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Iran Responds to Grossi by Cutting off Cameras Beyond Safeguards

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Report

Biden's ban of three countries from regional summit backfires

U.S. President Joe Biden's decision to ban Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela from attending the 2022 Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles has backfired as more Latin American and Caribbean leaders are snubbing the summit in protest at Washington's exclusion of some members.

The U.S. is hosting the Summit of the Americas for the first time since 1994. The international event is traditionally held every three or four years.

The insistence by the administration of President Biden that the leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela are not allowed to participate in the summit has been seen by many regional governments as a sign of U.S. imperialism.

Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela have one thing in common. They are independent, sovereign countries who oppose U.S. policy in the region arguing that Washington's interference in their domestic affairs brings insecurity and economic hardship.

The boycott of other regional leaders will come as a blow to President Biden who opened the event on Wednesday.

On the agenda are important regional issues that need to be addressed such as the migration crisis, trade and economic insecurity, pandemic recovery efforts, climate change, and political polarization. ► Page 5

Iran lose to Thailand at Asian Women's U18 Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Thailand 3-1 (25-17, 18-25, 25-20, 25-17) in Pool A of the 14th Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship at Nakhon Pathom Gym on Wednesday.

Iran had defeated Australia in straight sets (25-19, 25-18, 25-16) in their opening match on Monday.

Iran will play South Korea and Uzbekistan on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

The 2022 Asian Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship is the 13th edition of the Asian Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship, a biennial international women's volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA) for the girls' under-18 national teams of Asia.

The tournament is being held in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand, from June 6 to 13. Earlier, this tournament was due to be hosted by Uzbekistan on the same dates, but due to some unforeseen reasons, Nakhon Pathom has replaced Tashkent as the host city of the eight-day Championship, also adjusted to Asian Girls' U18 Championship as approved by the AVC Board of Administration.

A total of 11 teams compete in the tournament, with players born on or after 1 January 2005 eligible to participate.

The top four teams will qualify for the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U19 World Championship as the AVC representatives.

Leader decries normalization between Israel, Arab states



TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has touched on the issue of normalization of ties between Israel and some Arab states, underlining that establishing relations with Israel will be no advantage to the normalizing countries.

After a two-year shutdown of the Hajj pilgrimage due to the coronavirus pandemic, Iranian Hajj pilgrims are expected to set off their religious journey to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, an annual Islamic ritual featuring Muslims from around the world descending on the holy Saudi city of Mecca.

Prior to the Iranian Hajj pilgrims starting their journey to perform the 2022 Hajj pilgrimage, Ayatollah Khamenei met with a number of Iranian officials in charge of conducting Hajj. He addressed a number of issues pertaining to Hajj and its rituals as well as international relations. ► Page 3

Iran's GDP growth to outpace global average in 2022: WB

TEHRAN – Iranian economy is projected to grow by 3.7 percent in 2022 while the average global economic growth is seen at 2.9 percent in the said year, according to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released on Tuesday.

"Output in the Islamic Republic of Iran is

expected to grow by 3.7 percent in 2022, boosted by the waning of the pandemic and higher oil prices," the bank said in the report.

The World Bank slashed its global growth forecast and warned that many countries could fall into recession as the economy slips into a

period of stagflation reminiscent of the 1970s.

Global economic expansion is expected to drop to 2.9 percent this year from 5.7 percent in 2021 and 1.2 percentage points lower than the 4.1 percent predicted in January, the Washington-based bank said in the GEP report. ► Page 4

Plan prepared to manage largest wildlife sanctuary in Iran

TEHRAN – A management plan for "Naybandan", the country's largest wildlife sanctuary in the eastern province of South Khorasan, has been approved.

Studies of the management plan of "Naybandan Wildlife Sanctuary" were conducted at Yazd University in 2017, which divides the area into 8 management zones, IRIB reported.

Naybandan, with an area of 1,516,994 hectares, is the largest wildlife sanctuary to safeguard the habitats native animals need to survive and thrive in Iran. It is known as the most important habitat of the Asiatic cheetah.

Held the highest population of Asiatic cheetahs, since 2006, Naybandan Wildlife Refuge was estimated to hold a share of at least 15 cheetahs. ► Page 7

Russian travel insiders explore Iran on fam tour

TEHRAN – A group of 15 Russian travel insiders has recently arrived in Iran for a five-day familiarization tour, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

The group, which entered the Islamic Republic on Tuesday, is scheduled to visit travel destinations in the provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, and Fars, the report added.

They will visit Nasir al-Molk Mosque, commonly known as "The Pink Mosque", Karim

Khan Citadel (locally known as Arg-e Karim Khan), UNESCO-designated Pasargadae, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Ali Qapu Palace, and some other tourist attractions.

A key goal of the tour is to introduce and promote the country's tourism potential in the post-coronavirus era.

One of the main programs of the foreign tourism marketing section of the tourism ministry is to organize fam tours of the target

tourism market countries in order to provide their people with an opportunity to visit and become familiar with Iran's tourism capability.

The average of international travels to and from Iran fell by 80 percent during the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) from a year earlier caused by various coronavirus restrictions. ► Page 6

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Op-ed

Limits of U.S. 'coercive diplomacy': The case of Iran nuclear deal

By Prem Anand Mishra

The culture of coercive diplomacy as a national security strategy has been the hallmark of U.S. foreign policy as leverage to seek the desired outcome against its perceived enemies and adversaries. Although the tradition of coercion has been central to the U.S. foreign policies from the Vietnam War to the recent Iranian nuclear deal, it has vast limitations and often with disastrous outcomes. The case of Iran explains the limitations of coercive diplomacy. Between 2015 and 2022, the start of the negotiation and re-negotiation of the historic Iranian nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has been suggestive of how coercive diplomacy works but failed to achieve any meaningful outcome.

The Trump administration's unilateral withdrawal from UN Security Council Resolution 2231 in 2018 under the garb of "maximum pressure" against Iran reflects the limitations of coercive diplomacy. Diplomacy is often argued as a non-coercive strategy to seek a reasonable solution to avoid any confrontation. However, the great powers have defied such a civilized understanding of the rule of diplomacy as a zero-sum game against the lesser powers. ► Page 5

Iranian photographer Mehdi Zabolabbasi tops at George Barker exhibition

TEHRAN – Iranian photographer Mehdi Zabolabbasi has won the Best Author Award -- FIAP Light Blue Badge in the first edition of the George Barker International Exhibition of Photography in Canada.

A jury comprising Taraknath Dey from Canada, Aleksandar Sasic from Ireland and Djordje Vukicevic from Serbia decided to grant the award to Zabolabbasi's "Gulbahar", the organizers announced Saturday.

The photo, which depicts an Afghan woman clad in a burka passing through an alley with colorful buildings, also won the FIAP Gold Medal in the Open Color (PIDC) Section.

The contest was organized in the six categories under the patronage of the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) with contributions from the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the Focus Photo Club (FPC), Iran's branch of the FIAP. ► Page 8

© Mehdi Zabolabbasi



Train derailment leaves 21 killed, dozens injured

TEHRAN- At least 21 people have died and 80 more were injured on Wednesday morning after a passenger train derailed and crashed into an excavator in Tabas, eastern Iran. The incident occurred at 5:30 a.m local time, IRNA reported. Around 350 passengers were on board at the time of the accident.

The derailment took place some 50 kilometers from the desert city of Tabas, on the rail that connects the town with the central city of Yazd.



U.S., Iran could still save talks through interim deal: analysis

TEHRAN - In a commentary published recently by the Middle East Eye, the writer suggests now that the chances to fully revive the 2015 nuclear deal is shrinking due to certain reasons, Iran and the United States “should consider an interim deal” within the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Following is an excerpt of the commentary:

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Iran's Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, reiterated that in order to revive the Iran nuclear deal, “the most important issue is that the economic sanctions against Iran should be effectively removed”.

He continued: “Downplaying this key issue and focusing on another issue [delisting the Iranian Revolution Guards from the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Organization list] is not the correct response. We have not yet seen Biden act differently from Trump in practice. We have left the door for diplomacy wide open to reach a good and lasting agreement.”

President Joe Biden has decided to keep Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on the U.S. blacklist of foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs). He conveyed this decision to Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in April, stating that the decision was final and that the window for concessions to Iran had closed.

The Trump administration placed the IRGC on the FTO list in April 2019 to make it as difficult as possible for the next administration to undo the damage.

Paul Pillar, a senior fellow at Georgetown University and former executive assistant to the director of US Central Intelligence, has stated: “This move was a clear misuse of the FTO list. Of the 73 organizations currently on the list, 72 are - as creators of the list intended - non-state groups. The IRGC is the only one that isn't.”

During a public interview with Fareed Zakaria of CNN at the World Economic Forum, Amir Abdollahian said: “We have intelligence that the Zionist regime has taken the foreign policy of the

U.S. hostage.”

This is consistent with what an Iranian official, who requested anonymity, told me.

He said that, in 2011, during Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's presidency, in an international conference under Chatham House Rules, a former chief of the Israeli intelligence service (Mossad) told an Iranian ambassador: “You are negotiating with the six world powers on your nuclear program but, in the end, we will decide on Iran's nuclear program.”

On 25 March, Robert Malley, the lead U.S. negotiator for the revival of the nuclear accord, told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Iran's demand for delisting the IRGC from the FTO list was unrelated to the 2015 nuclear deal and that, as a result, Tehran would have to offer an equivalent “reciprocal” concession to Washington, which it has thus far failed to do.

He emphasized, however, that “a military option cannot resolve this issue. It could set it back. The only real solution here is a diplomatic one.”

The reality is that, after a year of negotiations, there is an agreement on the choreography of how Iran and the U.S. would rejoin the 2015 deal. The key remaining issue is Iran's demand for a guarantee that the U.S. will abide by the deal and not withdraw again.

Biden is unable to guarantee that Congress or the next president will not overturn the deal again. Therefore, Iran's logic has been that, in the absence of such a guarantee, an equivalent “reciprocal concession” for Tehran would be delisting the IRGC from the U.S. terrorist blacklist.

If the hang-up is the inability of the U.S. to guarantee - at least before the November U.S. midterm elections - that, if the nuclear deal is revived, it will be sustained, or that the IRGC will be removed from the FTO list, Tehran and Washington should consider an interim deal. One possibility would be a “two vs two plan of action” within the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

minister to draw up a roadmap for long-term cooperation between the two countries, and one of our main agendas is to finalize this roadmap with senior Indian officials and my counterpart.”

Asked about a recent insult by a BJP figure against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Amir Abdollahian said, “This trip to India takes place in a situation where an arbitrary action has been taken in this country by a party member and the holy Prophet of Islam (PBUH) has been insulted. We have seen from the Indian authorities upon our arrival that they have condemned the arbitrary statement. This arbitrary action has been strongly rejected by

the Indian government.”

Nupur Sharma, the spokesperson for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), made harsh remarks about the Prophet of Islam during a recent TV news debate, which drew considerable condemnation across the country and prompted violent confrontations in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday.

Sharma was suspended from the BJP on Sunday. The party distanced itself from her remarks.

After a tweet was written to insult the Prophet but later was deleted, the party dismissed Naveen Kumar Jindal, the party's Delhi media director. Jindal's opinions on social media,

Iran responds to Grossi by cutting off cameras beyond Safeguards

TEHRAN — The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) released a statement on Wednesday announcing that it has removed two of the International Atomic Energy Agency's surveillance cameras which were beyond Safeguards agreement from a nuclear facility.

“Iran has so far had extensive cooperation with the IAEA, but unfortunately the IAEA, without considering that this cooperation is due to Iran's goodwill, not only did not appreciate it but also considered it Iran's duty. For this reason, it was decided to stop the operation of the OLEM (Online Enrichment Monitor) enrichment surface line measurement camera and the IAEA flowmeter from today, which has been ordered by the relevant authorities,” the statement said.

Meanwhile, an AEOI official told Al Jazeera that two CCTV cameras have stopped working in one of Iran's nuclear facilities, starting Wednesday.

The cameras that were stopped are not part of Iran's commitment to the comprehensive Safeguards agreement, he added.

80% of the Agency's cameras continue to work in Iran's nuclear facilities, he said.

Meanwhile, Behrouz Kamalvandi, the AEOI vice chairman and spokesman, said, “In accordance with the Strategic

Law on the Lifting of Sanctions approved by the Majlis (Parliament), we decided to turn off all beyond-Safeguards cameras that were recording data in our nuclear sites. Therefore, no information would be recorded from now on.”

Talking to national TV, Kamalvandi said, “Iran cannot be cooperative while the Agency displays unreasonable behavior. We hope the Agency will come to its senses and respond with cooperation with Iran.”

Kamalvandi also said other measures are being considered.

He added that the Western countries, especially the United States and the three European countries of France, UK and Germany, have started acting against Iran.

“Hence, it was decided to stop some of the beyond-Safeguards cooperation, which was not part of our obligations and was done in good faith. For example, recording some activities by the Agency's cameras which recorded OLEM surface flow measuring device and the IAEA's flowmeter in Iran.”

Kamalvandi said relevant officials ordered to stop the operation of these cameras, although the information of these cameras was not supposed to be given to the IAEA unless the conditions of Iran in the Vienna talks were met.

The Wednesday decision by Iran is in line with the parliamentary approval



which has tasked the AEOL to increase nuclear activities and limit cooperation with the IAEA until illegal sanctions against Iran are lifted.

Iran's move in curtailing cooperation with the IAEA comes as the United States and the European trio have submitted a draft resolution to the IAEA's Board of Governors criticizing Iran for not fully answering the IAEA questions on traces of uranium found at alleged undeclared sites.

The move by Tehran attracted the attention of foreign policy analysts worldwide. Eldar Mamedov, a foreign policy advisor to the European parliament, tweeted, “Well, that was quick and entirely predictable. As a reaction to the U.S./E3 censure resolution in the IAEA. Either the JCPOA is restored swiftly, or we are heading towards a crisis.”

The resolution will be debated and voted on at this week's meeting of the Agency's 35-member board.

Meanwhile, the Vienna talks is now at stake in its entirety, given the ill-considered action of the United States and the E3.

Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami said on Wednesday, “We do not accept these accusations (on alleged sites), nor do we retreat with this heavy psychological operation. We have a remnant of good faith in the JCPOA

and if they do not want to fulfill their obligations, we will definitely reconsider that remnant of our good faith.”

Eslami has also said Iran has provided answers to all these questions that finally led to the conclusion of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions, but IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi has not had the will to acknowledge Iran's responses as “technically satisfactory.”

It must also be noted that the IAEA Board of Governors and Grossi himself are responsible for the current situation and what may happen in the future.

On Wednesday, Iran's representative in the IAEA, said, “It is ridiculous that the Israeli regime, which is not a party to any of the disarmament and arms control treaties and is not willing to cede its nuclear facilities and activities to the Agency's safeguards, is so rude as to manipulate the facts and preach to other NPT members.”

Iran has warned that the decision may seriously jeopardize efforts to resume the stalled talks to revive the JCPOA.

If the United States seriously wants to return to the JCPOA, it must stop pressuring the IAEA with the help of its allies and let the UN nuclear watchdog to act to its professional duties; It must also stop wasting time and respond to Iran's demands in writing. The window of opportunity is closing.

Iran, Iraq vow to strengthen bilateral ties

TEHRAN- Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Iraqi Minister of Interior Othman AL-Ghanmi, who met in Tehran on Tuesday, called for improving bilateral relations.

They discuss strategies to combat dust storms and the removal of restrictions on Iranians entering Iraq for the Arbadeen processions.

The two ministers also emphasized the need to maintain stability and security, as well as collaboration in the fight against terrorism.

Earlier, Al-Ghanmi met with his Iranian counterpart Ahmad Vahidi during which the two sides signed two memorandums of understanding on security and pilgrimage.

Following his meeting with Vahidi, Al-Ghanmi stated that the security of common borders, unlawful border crossings, drug smuggling, human trafficking, and a variety of other concerns were discussed.

The COVID-19 epidemic, according to the Iraqi

minister, harmed visitors between the two nations. Passenger flights between the two countries are now operational, as is the visa waiver for travelers arriving by air; that is, Iranian passengers entering Iraq by air do not require a visa.

“Yesterday before I visited Tehran, I received an agreement from the Iraqi government and the Prime Minister that 2,000 pilgrims can enter Iraq by crossing borders through the visa waiver program,” he pointed out.

Iran FM outlines plans in India visit

Amir Abdollahian says Iran and India have agreed to draw up a roadmap for long-term co-op

TEHRAN— Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian visited New Delhi early on Wednesday.

Upon arrival, Amir Abdollahian told reporters that relations between Tehran and New Delhi are in very good condition and the Iranian officials are witnessing the growth and development of relations between the two countries, especially in Ebrahim Raisi's government, particularly, “in the cultural sphere.”

He added, “According to the agenda, in addition to the Prime Minister and National Security Advisor of India, I will have a lengthy conversation with my counterpart. In Tehran, we agreed with the Indian foreign

Amir Abdollahian says referendum only solution to Palestine issue

TEHRAN - The only solution to the Palestinian conflict, according to Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, is a return of refugees to their homeland and holding a referendum with the participation of all native people.

The statements were delivered by Amir Abdollahian during a meeting with religious Lebanese and Palestinian groups on the 33rd anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Holding a referendum on the fate of Palestine with the participation of all original inhabitants with different religions was first proposed by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran's top diplomat went on to say that the Islamic Republic will never give up on the Palestinian nation's rights

and will continue to support Palestinian resistance and liberation movements.

Some Islamic countries' effort to normalize relations with the Israeli regime, according to Amir Abdollahian, is a “betrayal of the Palestinian cause,” and those countries will regret their actions.

Regarding Iran's unwavering support for Palestinian resistance, the top diplomat noted that despite all efforts, the Islamic Republic will not abandon its moral stand.

In 2020, when former U.S. President Donald Trump was in power, four Arab countries — the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco – agreed to restore relations with Israel via U.S.-brokered agreements.

The plan, spearheaded by the UAE, has drawn considerable condemnation from Palestinians, as well as nations and human rights advocates throughout the

world, particularly among Muslims.

The accords are seen by Palestinians as a stab in the back and a direct assault to their struggle of liberation from Israeli occupation.

Palestinians desire the occupied West Bank to be a part of an independent Palestinian state in the future, with East Al-Quds as its capital.

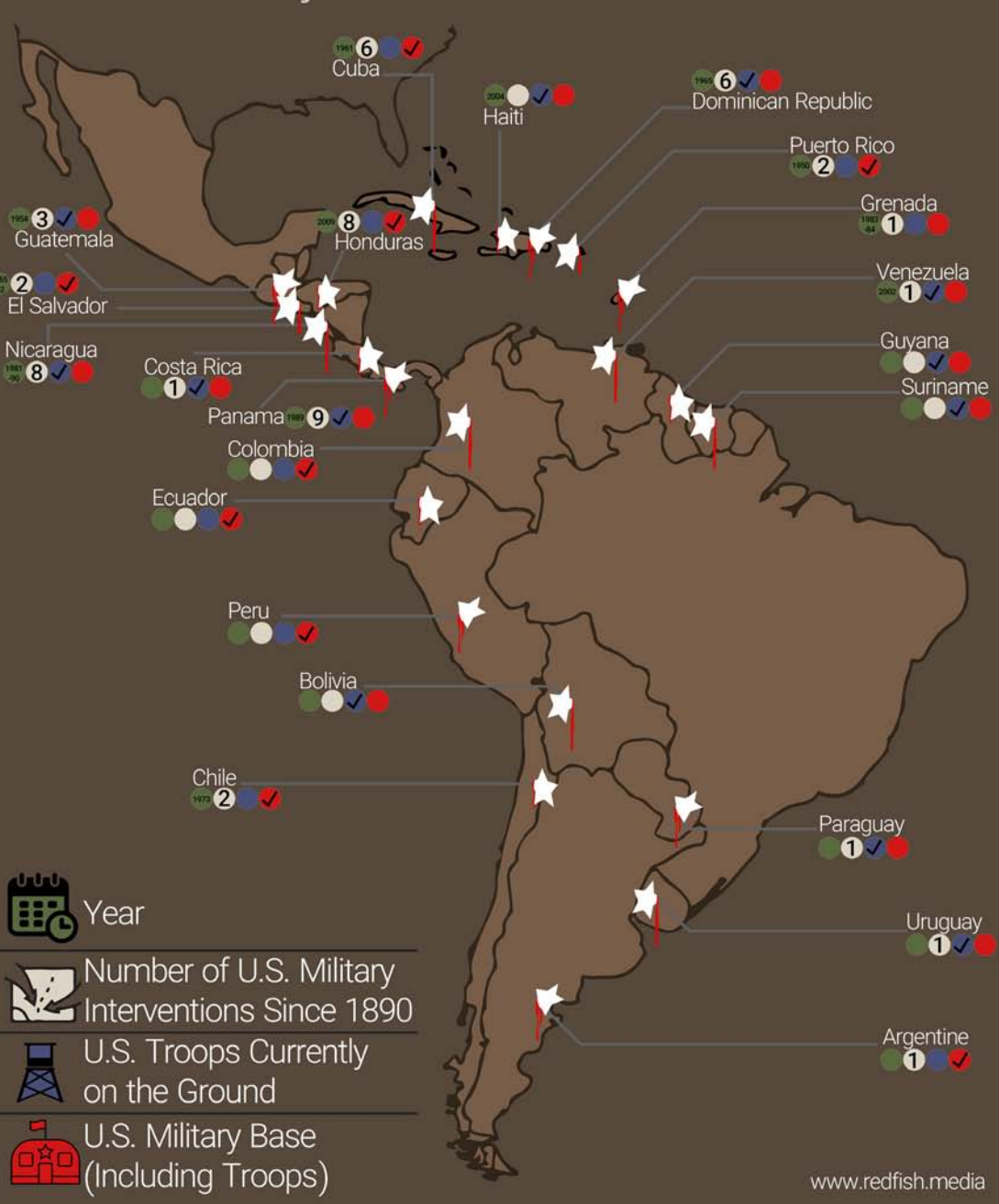
More than 250 illegal settlements have been built since 1967 in the occupied West Bank and East Al-Quds. These settlements house between 600,000 and 750,000 Israelis.

Due to the fact that they are established on the occupied Palestinian land, all Israeli settlements are unlawful under international law.

In a series of resolutions, the UN Security Council has repeatedly criticized the occupying regime's diabolic settler-colonialism enterprise.

UNITED STATES' CLAWS ALL OVER SOUTH AMERICA

56 U.S. Military Interventions in Latin America



Leader decries normalization between Israel, Arab states

From Page 1 ▶ The Leader expressed satisfaction with the easing of corona-related restrictions on performing Hajj. “This was great news that after 2 years, God reopened the door for Hajj. This is a divine invitation opening the way to the Hajj pilgrims. This is not a favor from anyone; it is God’s acceptance of the respected pilgrims and your enthusiasm. God willing, you will have a good Hajj,” he said, according to a readout put out by the khamenei.ir.

Ayatollah Khamenei described Hajj as a way of strengthening coexistence. “What are mankind’s problems in the world now? That they don’t know how to coexist, and they act aggressively toward each other. Hajj teaches coexistence. In Hajj people who don’t know each other and who are coming from different cultures coexist in peace,” he said, adding, “Much of the world’s miseries and problems are the result of aristocratic lifestyles and luxurious living. A great part of the world’s wealth is being spent on such things everywhere.



Hajj teaches you to have a simple lifestyle.”

The Leader also pointed out the issue of normalization of ties between Israel and some Arab states.

In August 2020, the United Arab Emirates took the controversial step of normalizing diplomatic relations with Israel, the first move of its kind in decades. Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan followed suit in a matter of weeks, setting off a

trend of normalization that was widely decried by regional public opinion and Iran.

The Leader called Zionism a “plague” for the Muslim world, underlining the need for the Hajj pilgrims to expose “Zionists’ conspiracies and plots.”

“Today, Zionism is an obvious plague for the world of Islam. The Zionists have always been a plague, even before establishing the fraudulent Zionist regime.

Even then, Zionist capitalists were a plague for the whole world. Now they’re a plague especially for the world of Islam,” Ayatollah Khamenei said. “The plague of Zionism should be exposed, in any way you can. These Arab and non-Arab states that shook hands, kissed and held meetings with the Zionists won’t benefit from what they did at all, not at all. This will only be to their loss.”

He noted, “Muslim nations oppose the normalization of relations with the Zionists, clench their fists and shout slogans against states seeking normalization. The Zionist regime exploits these states. They don’t realize it, but we hope they realize it before it’s too late.”

The remarks come against a backdrop of renewed Israeli efforts to accelerate the normalization of ties with Saudi Arabia. Western media has recently reported that Israeli and Saudi officials have held meetings to discuss the normalization of ties, a claim that Saudi Arabia neither confirmed nor rejected.

Russia defending Iran at IAEA Board of Governors: ambassador

TEHRAN – Russian Ambassador to Iran Levon Dzhagaryan has said that Moscow will defend Iran in the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors.

Commenting on the draft resolution submitted by the U.S. and its European allies to the board, the Russian ambassador said, “Russia defends the Islamic Republic of Iran; Russia has always stood by Iran and wants Iran to reach an agreement.”

He also said Russia conveyed that position during the recent phone call between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

“In the telephone conversation Mr. Amir Abdollahian had with Mr. Lavrov, we stated that we would support Iran on the nuclear issue. Some unfortunately claim that Russia wants to create problems in the negotiations, while we even support Iran’s agreement with the United States,”

he said in remarks to state news agency IRNA.

He added, “Russia also supported Iran’s agreement with other countries in 2015 and has never opposed an agreement between Iran and other countries.”

“They are thieves,” he said of the recent U.S. order to seize Iranian oil. “Yesterday our money was stolen and today your oil.”

Also, 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 the IAEA board.

“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 on Tuesday.

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

“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 adopt a resolution.

IAEA board resolution is ‘politically motivated’: senior MP

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has decried the draft resolution submitted by the U.S. and its European allies to the UN nuclear watchdog’s Board of Governors as “politically motivated.”

Alireza Salimi, a member of the Iranian Parliament’s presiding board, said the resolution is aimed at imposing conditions on Iran in the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“It is clear that this resolution

is politically motivated and its purpose is to pressure Iran to accept the conditions imposed in the negotiations for the revival of the JCPOA,” Salimi told ICANA. “In fact, the Americans are not looking for an agreement, they want to impose their demands, and Europe has shown that it is subject to the White House and does not discuss issues from a legal point of view.”

He added, “The draft resolution is completely non-technical and prepared in a political atmosphere, which shows the

American pressure to support Israel. This trend causes the world public opinion to consider the Board of Governors and European countries as a functionary of the Zionists. At least the Europeans were expected to show that they make independent decisions, regardless of the pressures of the Zionist lobby.”

He noted, “It seems that in this atmosphere, the countries of the region are also pouring fuel on the fire, something that the Islamic Republic will not forget.”

The United States and its

European allies submitted a draft resolution to the UN nuclear watchdog’s Board of Governors. 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.”

Iran MPs discuss BoG resolution, Vienna talks

TEHRAN – The Iranian parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the latest developments in Vienna.

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, the spokesman for the committee, told ICANA that the meeting was to be held at the presence of all members of the parliamentary committee and officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

“The meeting will discuss developments in the Vienna talks, the International Atomic Energy Agency’s recent stance, as well as the efforts of three European countries at the quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors on Iran,” he said prior to the parliamentary committee meeting.

The United States and its European allies submitted a draft resolution to the UN nuclear watchdog’s Board of Governors in recent days.

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 mornings.”

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. In the first step on Wednesday, Iran turned off two IAEA surveillance cameras at a nuclear facility. These cameras were beyond Safeguards agreement.

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

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

According to Vahid Jalalzadeh, the chairman of the committee, the Wednesday meeting was scheduled to discuss a range of issues including the recent trip by IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi to Israel, which drew the ire of Iran.

“Certainly, after the investigations in the

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Navidkia parts ways with Sepahan: IPL

TEHRAN – Moharram Navidkia and Sepahan football club agreed to part ways.

Navidkia was appointed as Sepahan coach in September 2020 on a three-year contract but could not bring the team back toward their heyday.

Navidkia’s Sepahan finished in second place in 2020/21 season and came third in 2021/22 season.

The former Iran football team midfielder had replaced Amir Ghalenoei in Isfahan based football team.

Sepahan have announced via a statement they will choose a new coach within the coming days but they have not announced their nominations.

Former Foolad coach Francic dies

TEHRAN – Former Foolad football coach Mladen Francic passed away on Tuesday.

He died at the age of 68 of heart attack.

Francic will be laid to rest in Koprivnica on Thursday.

He inspired the Iranian football club to a title in Iran Professional League in 2004/05 season.

Francic started his coaching career in 1984 at the Slaven Belupo and coached Croatian grassroots teams for seven years.

Danial Esmaeilifar signs for Persepolis

TEHRAN – Danial Esmaeilifar joined Persepolis football team on a two-year deal on Wednesday.

He has joined the Tehran based football club as a free-agent player.

The 29-year-old right back started his playing career in Payam Sanat in 2012. Esmaeilifar has also played in Iranian clubs Zob Ahan, Tractor and Sepahan.

“I am happy to join Persepolis and I want to help the team continue their winning way in the coming seasons,” Esmaeilifar told the reporters after signing deal with Persepolis.

He is Persepolis’s third signing after Alireza Beiranvand and Morteza Pouraliganji.

Ansarifard to leave AEK Athens: report

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Karim Ansarifard will reportedly leave AEK Athens.

The 30-year-old forward joined the Greek top-flight football club on a three-year contract in August 2020 from Qatari club Al Saliya.

Ansarifard has also played in Greek football teams Panionios and Olympiacos from 2015 to 2018.

Iranian media reports suggest that Persepolis has set its sight on signing the player.

He has represented Iran in two 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups.

Iran knocked out of 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran were knocked out of the 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan after playing to a 1-1 draw against Uzbekistan at the Markazi Stadium in Qarshi on Tuesday.

Uzbekistan scored in the first half from Jurakuziyev Otabek and Iran levelled through

Arya Yousefi but could not find the winner as they made their exit from the Group Stage as Uzbekistan finished as Group A winners followed by history-makers Turkmenistan.

With top spot in Group A secured, head coach Timur Kapadze made 11 changes from the match against Qatar and with the partisan crowd of 19,876 cheering them on, and Uzbekistan did not disappoint.

Mehdi Mahdavia’s boys started the campaign with a 1-1 draw against Qatar and suffered a shock 2-1 defeat against Turkmenistan.

Iran finished third above Qatar on goal difference.

Iran start VNL 2022 on high note

TEHRAN – Iran defeated China 3-1 (25-15, 19-25, 25-22, 25-15) at the men’s Volleyball Nations League 2022 Pool 1 early Wednesday. .

Morteza Sharifi top-scored with 20 points, while Yu Yuntai and Zhang Jingyin scored 16 points each for China.

The first competition day was held in Brasilia, Brazil.

Iran are scheduled to play the Netherlands Early Friday.

The 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men’s Nations League is 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 June 7 June and July 10. The final round will be held from July 20 to 24.

Malavan crowned champions of Azadegan League

TEHRAN – Malavan football team won the title of the Iran First Division, known as Azadegan League, after edging past Vista 1-0.

In the match held in Bandar Anzali’s Ghayeghran Stadium, Hamid Kazemi scored the only goal of the match.

Malavan, which were founded in 1968, have already booked their place in the 2022/23 Iran Professional League.

Vista also were relegated to the Iran’s Second Division.

Huddersfield Town weighing up move for Ryan Tafazolli

TEHRAN – Play-off finalists Huddersfield Town are currently keeping tabs on Wycombe Wanderers center-back Ryan Tafazolli ahead of the summer window, according to a report from The Sun.

The 30-year-old played an integral part for Gareth Ainsworth’s side again this season, making 38 competitive appearances for the Chairboys during the 2021/22 campaign and recording five goals and two assists in the process.

One of these goals came against MK Dons in the play-off semi-final, with the defender managing to guide the ball home following a wonderful cross by Joe Jacobson, a goal that gave them the momentum needed to see off Liam Manning’s men.

Unfortunately for him, he was unable to guide Ainsworth’s side back to the second tier again following their 2-0 loss to Sunderland earlier this month, but the central defender could make the step up regardless with the Terriers monitoring his situation.

They will be in need of a replacement for Levi Colwill following the expiration of his loan deal at the John Smith’s Stadium, with Naby Sarr’s potential departure at the end of his deal this summer perhaps forcing Carlos Corberan to bring in more than one player in this position.

Corberan’s side believes Tafazolli could potentially be the ideal man to come in if they remain in the second tier, with the club planning for the worst outcome of remaining in the division.

Iran's GDP growth to outpace global average in 2022: WB



From page 1 ► Back in April, in a report on Iran's economy, the bank had revised up its forecast for Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2022, expecting the country's economy to grow 3.7 percent this year.

The entity had previously estimated the Islamic Republic's GDP growth at 2.4 percent for 2022, in the GEP report released in January.

"Iran's economy continues its gradual recovery that started in mid-2020, driven by the oil sector and services. However, water and energy shortages led to a contraction of the agriculture and industry sectors," the recent report said.

A recovery in Iran's oil and service sectors (11.7 and 6.5 percent growth, respectively) – following a return of global and domestic activity after the start of the pandemic – led to a five percent year on year growth in late 2021-early 2022, the bank said.

Export from Bushehr province rises 12% in 2 months on year

TEHRAN – The value of export from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, rose 12 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Ali Soleymani, the director-general of the customs department of Busher city (center of the province), said that over 4.757 million tons of products were exported from Bushehr province in the said two-month period.

The official named petrochemical products and gas condensate as the major items exported from the province.

As previously announced by Behrouz Qarehbeygi, the director-general of the province's customs department, the value of export from Bushehr province rose 67 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year.

He put the value of export from the province at \$10.136 billion in the past year, and the weight of exported commodities, including gas condensate, at 25.78 million tons, with six percent growth year on year.

The official further announced that 25.506 million tons of non-oil goods, excluding gas condensate, worth \$9.9 billion were exported from Bushehr province in the previous year, showing 73 percent and six percent annual rise in terms of value and weight, respectively.

He named petrochemical products, gas condensate, minerals, fisheries, and vegetables as the main exported items, and China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, Pakistan, Turkey, South Africa, Nigeria, Brazil, Mozambique and Qatar as the major export destinations of the province's products in the past year.

The data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) show that the value of Iran's export of non-oil

However, the agriculture sector contracted by 2.1 percent due to drought and energy blackouts. On the demand side, a 3.4 percent expansion in consumption drove GDP growth as activity returned closer to pre-pandemic levels. Imports growth (25.5 percent) outweighed the pick-up in exports (5.4 percent), and investment also declined (5.2 percent).

The economic rebound has yet to be reflected in the labor market as the recovery was largely driven by the oil sector, and employment growth in services and industries could not compensate for job losses in the agriculture sector, the report stated.

The bank puts Iran's economic growth at 4.1 percent in 2021 and about 3.4 percent in 2020.

World Bank which had estimated Iran's inflation rate at 40.1 percent for 2021 believes that it would fall to 37.6 percent this year and 34.8 percent next year.

"Higher projected oil prices in the outlook period and growth in oil export volumes considering the tighter global oil market are forecast to curb fiscal pressures. However, high expenditure growth due to increasing wage bills and pension spending is projected to keep the fiscal balance in a deficit of 3.8 percent of GDP in 2022-24," the bank said in its report.



products increased 37 percent during the first two months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Iran exported 17.014 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.516 billion in the said two months, also registering a 1.6-percent rise in weight as compared to the first two months of the previous year, the data indicate.

Based on the IRICA data, Iran traded over 22.196 million tons of non-oil products worth \$16.631 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

The Islamic Republic imported 5.182 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.115 billion in the first two months of the present year, with a 24-percent growth in value and a 3.37-percent decline in weight year on year.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, importing \$2.720 billion worth of products, the United Arab Emirates was the second with \$1.502 billion worth of imports, Iraq the third importing \$1.312 billion, Turkey the fourth with \$766 million of imports, and India the fifth importing \$290 million worth of products in the mentioned period.

Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the mentioned two months were China, Turkey, India, and Russia.

Considering the amounts of exports and imports in the mentioned two months, the country's foreign trade balance became \$401 million positive.

portal reported.

"Given the implementation of barter trade mechanism by the Trade Promotion Organization with several countries, we hope to benefit from this platform with African trade partners as well," Ahmad-Reza Alaei Tabatabaei said.

The official noted that the TPO has prepared a list of 1,100 commodity items that can be included in the barter trade with African countries.

Referring to the TPO plans to expand trade with Africa, Tabatabaei announced the improvement of export infrastructure and

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian, who has traveled to Tajikistan to attend the United Nation's second summit on the Water Action Decade, met with Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin in Dushanbe on Tuesday.

As reported by Mehr News Agency, during this meeting Mehrabian announced Iran's readiness for cooperation with Tajikistan in various fields including modern technologies.

Iranian minister of energy, who is also the chairman of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee, stressed the need to pave the way for the close collaboration of the private sectors of Iran and Tajikistan to further boost bilateral trade and economic relations.

Underlining the close relationship between the two countries as emphasized in the meeting of the Tajik president with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the two sides stressed the need to make optimal use of the capacities presented by the two countries' Joint Economic

Tehran, Dushanbe confer on expanding economic ties



Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian (L) holds talks with Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin in Dushanbe on Tuesday evening.

Committee meeting in different fields.

In another meeting held on

Tuesday, Mehrabian met with Tajikistan Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda.

Pakistan calls for more electricity imports from Iran

TEHRAN – Pakistan's Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has called for increasing Iranian electricity exports to Pakistan's Balochistan state, IRNA reported.

Speaking in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Mohammad Hosseini on Tuesday evening, Iqbal stressed the importance of neighborly relations with Iran and cooperation in the energy field.

He said that Pakistan wishes to have broader economic cooperation with Iran and noted that his government is willing to import 100 megawatts more of Iranian electricity to meet the demand in Balochistan province.

In the meeting, which was attended by senior officials from both sides including Deputy Ambassador Mohammad Sorkhabi, the deputy of Pakistan planning development and special initiatives, the head of Pakistan and China Joint Cooperation Office, and some Pakistani energy ministry and ports officials, the two sides

discussed the latest developments in bilateral ties.

The attendees also focused on trilateral cooperation with China in various fields.

The Pakistan planning, development and special initiatives minister expressed appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's electricity exports to Pakistan's Balochistan province, ensuring the Iranian ambassador of Islamabad's commitment to deepening cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

Iqbal further stated that his country is trying to resolve the energy shortage of its Balochistan province in collaboration with neighboring Iran through the country's Makran coasts.

Hosseini for his part welcomed Pakistan's proposal for greater cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and announced Iran's readiness for providing the shortage of Pakistan's electricity for Balochistan province.

Hosseini also proposed cooperation in the field of new technologies and stated that the two sides



Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Mohammad Hosseini (L) and Pakistan's Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal

can establish a joint science and technology park along the two countries' borders.

The official also announced Iran's readiness for sharing experiences and holding training courses in technology and technical fields, which was welcomed by the Pakistani officials.

10 idle mines revived in Hamedan province in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 10 idle mines were revived in Hamedan province in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

Ahmad Shanian, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that 27 exploration and 10 exploitation permits were issued in the province in this due during the previous year.

The official has also announced that 20 idle mines are planned to be revived in Hamedan province by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2023).

Shanian has said that these mines have become idle due to some problems related to financial issues and investor, as well as environmental issues and machinery problems, so through follow-up measures and holding expert meetings to remove the existing problems, they will be reactivated.

Previously, the natural, geographical and industrial capacities of the region were not considered for the implementation of the projects, but now the establishment of mining and production units is subject to fulfilling all legal



conditions and criteria, he said, adding, so the province's industry and mining plan was prepared, and attracting the investors and launching the projects will be based on it.

According to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), 453 idle small-scale mines have been revived throughout the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Based on the IMIDRO data, the revived mines in the previous year created jobs for over 3,000 people and increased the country's mineral output

by 22.5 million tons.

The total number of revived mines has reached 852 since the launch of the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's program for reviving small mines across the country, in late March 2019. The revived mines in this program have created job opportunities for over 13,000 people in the mentioned period.

The most important goal of this program, which is being implemented by IMIDRO, is to activate the country's mines, which will result in increased production and employment, especially in deprived areas.

Back in December 2021, Reza Azimi, who directs the ministry's program for reviving and developing small mines, had mentioned concluding 37 memorandums of understanding (MOU) for investment, and scientific-research cooperation with knowledge-based companies, as well as the introduction of 124 projects to Mining Investment Insurance Corporation for receiving facilities, and the support and coaching of knowledge-based companies and startups as other measures taken under the framework of the mentioned program.

TEDPIX gains 4,911 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 4,911 points to reach 1.520 million on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Over 11.271 billion securities worth 120.15 trillion rials (about \$455.97 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index gained 2,936 points, and the second market's index increased 11,940 points.

A market analyst believes that the Iranian stock exchange market can grow by 30 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

In an interview with IRNA on May 8, Ahmad Eshtiaqi pointed to the growth of the stock market index and the factors affecting it and said: "It seems that the shares of companies still have room for growth and according to the forecasts, the stock market can grow by about 30 percent by the

end of the year, but this growth will be gradual and slow."

The analyst noted that the shareholders' interest in the capital market over the past few years has been due to the value of companies' stock, so when the shares still have room to grow, the market index will grow as well.

Tabatabaei said.

Referring to Iran's great potential in the field of technical and engineering services, he said: "African Countries are among of the most important importers of technical and engineering services in the world, and fortunately, Iran has become more advanced in this area in recent years."

The official also pointed to the 45 percent increase in exports to Africa, saying: "Currently, Ghana is Iran's first export destination in Africa, followed by South Africa and Nigeria in second and third places."

Iran eyes implementing barter trade with Africa

TEHRAN – Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) deputy head for export markets development has said his organization is looking for ways to implement barter trade mechanisms with the country's African trade partners, the TPO



strengthening of the presence of Iranian commercial attachés in the said continent.

According to the official, the most important challenge for Iranian businessmen

regarding Africa is the lack of knowledge and familiarity with its markets.

He further noted that another important challenge in the way of expanding trade with African countries is transportation and logistics, especially the need for developing maritime transportation infrastructure.

"Establishing regular shipping lines, which we have recently witnessed in East Africa and which needs to be strengthened, must also be implemented and regulated in West Africa. By allocating transportation subsidies, we try to regulate these lines; So that traders can benefit from this capacity,"

Biden’s ban of three countries from regional summit backfires

From page 1 ►9 But the backlash of Latin American and Caribbean States (irrespective of their political view) against Washington’s policy of exclusion.

Biden’s hopes of trying to portray his administration as a trustworthy and influential U.S. regional player (unlike his predecessor who damaged ties and wanted to build a wall on the Mexican border) has effectively been dashed.

In response to the expulsion of some Latin American nations, the most notable absentee is Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador who announced he is skipping the Summit of the Americas in the U.S. because of the White House’s failure to invite countries it claims are “undemocratic.”

For weeks, Lopez Obrador had threatened he would not participate unless all other countries are allowed to participate. During that time the White House had been in regular contact with the Mexican leader urging him to travel to Los Angeles.

According to reports, White House officials were finally convinced that he would be in attendance.

The snub by the United States’ southern neighbor has been viewed as an embarrassment for the Biden administration.

Lopez Obrador says “I am not going to the summit because they are not inviting all the countries of America and I think it is necessary to change the policy that has been imposed on us for centuries: exclusion,”

The Mexican leader also warned, “you cannot have a Summit of the Americas if you do not have all the countries of the Americas attending, or you can have it, but we see that as the old policy of interventionism, lack of respect for nations and their people.”

Lopez Obrador’s absence has raised questions about the significance of the summit which is aimed at the migration crisis (among other issues) at the U.S. southern border, a key priority for Biden, that has now come as a major blow for the United States.

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, criticized the Mexican president in a statement, saying his “decision... would hurt



U.S.-Mexico relations.”

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, on the other hand, has praised the “courage and clarity” of his Mexican counterpart for choosing to boycott the event.

Maduro says Washington’s move to prevent his country along with Cuba and Nicaragua from participating in the international summit “was an act of discrimination” warning that the White House “has ensured the summit would fail.”

Ahead of the summit, the governments of all three countries that have been banned said they would no longer travel to Los Angeles even if an invitation was extended to them by Washington.

Chilean President Gabriel Boric says it was a “mistake” by the Biden administration.

Speaking to reporters, Boric said the U.S. move was “reinforcing the position that these other countries take in their own countries. We think it’s an error, a mistake, and we’re going to say that during the summit.”

Observers say the boycott of other leaders as well could diminish the relevance of the summit in Los Angeles, where the U.S. aims to address regional issues.

But to bolster turnout, Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have also been working the phones in recent days, talking to the leaders of Argentina and Honduras, both of whom had expressed support for Mexico’s proposed boycott.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declined to say whether or not he disagreed with the exclusion but said Canada looked forward to participating fully in the summit.

“It’s extremely important that we have an opportunity to engage with our fellow hemispheric partners, some like-minded, some less like-minded, but talking about important issues that our people have in common,” he said.

Critics have criticized Trudeau for not making his views publicly on the U.S. move to hand pick which countries are allowed to attend an international summit.

Cuba, which attended the previous two summits, has slammed its exclusion, along with Nicaragua and Venezuela, from U.S. hosted Summit of the Americas.

The government in Havana said “there is not a single reason that justifies the anti-democratic and arbitrary exclusion of any country in the hemisphere from that continental meeting,”

It added the measure is “anti-democratic and arbitrary,” and shows that the U.S. “conceived and uses this high-level dialogue mechanism as an instrument of its hegemonic system in the hemisphere.”

Havana’s added “one cannot speak of ‘The Americas’ without covering all the countries that make up the hemisphere” and the Biden administration “refused to heed the just demands of numerous governments” to change its position regarding Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

A Foreign Ministry statement published by Cuba also condemned the U.S. for “abusing the privilege granted by its status as host country,” a decision it has described as “discriminatory and unacceptable. Cuba also said the United States underestimated support in the

region for the island nation.

Experts say the White House took into consideration the large Cuban community in Miami, which favored Trump’s harsh policies toward Havana and Caracas, viewing the community as an important voting bloc in Florida in November elections that will decide control of the U.S. Congress.

Observers say the community in question fled Cuba decades ago following the revolution in the country and are loyalists to the former regime in Cuba.

Even some Democrats have criticized the White House for bowing to pressure from exiles in the swing state of Florida and barring Cuba, which attended the last two summits.

Countries in the Caribbean have condemned the move with some saying they will boycott the event.

Guatemala’s leader Alejandro Giammattei has pulled out of the summit.

Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou said he will not be in attendance.

At the last moment, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who leads Latin America’s most populous country, confirmed he will attend, after flirting with the idea of also staying away for weeks.

There is speculation that President Bolsonaro finally made his decision after the White House arranged a bilateral meeting with Biden.

Reports suggest the U.S. President and Vice President Kamala Harris, have been busy personally calling regional leaders urging them to attend.

Since last year, the Biden White House has been working on organizing the summit. But it appears the summit will not bring any results to the many challenges facing the region.

Experts say the U.S. is the problem and Latin American countries in particular need to have a real meeting among themselves, without the presence of Washington to solve their problems.

The U.S. sees Latin America and the Caribbean as its back yard but it did not anticipate the boycott and the backlash. Even the countries attending have expressed opposition to U.S. policy.

Limits of U.S. ‘coercive diplomacy’: The case of Iran nuclear deal

From page 1 ► Therefore, one argues that the idea of coercive diplomacy is as old as rule-based international system. Coercive diplomacy can be defined as a forceful persuasion to achieve the desired objective through the threat of force or actual use of limited military action. The term, coined by Alexander George in 1971, exemplifies the nuance of diplomacy consisting of demand and a threat of punishment and explaining threats, persuasion, positive inducements, and accommodation and their integration into a crisis with an alternative to war.

However, it differs from deterrence in the operational sense. The latter invokes threats to an adversary by initiating an undesired action compared to coercive diplomacy, wherein response to action already been taken. As a political-diplomatic strategy, more extraordinary powers have applied it as a bargaining tool against adversaries. The United States has been using this strategy militarily against Japan, Vietnam, Korea, and Arab states like Iraq and Libya. However, despite severe economic sanctions on Iran as a valuable instrument of coercive diplomacy, such measures have so far remained unsuccessful in obtaining its objectives, if not completely failed.

The case of the Iran nuclear deal

The Iran nuclear deal was a success of diplomacy bringing major powers (P5+1) and Iran to a negotiating table to reduce tensions and promote dialogue but equally manifesting the limits of coercive diplomacy on the issue, thereby making a compromise possible. Iran didn’t surrender or succumb to U.S.’s coercive diplomacy despite lack of consensus among (P5+1) over how to undo the damage done by the Trump administration’s reckless unilateral withdrawal from the deal. This was after all not a bilateral but achieved under United Nation Security Council Resolution 2231(2015), amidst serious diplomatic efforts to reach a comprehensive, long-term and proper solution to the Iran nuclear issue culminated in the JCPOA and concluded on 14 July 2015 by China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, the High Representative of the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was achieved after Iran fully complied with the demand for resolutions, including concerns shown by International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Iran case also disputes the success of such coercive means under the diplomatic mission mainly used by great powers on all seven significant attributes (as Alexander George argues) required for the success of coercive diplomacy, as one finds in the case of Libya and during Cuban Missile Crisis between the former Soviet Union and the U.S. The idea of clarity of objective, the strength of motivations, asymmetry of reason, sense of urgency, adequate domestic and international support (including unlike agencies), opponent’s fear of unacceptable escalation and lastly, the clarity on which ground for settlement can be achieved. The U.S. policies have been influenced by lobbies from its allies in the region: Israel and the Persian Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia. Iran’s nuclear deal is a fine example of how coercive diplomacy can be unsuccessful if

there is a lack of clarity of objective. The other significant problem that expresses the limitation is the nature of the Iranian state that carries ideas like civilizational superiority and the notion of martyrdom as a part of its positioning in responding to the U.S.’s policies towards her.

Coercive diplomacy is a highly contextual strategy, but it does not account for the possibility that many variables will be largely irrelevant from case to case. It is difficult to implement and often difficult to return to the status quo. The Iranian nuclear program rose to prominence as Iran mastered the technology to enrich uranium in 2002. Sanctions have shown their limitations even though the Iranian economy has been under severe stress since 1979.

And despite the episodic protests in Iran, Iran has survived and created a sustainable strategy against U.S.’s policies and its coercive diplomacy. The maximum pressure (over 700 new sanction and killing of Iran’s top general

Qassem Soleimani) under the Trump administration too failed to achieve amidst the lack of clarity of objectives against Iran. U.S. congressional committee report highlighted that the U.S. is paying \$2 million every month for security of the former U.S. secretary of state Pompeo and former special U.S. representative to Iran Brian Hook. This perceived threat from Iran also limits the U.S.

coercive diplomacy. In the backdrop, Trump’s response to unilateral withdrawal had a business model in dealing with Arab clients, further culminating in the Abraham Accords. Nonetheless, Iran is more powerful in the region; its allies are everywhere, and it seems to have achieved the desired outcome of the U.S.’s unilateral withdrawal.

Diplomacy as zero-sum game?

Former Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif under the Rouhani administration wrote in Foreign Affairs in 2014, “This normalisation process must be based on mutual respect and mutual interest. It must address issues of legitimate concern to both sides”. This shows how U.S. policies have not met their desired outcomes and highlights the limitation on practicing coercive diplomacy if there is a lack of objectivity and fracture within. The military options are off the table despite rhetoric, the nuclear deal still under negotiation amidst all uncertainty and Iran is more powerful in the region than before. Iran didn’t abandon its nuclear programme; it has managed to deal with rising China for over \$400 billion deals and helped Russia develop its equipment under sanction. The limits of coercive diplomacy explain why the Iran nuclear deal has remained a chimera. Between theory and practice, U.S. foreign policies on Iran nuclear deal show considerable limitations to the notion of coercive diplomacy and suggests, therefore, why it needs to be de-legitimized to maintain a ruled-based international order. Diplomacy ought to be based on a positive-sum game rather than a zero-sum game. The case of Iran nuclear deal explains its merit.

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Syrian, Russian fighter jets stage joint air patrol over occupied Golan Heights

Russian and Syrian fighter jets have conducted a joint aerial patrol over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, and participated in real combat conditions against mock enemy warplanes and unmanned military aircraft.

Syria’s official news agency SANA said the mission involved Russia’s Sukhoi Su-24, Su-34 and Su-35 twin-engine fighter bombers, besides six Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-23 and MiG-29 aircraft belonging to the Syrian Air Force.

Back on January 24, Syria and Russia held joint aerial patrols along Syria’s borders, including over the Golan Heights.

According to a Russian Defense Ministry statement cited by Interfax news agency at the time, the patrol involved fighter, fighter bombers and early warning and control aircraft.

Russia launched its airstrikes against Takfiri terrorists in Syria at the request of the Damascus government.

Late last month, Russia dispatched attack helicopters and fighter jets to its base in Syria’s northeastern province of Hasakah upon a request from the Damascus government.

The decision came only days after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reaffirmed Moscow’s determination to support Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Lebanon’s Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network said then that Russia had sent reinforcements to its airbase near the Kurdish-majority city of Qamishli as part of a military buildup.

In 1967, Israel waged a full-scale war against Arab territories, during which it occupied a large swathe of Golan and annexed it four years later – a move never recognized by the

international community.

In 1973, another war broke out and a year later a UN-brokered ceasefire came into force, according to which Tel Aviv and Damascus agreed to create a buffer zone in Golan. However, Israel has over the past several decades built dozens of illegal settlements in Golan in defiance of international calls for the regime to stop its illegal construction activities.

In a unilateral move rejected by the international community in 2019, former U.S. president Donald Trump signed a decree recognizing Israeli “sovereignty” over Golan.

Nevertheless, Syria has repeatedly reaffirmed its sovereignty over Golan, saying the territory must be completely restored to its control.

The United Nations has also time and again emphasized Syria’s sovereignty over the territory.

Turkey’s new incursion into northern Syria

Separately, Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar told his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu in a call that Ankara would respond to “destabilizing moves” in northern Syria.

According to Turkey’s Defense Ministry, Akar told Shoigu that “the necessary response will be given to actions aimed at disrupting the stability achieved in the region and the presence of terrorists in the region is not acceptable.”

Akar also “reminded that previous agreements on this issue need to be adhered to”, it added.

Last week, Russia’s Foreign Ministry urged Turkey against launching another incursion into northern Syria under the pretext of fighting off anti-Ankara “terrorists.”

“We hope that Ankara will refrain from actions that could lead to a dangerous deterioration of the already difficult situation in Syria,”

spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement on June 2.

“Such a move, in the absence of the agreement of the legitimate government of the Syrian Arab Republic, would be a direct violation of Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity” and would “cause a further escalation of tensions in Syria,” she added.

“We understand Turkey’s concerns about threats to national security emanating from the border regions” with Syria, she said, adding the concerns however could also be alleviated if the Syrian military were to be deployed to the areas, she added.

Her remarks came a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that the country was to take yet “another step” to “clean up” the northern Syrian cities of Tal Rifat and Manbij.

Turkey has been conducting several incursions against neighboring Syria’s northern parts since 2016 to fight back against Kurdish militants known as the People’s Protection Units (YPG).

Ankara associates the YPG with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) terrorist group, which has been fighting a hugely-deadly separatist war against Turkey for decades.

So far, Turkey has deployed thousands of troops in the areas, in what Damascus has decried as outright violation of its sovereignty.

President Bashar al-Assad and other senior officials have said Syria will respond through all legitimate means available to the ongoing ground offensive by Turkish forces and allied Takfiri militants in the northern part of the war-battered Arab country.

(Source: Press TV)



UNESCO-tagged Soltaniyeh Dome being restored

TEHRAN –Parts of the UNESCO-tagged Soltaniyeh Dome in northwestern Zanjan province have undergone some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project involves flooring and repairing the routes of the western section of the historical site, Amir Arjmand explained on Wednesday.

The project also aims at preparing the historical dome for attracting more tourists and promoting it as an architectural and cultural attraction of Zanjan, the official added.

The 14th-century Gonbad-e (“The Dome of”) Soltaniyeh is highly recognized as an architectural masterpiece particularly due to its innovative double-shelled dome and elaborate interior decoration. The very imposing dome stands about 50 meters tall from its base. Covered with turquoise-blue faience tiles, the stunning structure dominates the skyline of Soltaniyeh, an ancient city in Zanjan province, north-

800 historical properties identified in South Khorasan

TEHRAN –Some 800 cultural-historical properties and ancient hills have been identified across the eastern South Khorasan province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Studies and excavations conducted in the province have revealed 800 historical sites so far, Ali Shariatmanesh explained on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

There have been discoveries of moveable properties such as stone tools, pottery remains, and immovable properties including architectural remains, industrial workshops, and burials, from these hills and historical sites, the official added.

Stone tools from the Middle Paleolithic period are among the oldest discoveries made in the region, he noted.

These discoveries have been obtained through studies of the area, which are very significant for understanding the Stone Age and prehistory of the region, he mentioned.

Last month, a team of Iranian archaeologists commenced tracing Paleolithic sites on the eastern sides of the Iranian plateau.

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

The eastern side of the Iranian plateau has long been considered an ecological and geological hub of the Paleolithic era by many researchers and archaeologists, he noted.

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

western Iran.

Meaning “Town of the Sultans”, Soltaniyeh was briefly the capital of Persia’s Ilkhanid dynasty (a branch of the Mongol dynasty) during the 14th century.

The monument is, in fact, the mausoleum of Oljaitu, also known as Muhammad Khodabandeh, who was the eighth Ilkhanid dynasty ruler from 1304 to 1316.

According to UNESCO, the mausoleum’s interior decoration is so outstanding that scholars like A.U. Pope have described the building as “anticipating the Taj Mahal”.

The UN cultural body has it that the Mausoleum of Oljaitu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in central and western Asia. The fairly large dome is the earliest extant example of its type in the country and became an important reference for the later development of the Islamic dome.

of the Iranian plateau.”

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

“However, these studies were paused for decades, and only in recent years, some case studies have been conducted in this area.”

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

A 2019 study published in the Journal of Human Evolution suggests Neanderthals roamed across the Zagros Mountain range between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

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

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

Handicrafts exhibit opens in Bandar Abbas

TEHRAN –An exhibition of Iranian handicrafts and home-based businesses opened to the public in Bandar Abbas, southern Hormozgan province, on Tuesday.

There are 150 booths displaying products, goods, and services from the four main sectors of the food industry, handicrafts and traditional arts, clothing and textiles, and ancillary services, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Creating handicrafts markets would increase production consequently, and this would increase employment rates, Hormozgan’s governor Mehdi Dusti stated during the opening ceremony.

There is a reduction in handicraft sales during summer because of the blistering climate of the territory and setting up such an exhibition could tackle the issue a bit, he added.

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

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

Over the past couple of decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and

sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is situated some eight kilometers off the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts

many tourists by its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and great local people.

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

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions

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

Neolithic obsidian tools found on 9,000-year-old hill in northwestern Iran

TEHRAN –Some obsidian tools, dating back to the Neolithic period, have recently been discovered on Tepe Ahranjan, which is home to a 9,000-year-old human settlement in Salmas county, West Azarbaijan province, northwestern Iran.

The items found are diverse and categorized into seven types based on their appearance and colors, said Iranian archaeologist Afrasyab Geravand, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

The evidence at the historical site suggests that obsidian stones or rubble were brought to the area and used in tool making, he noted.

According to the studies, some of these tools can be traced back to the mines of eastern Anatolia, he added.

Back in April, the provincial tourism chief Jalil Jabbari announced that a team of archaeologists commenced fresh work on Tepe Ahranjan.

“A team of experts is carving trenches in and around the Ahranjan hill, which is one of the oldest settlements in northwestern Iran,” he said.

“The trenches are hoped to give clues about further cultural layers and human settlements in order to help archaeologists develop a relative and absolute chronology of the hill,” the official stated.

“Ahranjan is one of the most characteristic Neolithic sites in northwestern Iran, from which the materials and cultural remains obtained indicate the existence of a farming and livestock community in the Salmas plain in prehistoric times.”

Ahranjan area was once assuming a strategic position in terms of trade, cultural exchanges, and being on a communication path, the official said.

“Ahranjan is linked on the one hand with the southern Caucasus and eastern Anatolia and on the other hand with the central (Iranians) plateau and south of Lake Urmia.”



In fact, one of the most primitive human communities was initially formed in this area... that achieved progress due to ongoing inventions and innovations in terms of agriculture, animal breeding, making tools, and trade with neighboring regions.

In 2020, Geravand concluded that farming and animal breeding was practiced some 9,000 years ago around the historical Tepe Ahranjan. The discovery was made during a demarcation project aimed to protect the ruined archaeological site.

Evidence suggests that Ahranjan hill and its surroundings were one of the first and most important human settlements in the 7th millennium BC in northwestern Iran, Geravand said.

The region has long been a suitable place for settlement since ancient times due to the presence of permanent rivers, springs, animal and plant resources, fertile land, and pastures, he explained.

The history of agriculture is the story of humankind’s development and cultivation of processes for producing food, feed, fiber, fuel, and other goods by the systematic raising of

plants and animals. Before the development of plant cultivation, human beings were hunters and gatherers. The knowledge and skill of learning to care for the soil and growth of plants advanced the development of human society, allowing clans and tribes to stay in one location generation after generation. Archaeological evidence indicates that such developments occurred 10,000 or more years ago.

Experts say that by 7000 BC, sowing and harvesting reached Mesopotamia, and there, in the super fertile soil just north of the Persian Gulf, Sumerian ingenuity systematized it and scaled it up. By 6000 BC farming was entrenched on the banks of the Nile River. About this time, agriculture was developed independently in the Far East, probably in China, with rice rather than wheat as the primary crop.

Because of agriculture, cities, as well as trade relations between different regions and groups of people, developed, further enabling the advancement of human societies and cultures. Agriculture has been an important aspect of economics throughout the centuries before and after the Industrial Revolution. Sustainable development of world food supplies impacts the long-term survival of the species, so care must be taken to ensure that agricultural methods remain in harmony with the environment.

Neolithic, also called the New Stone Age, is the final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans. It was characterized by stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding, dependence on domesticated plants or animals, settlement in permanent villages, and the appearance of such crafts as pottery and weaving. The Neolithic followed the Paleolithic Period, or the age of chipped-stone tools, and preceded the Bronze Age, or the early period of metal tools.

Russian travel insiders explore Iran on fam tour

From page 1 ► Optimistic forecasts,

expect the country would achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

Back in March, the head of the Iranian Tour Operators Ebrahim Pourfaraj, said that Iran’s low prices give it a competitive edge in attracting foreign tourists.

“By offering lower-cost travel packages than other neighboring countries, Iran can remain competitive in the global tourism market and become a special destination for foreign tourists.”

Many people are now looking for the best travel conditions and the lowest prices since the world economy is undergoing turmoil due to the coronavirus outbreak and many people have lost their jobs, the expert

added.

Iran is now in a privileged position to capture some of the region’s tourism market with reasonable offers, he noted.

“Since there were no entry tours during the pandemic, and given that tourist visas have been issued for a few months now, we have just begun our negotiations with foreign tour operators.”

Last November, the official said that the restoration of tourism flow to the country is very important for Iranian tour operators and travel insiders.

Furthermore, Pourfaraj said that the Islamic Republic must rebuild trust with the global tourism market, referring to the high levels of health security and vaccination that the country has achieved against the coronavirus.

He said some of his colleagues have

commenced talks in various tourism fields with target markets of China, Japan, Russia, and some European countries.

As mentioned by Pourfaraj, Iran has made its best to maintain contact with global tourism markets and companies that worked with Iran in the past, especially since virtual communication and meetings have thrived.

Some experts believe Iran is still somehow “unknown” to many potential travelers due to the Western “media war”. Several estimates have been released so far on the extent of the tourism-related losses incurred by the pandemic.

According to the data compiled by the tourism ministry, the tourism of the country was growing before the corona outbreak, its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the

world GDP, which was 3.2 percent. Some 8.7 million foreign nationals visited Iran during the Iranian year (1398) and Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.



Hiring of Technician Handyman Messenger-cum driver

Pakistan Embassy in Tehran is seeking applications from dynamic professionals for the post of Technician/Handyman/Messenger-cum-driver in the Embassy. Candidates should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Preferably between 25 to 45 years of age.
 - Good interpersonal skills. Good command over English language will be given added consideration
 - A valid driving license (at least Light Transport Vehicle category)
- Interested candidates may send their CVs by post as well as by e-mail within 5 days from the date of this advertisement (Saturday June 11, 2022) at following address:

Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran

Block No.01, Ahmed Etemadzadeh Street, Dr. Hussain Fatemi Street, Tehran)

Tel: **021-66941388-90** Fax: **021-66944898**

email: eoptehran@gmail.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for test/interview. The schedule will be communicated in due Course.

First Announcement



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9980001

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
6	PARTS FOR"COOPER-BESSEMER"GAS TURBINE TYPE COBERA-182	12

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their “ Intention To Participate” letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 29,290 EURO or 7,886,853,600 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC’S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC’S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۱/۳/۱۹

APDIM says Iran at forefront of dealing with SDSs

TEHRAN - Letizia Rossano, the director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), has said Iran is really at forefront of understanding the problem of sand and dust storms as well as dealing with it.

Iran is one of the few countries that have a coordinating committee at the national level to deal with sand and dust storms, Rossano told IRNA, adding, "This is something that we advocate for other countries to do as well."

Referring to the regional plan of action on sand and dust storms in the Asian and Pacific Region, she said, "The plan provides a solid basis for countries in the region to bolster their efforts, including by strengthening cross-boundary collaboration, to reduce the risks associated with sand and dust storms and minimize their impact on sustainable development."

Asia-Pacific countries endorsed the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific at the 78th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok on 27 May 2022.

"As a transboundary climate-induced environmental disaster,



sand and dust storms are adversely affecting communities' sustainability and resilience and are becoming a serious rising concern for affected countries."

More than 80 percent of the entire populations of Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to medium and high levels of poor air quality due to sand and dust storms," she noted.

"Sand and dust storms are transboundary hazards, so I think there is more advantage in collaborating than not, and I think the role of an international organization like the United Nations is precisely to create

the space, convening the table if you wish, around which conversations can be held."

Pointing fingers and blaming are not helpful in solving problems. Looking at the actual problem, however, focuses on the actual technical nature of the problem and the actual impact and interests of the countries involved; that helps to move forward," she concluded.

Sources of SDS

Department of Environment chief Ali Salajegheh has said Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, respectively.

In order to negotiate with neighboring countries to reduce the intensity of dust from foreign origins, Salajegheh has expressed hope that by creating a regional convergence and alignment, appropriate achievements in combating dust will be achieved for the people.

"In the first phase, we are consulting on a bilateral and multilateral memorandum of understanding so that the main secretariat for dust management in West Asia can be established in Iran," he said.

Tehran will host an international meeting on controlling sand and dust storms in July, with the presence of the ministers of 12 countries that give rise to the highest amount of dust.

Iran is one of the few countries that have a coordinating committee at the national level to deal with sand and dust storms.

Saudi Arabia is "main origin" of sand and dust storms: Iran DOE chief

TEHRAN- The country which is the main source of sand and dust storms in Iran is Saudi Arabia, Iranian Department of Environment Chief Ali Salajegheh has said.

"According to the maps we have prepared, 270 million hectares in Iran's neighbouring countries are the origin of sand and dust particles, 90 million hectares of which is located in Saudi Arabia, followed by 24 million hectares in Iraq and four million hectares in Syria," Salajegheh said.

Negotiations are underway through third-party countries with Saudi Arabia in order to persuade it to increase cooperation, Mehr quoted Salajegheh as saying on Monday.

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

Over the past two years, the precipitation rate has been on a downward trend, as a result, sources of sand and dust storms (SDSs) have increased compared to a year before, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management has said.

Controlling sand and dust storms (SDSs) requires strengthening diplomacy, and it will never be eradicated unless international institutions reach a consensus.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Jafar Montazeri, Iran's Prosecutor General, has said building several dams over the Aras border river and constructing walls on the zero point of the border by Turkey has led to a spread of sand and dust storms into western and southern parts of Iran.

Turkey's dam buildings over the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Iraq have caused the desert-covered country to suffer from heavy SDS. The problematic issue here is that these dust and sand storms come from Iraq to Iran, thus disrupting normal life in the border province of Khuzestan.

Dariush Golalizadeh, head of Iran's National Climate Change Office (NCCO) of the Department of Environment, told IRNA in May that the hotspots of the dust which haunted the country were in eastern Syria, western Iraq, as well as Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.



These dust sources have appeared many years ago, and due to the drought and water shortages that have occurred in recent years, they have both intensified and increased in number. In fact, abandoned agricultural lands in those countries are a source of SDSs, he explained.

If serious action is not taken in the form of diplomacy and international institutions do not comply with the requirements to eradicate SDSs, the countries will always be haunted by the phenomenon, he lamented.

Tehran meeting

Tehran will host an international meeting on controlling sand and dust storms in July, with the presence of the ministers of 12 countries that give rise to the highest amount of dust, IRNA reported.

It is therefore planned to implement a regional action plan for the Persian Gulf, especially for the countries with the highest dust emissions, Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for SDS mitigation, stated.

"There are numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements with neighboring countries, including Iraq, Syria, and Turkey, but no operational action has been taken, so the agreement alone is not enough and this issue should be resolved with the help of international institutions.

Two sub-action plans have been developed for West Asia, including Iraq, Syria, Iran, and the Persian Gulf, and for Central Asia, including its eastern, northern, and northeastern neighbors, including Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which should be implemented with the cooperation of the United Nations Economic and Social Organization for Asia and the Pacific (SCAP), the Asia-Pacific Center for Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), he explained.

Plan prepared to manage largest wildlife sanctuary in Iran

From page 1 ► The sanctuary has been under protection since [the Iranian calendar year] 1373 (March 1994-March 1995) but was designated as a wildlife refuge 7 years later.

Naybandan Sanctuary is one of the most pristine and least conflicting habitats in the country in terms

of domestic industries and livestock.

More than 200 plant species have been discovered in the area, some of which include wild almonds, bitter almonds, figs, tamarisk, haloxylon, Atraphaxis, mugwort, zygophyllum, ferula, and bitter apple.

Mammals like Asiatic cheetahs, Persian leopard, caracal, wild goat, jebeer gazelle, wild sheep, mouflon, ibex, Blanford's fox, Rüppell's fox are found in the sanctuary.

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the

Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman in the south.

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas,

and natural national monuments. In 1997, the DOE held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas.

Currently, the supervised areas reached about 18.5 million hectares, including, 30 national parks, 170 protected areas, 45 wildlife refuges, and 37 national natural monuments.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Second 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.

Fore 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

\$7b to be allocated to retrofit, rebuild flood-devastated houses

A budget of 290 trillion rials (nearly \$7 billion) will be allotted to reconstruct and repair housing units destroyed by flood in 18 provinces across the country, Mehdi Jarmalinejad, deputy interior minister for urban and rural development has announced.

Flood has devastated some 169,377 housing units, 68,333 of which are beyond repair and must be reconstructed, he stated.

Moreover, household appliances of 109,832 families also have suffered damages, he further regretted.

He went on to say that 20,000 housing units, undergone devastation by recent flooding in Aq-Oala county in northern Golestan province, are under construction.

Non-repayable loans amounting to 25 trillion rials (nearly \$600 million) will be provided for retrofitting of houses, 7.4 trillion rials (around \$177 million) will also be earmarked to compensate for the infrastructure damages, he explained.

اختصاص بیش از ۲۹ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی خانه های سیل زده

معاون عمران و توسعه امور شهری و روستایی وزیر کشور گفت: براساس مصوبه اخیر هیات وزیران مبلغ ۲۹ هزار و ۱۳۰ میلیارد ریال برای بازسازی و جبران خسارات ناشی از سیل در بخشهای مختلف ۱۸ استان پرداخت می شود.

بر اساس ارزیابی های انجام شده در ۲۱ استان کشور، بیش از ۱۶۹ هزار و ۳۷۷ واحد مسکونی شهری و روستایی در سیل های اخیر در کشور آسیب دیده اند که باید دوباره احداث شوند.

جمالی نژاد بیان داشت: در اثر سیل به ۸۳۲ هزار و ۸۳۲ واحد مسکونی نیز خسارت معیشتی وارد شده است.

وی اضافه کرد: امروز ساخت ۲۰ هزار دستگاه واحد مسکونی که در سیل آسیب دیده بودند نیز در آق قلا شروع شد.

دبیر کمیته نوسازی و بازسازی قرارگاه بازسازی مناطق سیل زده در ادامه گفت: ۲۵ هزار میلیارد ریال تسهیلات قرض الحسنه و همچنین مبلغ ۷ هزار و ۴۶۰ میلیارد ریال برای مرمت زیرساخت های آسیب دیده از سیل پرداخت خواهد شد.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 8

New cases	188	Total deaths	141,342	Total recovered patients	7,057,427
New deaths	3	New hospitalized patients	36	Diagnostic tests conducted	52,395,523
Total cases	7,232,117	Patients in critical condition	414	Doses of vaccine injected	150,053,686

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JUNE 9, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Wisdom is the noblest heritage; theoretical and practical knowledge are the best signs of distinction; deep thinking will present the clearest picture of every problem.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:04

Evening: 20:40

Dawn: 4:02 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 5:48 (tomorrow)

Non-Iranian Languages of Iran

Part 2

On a different scale, the naming of locations and regions, including settlements, rivers, and mountains (toponymy) reflects the language of the peoples who named them through the centuries and millennia.

Particularly place names may reflect the names of social groups, and vice versa. Naming places always involves replacement of an earlier name.

It is the time-honored strategy of dominant groups to erase old memory and to construct new memory, or to retrieve ancient memory by the superimposition of erstwhile names, strategies that are occurring before our own eyes.

For the social and linguistic historian of ancient and pre-modern Iran, toponyms and anthroponyms sometimes provide the only traces of migrations through time.

More often than not, names become linguistically obscure, and are further obscured by the vagaries of textual transmission.

It is only by applying the criteria of discerning loanwords mentioned above, and careful philology (the study of written texts) that the linguistic affiliation of a name can be established, and that an unknown language can be recognized in a subset of names (as is the case with Kassite).

Such scrutiny is crucial particularly for the ancient personal names and toponyms, which are mostly found in the non-Iranian sources, mainly Mesopotamian and Urartian documents, and Classical writers. For example, V. Minorsky recognized that the name of the tiny village Qal'a Paswe near Solduz in Iranian Kordistan still retains the memory of the immigrating Iranian Parsua people who had settled there in the eighth century BCE among the original non-Iranian speakers of the Zagros mountain ranges.

Minorsky also identified a subset of place names which preserves the memory of Mongol groups settling there in the thirteenth century.

Thus, the relationship between language, ethnicity, and material and spiritual culture is a complex one. They represent distinct, but overlapping, networks, and any particular culture is a dynamic composite, where one vernacular tends to become dominant.

Migrating groups enter into complex relationships in contact with the cultural complexes they encounter. Linguistically, they may be absorbed, leaving few linguistic traces.

In turn, a dominant incoming group may impose its main language as an elite language, gradually absorbing the local vernaculars as a distinct, but modified, linguistic subset, and partially absorbing some linguistic features from adjacent cultures.

Such dynamics is linguistically reflected in the encounter of Iranian-speaking groups with non-Iranian speakers in the new territories they entered and with groups entering Iranian territories from their probable home in western Central Asia in the second millennium BCE to the present.

The ancient Central Asian component

Recent research correlates archeological evidence with later, linguistically identifiable groups sharing similar cultural traits. It suggests that the Proto-Indo-Iranians originated in the eastern European steppes (Pit-Grave culture, 3500-2500 BCE).

Still in the third millennium BCE, they moved eastward to the region of the southern Ural steppes and the Volga (Potapovo culture, 2500-1900 BCE), then further on to Central Asia (Andronovo culture, from 2200 BCE onwards).

At that stage they appear to have already formed two groups: the Proto-Iranians in the north, and the Proto-Indo-Aryans in the south.

It was the latter who first came into contact with the urban population of Central Asia (Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex or BMAC, also known as Oxus Culture).

Both groups assimilated to that new culture, gained prominence, and transformed it, thereby attracting non-Indo-Iranian elements.

It is significant for their success that these peoples had developed a new type of social structure, called the "khanate." The social unit was ruled by a wealthy and powerful landlord (khan) residing in fortified farmsteads (qal'as), and it was this structure that was carried into the new territories to the south, and had a lasting impact of the socio-political structures of Iran and Afghanistan, and the subcontinent.

After 2000 BCE, the Indo-Aryans moved southeast via Afghanistan into the Indian subcontinent (Panjab), as well as southwest via the Iranian plateau into northern Mesopotamia (Mitanni kingdom), probably under pressure from the Iranians to their north.

The Iranians on their part may be correlated with the subsequent so-called Yaz I culture in the BMAC complex, which reflects major cultural changes towards a more rural society after 1500 BCE.

They apparently remained in Central Asia, and only by the end of the second millennium BCE began to spread over the Iranian plateau.

Linguistically, these cultural contacts with the non-Indo-European languages of the urban civilization in lower Central Asia left distinct shared layers of loanwords in the lexicon of Indo-Aryan and Iranian.

Indo-Iranian loanword studies, pioneered by F. B. J. Kuiper, strongly continue, prominently by M. Witzel (2000a; 2000b; 2002-03; 2003-04). A. Lubotsky (2001) analyzed some 120 terms, a good number of which point to Central Asia, and highlighted the semantic categories that are reflected in the loaned vocabulary of the Indo-Iranian newcomers: it contains no new terms for landscape and plants, which therefore must have been similar to those of the earlier homeland.

However, new terms for animals such as donkey and camel, as well as terms for irrigation technology, such as canals and dug wells, implies that the Indo-Iranians came from further north.

New terms for architecture, such as brick, walls, and gravel, and for clothing, such as cloak and needle, and even for hair-do, reflect the superior urban civilization.

At the same time, the absence of new military terminology suggests the military superiority of the newcomers. The lack of terms for agriculture indicates that they did not much engage in it, and only used the farming products, such as bread.

Surprising are new terms for body parts, including not only terms for hair, but also for belly, tail, etc. Lubotsky also highlights a distinct set of new religious terms.

These include terms for priests and sacrifice, and most significantly for the Soma-plant, Iranian Haoma. They suggest that the complex, quintessential Vedic and Avestan-Zoroastrian rituals originated and evolved in the culturally sophisticated context of the BMAC, which had ancient connections to northwest India, Elam, and northern Mesopotamia, before being carried south during the second millennium BCE.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

Iranian photographer Mehdi Zabolabbasi tops at George Barker exhibition

From Page 1 ► Zabolabbasi also won the FPC Trophy in the Open Monochrome (PIDM) Section for his photo "In the Evening Alone", which shows an Afghan woman clad in a burka walking toward a mosque.

In addition, "Linchan", his portrait of a coal mine, won an honorable mention in the Portrait Color category.

In this section, Iranian photographer Amin Mahdavi was honored with the FIAP Gold Medal for "Cwtch", in which a nomad girl poses with a lamb.

"Pride and Prejudice" by Mohammadreza Purian from Iran was given the FPC Trophy in this section. The photo shows a woman donning a mask common among women in southern Iran.

Iranian photographers also garnered awards in several categories.

Maziar Amini Alashti for "Contrast" and Amin Mahdavi for "Bold" were honored with FIAP Ribbons in the Open Monochrome Section.

In the Open Color Section, Saied Arabzadeh's "Vakil Mosque"

"Gulbahar" brought Iranian photographer Mehdi Zabolabbasi the Best Author Award at the George Barker International Exhibition of Photography in Canada.

received the FPC Trophy and Mirali Parandak's "Shoemaker" won the FIAP Ribbon.

The FIAP Gold Medal in the Aerial Photography Color category went to Asghar Sameti for "A Symphony", which depicts news cars in a parking lot.

"Trying to Generate Generation" by Ali Saqafi showing two owls

copulating won the FPC Trophy in the Nature section.

"Hanabandan Ceremony" by Mehdi Eshaqi-Qalibaf was awarded the FIAP Gold Medal in the Travel category. The photo shows a Khorasani bride and groom along with their guests participating in hanabandan, an ancient rite being performed on the eve of a wedding ceremony in Iran.

Winning photos and a selection of submissions will showcase in an exhibition on August 6 in London, a Canadian city in southwestern Ontario.

The exhibition is named after George Barker (1844-1894), a Canadian-American photographer who is best known for his photographs of Niagara Falls.

Berlin Museum for Islamic Art to review Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli's "Heech"

A sculpture from Parviz Tanavoli's Heech series on display at the Museum for Islamic Art in Berlin.

TEHRAN – Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli's iconic Heech series will be reviewed in an online session on June 16 at the Museum for Islamic Art in Berlin.

"Woodgirls", "Water, Wind, Dust & Bread" competing in Doc Edge Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian films "Woodgirls - A Duet for a Dream" and "Water, Wind, Dust & Bread" are competing in the Doc Edge Festival in New Zealand.

Directed by Azadeh Bizargiti, "Woodgirls" tells the unique story of Leila Avakh and Sediqeh Momennia, as they follow their dream of opening a carpentry workshop run by women for women.

With much love and passion, Leila and Sediqeh have chosen a profession that is considered extremely masculine in the traditional societies of West Asia. They are some of Iran's first female carpenters. Licenses and formal training in such trades are unavailable for women.

Despite the obstacles and difficulties they face, they are determined to prove themselves.

A scene from "Woodgirls - A Duet for a Dream" by Azadeh Bizargiti.

They refuse to let go of their dreams.

Armed with self-taught skills, guts and deep determination, Leila and Sediqeh bravely face the obstacles to fight for what they believe in.

"Water, Wind, Dust, Bread" follows 11-year-old Abolfazl who lives with his family in an

oasis in the Iranian desert. He picks dates, tends to his family's cows, does his homework, and has fun with his best friend Setayesh.

Director Mehdi Zamanpur Kiasari's camera quietly observes their friendship as they swing between the date palms or climb the windswept rocks around the oasis. Abolfazl's mother bakes

"Gach Pej" in the old Tehrani accent

The book "Gach Pej," written by Mohsen Rezvani and published by Soore Mehr, is a novel dealing with societal issues and people's difficulties in the period, and written in the traditional Tehrani accent and employing vocabulary from the Qajar era, which has long been loved by readers of old books.

When you start reading, you will see lovers who write to their mistresses in the dark alleys of old Tehran, expressing their sadness at not seeing each other.

The book, like a sparrow, wanders from branch to branch, exploring a wide range of topics in its 51 notes, including Facebook likes and mobile phones, and sharing love between satellite

signals, and the book's author captivates the audience with a sweet plot and short dialogues.

Mohsen Rezvani's book, written as a collection of brief and humorous notes with old literature and idioms, connects the audience to the society's daily political and social problems as well as the city's streets in a unique way. He's also spoken out about societal issues like addiction, criticizing it with his sarcastic words.

This book is an excellent choice if you're looking for a book to spend some time with and put a smile on your face these days. It can show you the concerns of the day in a different language and in the form of social humor and fun.