefeh, and of course is made up of families (bohun, i.e., tent).

In seasonal migrations and agricultural operations, the tash acts as the herding unit (Afshar-e Naderi, 1347 SH./1968, pp. 41-59). The same structure is found in the other tribes of the Kohgiluyeh ostan (Taheri, 1355 SH./1976, p. 3).

In some cases, splitting of the herding units into smaller units named qash is also mentioned. The subdivisions of the tribes of Lorestan show no real difference from those just described. They are il, tayefeh, tireh, and dudmu (i.e., dudman), but it is clear that in the local usage it is equivalent to tayefeh, tayefeh to tireh, tireh to tash, and dudmu to mal in the terminology of the big tribal confederacies such as the Bakhtiari and the Qashqa'i (Amanallahi, p. 161).

This type of organization is not confined to the tribes of the central Zagros. Tribes living in the very different environment of Sistan-Baluchestan have developed rudiments of similar structures.

This is apparent from a report on the Zayn-al-dini Baluchis of the area around Espaka in the dehestan of Lashar. They have at times been attached to the Shiranis and the Zamanis, and they are under the influence of the Mobarakis.

In one respect they are a Mobaraki tayefeh. The Mobaraki sardar exercises supervision through the instrumentality of the headman of the Zayn-al-dini tayefeh, who is known locally as the master (a relic of the British presence in the region).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1401/108-15 /07

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

-Subject of Tender:
Purchasing LTO Tape Drive & Cartridges in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Tender Deadline and how to receive the Tender Documents:
From Saturday 11 June 2022 (1401/03/21) 09:00 a.m. until Wednesday 15 June 2022 (1401/03/25) by 14:00 p.m. with submitting the Interest Tender Letter and the receipt of Tender Documents Fee.

Place of receiving the Tender Documents:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept., 4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Esteghlal St. Vali - Assr Ave, Tehran, Iran

Tender Process/Documents Fee and how to deposit it:
The interested participants shall deposit the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account Number 4101029171204273 with BIC No. IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in favour of IRIB.

Type and amount of Tender Guarantee:
The interested participants shall provide a Tender Guarantee for participating in tender, in amount of USD 23440 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 7032000000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivery Tender Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed, should be submitted no later than 09:00 a.m. on Saturday 16 July 2022 (1401/04/25) at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on Saturday 16 July 2022 (1401/04/25) at 10:00 a.m. in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes:
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on Sunday 17 July 2022 (1401/04/26) in the office of Financial Vice President. In case of complete content in the envelopes A, the envelopes of B (Technical and Commercial offer) eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place. The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.

For more information please see:
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept., IRIB

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Special plan prepared to attract overseas Iranian researchers

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

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

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

طرح ویژه برای جذب پژوهشگران ایرانی مقیم خارج

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

به گزارش ایرنا، معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، این طرح شامل «حمایت از فعالیت‌های فناورانه و ایجاد شرکت‌های نوپا»، «تسهیلات پسا دکتری»، «حمایت از اشتغال در مراکز نوآوری و شتابدهنده‌ها به عنوان مربی و مشاور»، «تسهیلات دوره فرصت مطالعاتی»، «تسهیلات مسکن»، «حمایت از اشتغال در شرکت‌های معتبر داخلی»، «حمایت از برگزاری سخنرانی و کارگاه‌های تخصصی» و «حمایت از همکاری به عنوان اساتید مدعو و معین» است. بر اساس برآوردها نزدیک یک درصد از کل مجموع دانشجویان ایرانی در خارج از کشور تحصیل می‌کنند. این رقم در مقایسه با میانگین بین‌المللی که حدود ۳ درصد است، رقم بالایی محسوب نمی‌شود.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 7

New cases	139	Total deaths	141,339	Total recovered patients	7,056,916
New deaths	7	New hospitalized patients	28	Diagnostic tests conducted	52,382,457
Total cases	7,232,929	Patients in critical condition	427	Doses of vaccine injected	150,025,632



Value of each man depends upon the art and skill which he has attained.

Imam Ali (AS)

Arabic elements in Persian

Part 6

In general, the resulting -a words are semantically more specialized (cf. qowwat/qowwa above) and/or more firmly established in the vernacular (cf. esharat/ eshara).

This shift appears to have peaked about the 13th century, by which time the majority of the Arabic loanwords that are in general use today had been incorporated.

By then, too, the stratagem for coining verbs from Arabic had changed from the suffixation of -idan to the juxtaposition of a Persian auxiliary verb. About the same time, a new stratum of masdars was incorporated; those from feminine-ending patterns were uniformly assimilated in -a.

Salient among the earliest loanword classes (coined in Arabic during the philosophical-scientific heyday of Islam in the 9th-10th centuries) were the nesba subset of the feminine substantives, incorporated as -iyat/-iya, e.g., ensaniyat 'humanity', zojajiyā 'crystalline lens'.

During the 19th century, a wave of Arabic (and artificial Arabicate) neologisms, many calqued on French and originating in Ottoman Turkish, supplemented the technical and legal-administrative lexicon of Persian; these, too, included a large nesba-noun component, such as melliyat 'nationalism', aktariyat 'majority',

ehzariya 'subpoena', etfa'iya 'fire service'.

The Persian vocabulary ending in -iyat still comprises up to 200 words, that in -iya about fifty. With the language purism movement of the 1930s-1940s, grammatical Arabisms were decried and Arabic vocabulary was targeted for replacement by Persian neologisms.

Though this reform was not as drastically implemented as in Turkey, many of the more recent technical terms were replaced, and officially sanctioned lexical policy ever since has preferred to coin Persian terms or tolerate European loanwords.

The Islamic Revolution of 1979 does not appear fundamentally to have affected these trends. A few ideologically inspired Arabisms have been introduced, such as mostazaf (pl. -in) 'dispossessed, underprivileged'; but both technical and everyday vocabulary is still being expanded primarily by appeal to native Persian words and morphs (supplemented in the spoken language by borrowings from English).

Writers in Afghanistan and Tajikistan since the 1980s are likewise giving prominence to native lexical funds, frequently inspired by Iranian Persian examples. Arabic is no longer a living lexical source for Persian.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
Concluded

Non-Iranian Languages of Iran

Part 1

This entry will discuss the non-Iranian languages spoken in Iran in the course of its history as the result of various peoples settling in parts of Iran and interacting with Iranian-speaking peoples who began to migrate to Iranian territories at the beginning of second millennium BCE.

The entry includes linguistic sketches of languages or dialects, as follows: (1). Overview, (2). In pre-Islamic Iran, (3). Elamite, (4). Uartian, (5). Kassite, (6). In Islamic Iran, (7). Turkic languages, (8). Semitic languages, (9). Arabic, and (10). Aramaic.

(1). Overview: Iran has always been a multilingual country. Personal names (anthroponyms) are that part of the lexicon which most readily reveal the linguistic composition and the historical layers of Iranian culture.

When Iranian parents name their children, they spell their offspring's incorporation into their own specific socio-linguistic setting.

The three main subsets of names in Iran are represented by pairs such as Behruz and Laleh, Abu Ali and Fetneh, Aydin and Solmaz. The first pair is Iranian, the second pair is Arabic, and the third pair is Turkic.

The latter two pairs reflect the two most prominent non-Iranian language components of Iranian culture, and demonstrate their amalgamation with the Iranian linguistic ground: Arabic as the language of the dominant religion; Turkic as the language of the most populous non-Iranian linguistic constituent of the society.

In turn, a given name such as Sirus is an indicator of the most recent layer in the lexicon: phonologically, the name reflects the modern French pronunciation of Latinized Cyrus - Greek Kuros - Old Persian Kurosh.

Socio-linguistically, it is an extreme example of the modern non-Iranian layers in the lexicon that are acquired by long-distance contact with

European learning.

At the same time, that name reveals the conscious attempt at the retrieval of ancient memory and ethnic history. Conversely, the choice of the call-name Robert for Hushang in a Western environment exemplifies the patterns of replacement and blending.

In terms of linguistic dynamics, the Arabic and Turkic names are borrowings. As such they exhibit non-Iranian features.

Typically, the criteria for loans are the following in comparison with the host language, in this case Iranian-Persian:

(1) Irregularities in their phonological and morphological characteristics, including unusual phonology and word formation;

(2) The tendency to cluster in specific semantic categories;

(3) The fact that their meaning cannot be explained on the basis of Iranian etymology (the study of the origin and history of words).

These unusual characteristics are not always readily recognized, since over time the loan component will be assimilated to the host language, and often partially affects the system of the latter.

Moreover, some sub-systems in the grammars of the two languages may partially overlap. Such is the case with the Arabic and Turkic names cited above: (1) In /Fetneh/, the sequence /tn/ is non-Iranian, but integrated into the phonotactic system of Modern Standard Persian (while the choice of the name recalls a heroine from Classical Persian literature).

In /Aydin/, the short diphthong /ay/ is not Standard Persian, which has the short diphthong /ey/ (except in the sequence /ayy/); moreover, Persian does not have short high front /i/ but only short /e/, and certainly does not have the unrounded Turkic high back /i/ (all features marking the Turkic "Other").

Iranian House of Cartoon lampoons “Holy Spider” win by “Cannes in Close-up”

From Page 1 ▶ All the showcases will run until June 16.

“Holy Spider” directed by Denmark-based Iranian filmmaker Ali Abbasi is based on a true story about a serial killer targeting sex workers in Mashhad, home to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS).

The co-production of Denmark, Germany, Sweden and France premiered at this year's Cannes, which awarded the France-based Iranian star of the film, Zar Amir Ebrahimi, as best actress for her portrayal of a journalist tracking the serial killer.

Following the Cannes awards ceremony, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance threatened that those persons inside Iran who were involved in the “Holy Spider” project will face punishment for their collaboration.

In addition, the Cinema organization of Iran denounced Cannes for awarding the film's star, and called the festival's decision to acclaim the film “an insulting and politically-motivated move.”

In its statement, the organization also said that the Cannes Film



A person is seen sitting after departing from a Tehran Metro train car beside a cartoon on view in the exhibition “Cannes in Close-up” at the Vali-e Asr subway station on June 6, 2022. (YJC/Zahra-Sadat Rad)

Festival is an event organized under the French government's control and authority, and asked France and the organizers “to remove this black mark from the festival's professional reputation.”

This year's Cannes also premiered Iranian filmmaker Saeid Rustai's drama “Leila's Brother”, which garnered the FIPRESCI Prize, the International Film Critics award.

Critical remarks by the cast

members in interviews and actor Navid Mohammadzadeh's move to kiss his wife Fereshteh Hosseini on the red carpet also faced censure from the Cinema organization of Iran.

Shiftegame Del, Melal Vocal Ensemble team up for Persian music performance



A poster for a performance by the Shiftegame Del group and the Melal Vocal Ensemble.

TEHRAN – Shiftegame Del group and the Melal Vocal Ensemble have teamed up to stage a dance performance with “rengs” from the Persian classical music exclusively for an audience of women in Tehran.

Kamancheh player Sonia Nezami, pianist Marzieh Reyvandi, percussionist Sahar Saffari and singer Neshat Akbari will accompany the groups in the performance, which will be held at Vahdat Hall on Friday.

Reng is one of the five parts of a full-blown performance of Persian classical music.

It is a composed rhythmic piece, ordinarily of light character, taken from or associated with dance music, although dancing itself does not play a role in classical music. As may be seen, the central section is improvised, improvisation being the most prestigious sort of music playing; it is accompanied preceding and following by a retinue of composed works.

Shiftegame Del, a large troupe of about 50 female performers led by choreographer Hayedh Kishipur, and Melal Vocal Ensemble

headed by Shahla Milani have previously held performances for women-only audiences.

The latest one was the operetta “Dance of Melodies” performed at Tehran's Vahdat Hall in January 2019.

The hall also hosted the fans of the groups in January 2018 for the opera “Carmen”, French composer Georges Bizet's tale of love, jealousy and murder.

“It's difficult to perform the opera,” Milani said before the performance.

“Women are scheduled to play the roles of the male characters because this opera has been arranged exclusively for an audience of women. Women with alto voices have been selected to star as men,” she noted.

An outstanding performance by the ensembles was “Arshin Mal Alan”, which was produced in 2016 at the same hall.

The 1913 comic and romantic operetta, rich in national characteristics and realism, was composed by Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov who wrote it in Saint Petersburg.

“Parizad” wins Don Quixote Award at Krakow Film Festival

TEHRAN – On Sunday, the acclaimed Iranian documentary “Parizad” added one more win to its global honors at the 62nd Krakow Film Festival in Poland.

Directed by Mehdi Imani Shahmiri, the film was granted the Don Quixote Award by the International Federation of Film Societies (FICC) Jury consisting of Eugene Dugan-Brause from the United Kingdom, Ritesh Basak from India and Karolina Nowacka from Poland.

The film is about Aunt Keshvar, a lonely rural woman who weaves an unknown and nearly forgotten fabric named “Geleej”. She shares information about the role of Geleej in the daily life of the villagers and legends about her homeland.

“Parizad” has been screened at dozens of international events



Aunt Keshvar in a scene from the short documentary “Parizad” directed by Mehdi Imani Shahmiri.

garnering the highest accolades, including the best documentary award at the 2021 Festival of Nations in Austria and the award for best short documentary at the 16th Kazan International Muslim Film Festival in Russia.

The FICC Jury also decided to give its special mention to “Love, Dad”, a co-production between Czech and Slovakia directed by Diana Cam Van

Nguyen.

Jarmo Jääskeläinen, a Finnish journalist, producer and director who is best known for his documentaries on Poland, was posthumously honored with the Dragon of Dragons Award.

The Golden Horn for the director of the best feature documentary was awarded to Denis Dobrovoda for “The Cathedral” from Slovakia.

Masoud Foroutan: “The Night of Ayub” had a lasting impression on me

The story “The Night of Ayub,” written by Davoud Ghafarzadegan, is about the life of a blind veteran and was recently published by Soore Mehr. The main character of the book recalls his memories before and after the war.

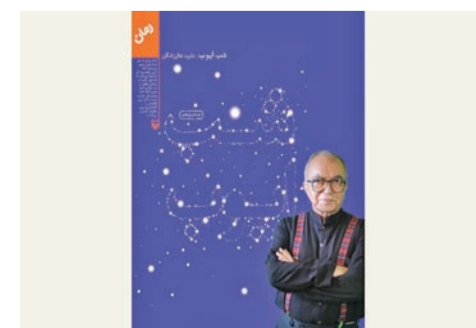
The most significant feature of the book is the hopeful perspective on war's bitterness and the avoidance of despair, which has clouded the entire structure of the story.

The audiobook of “The Night of Ayub” has also been released by Samava, an audiobook publisher, featuring the voice of “Masoud Foroutan,” an actor and speaker.

Masoud Foroutan stated about his conception of twins with the book “The Night of

Ayub” that during reading the book, he felt as if he was the main character of the story. “There were times during the process that I cried, and moments that had a lasting impression on me. I was born, raised, and worked in this country. I lived through the revolution and the war, and I love the people of my country. When these people are suffering, I feel it too. I cried reading this book because the author sowed the seeds of kindness in my head!” he said.

“I'm a reader who knows how to get the most out of a book. One of the factors that aided my career in this profession was radio, which was the first kind of media to come our house and teach us how to listen to stories. Sadly, Today's



smartphone has put an end to a lot of things like books, so we need to get our children in the habit of reading books at night! But unfortunately, we don't,” Foroutan added.