

Vienna Talks Failure Will Mark Decline of U.S., E3

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Report



Activists denounce Toronto Police Chief’s apology over discrimination

Advocates have dismissed an apology from Canada’s Toronto Police Chief after data showed Black, Indigenous, and other minority groups are disproportionately affected by use of force and strip searches in the Canadian city.

Activists and community leaders are demanding an immediate change in policing dismissing the apology as not enough. Toronto police say they will implement some changes but critics say they have heard promises of reforms before as well.

Notisha Massaquoi, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto Scarborough told local media “this is not an aspirational goal. This is something that we are demanding as members of the Black community in Toronto,”

Massaquoi is reported to have spent three years leading the process to develop the force’s race-based data collection policy and added “the data tells us exactly what we already knew as Black people ... that a) we are over-policed [and] b) that we are disproportionately experiencing harm when engaging with the police,”

The comment reflects the wider mood on social media; for many minority groups in the Canadian city, the data only reinforces what has already been known for decades with many calling for concrete action to address the racist approach.

According to analysis of racial data released by Toronto Police, Black people are 2.2 times more likely to have an interaction with police officers and are 1.6 times more likely to have force used against them during the interaction. ▶ Page 5

Iran’s Aminzadeh sweeps golds at 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships

TEHRAN – Ahmad Aminzadeh from Iran claimed two gold medals at the 2022 Asia Oceania Open Para Powerlifting Championships on Saturday.

He first took a gold medal with a personal best lift of 256kg and bagged his second gold for a total lift of 760kg.

Uzbekistan’s Doston Abdusattarov won a silver with 614kg and Ahmed Khamis Alblooshi from the UAE snatched the bronze with 575kg.

Earlier in the day, Iran’s Aliakbar Gharibshahi broke his own record in the Men’s Up to 72kg.

He won the gold medal with personal best lift of 253kg and bettered his own record by two kilograms.

His countryman Saman Razi claimed the silver with 233kg.

Both powerlifters were unsuccessful in their third attempts.

Uzbekistan’s Nuriddin Davlatov won the gold medal with a total of 612kg.

Emirati representative Khaled Alhammadi won the silver with 500kg and the bronze medal went to Gharibshahi with 498kg.

The 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships take place from June 15 to 20 in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. The event has brought 231 athletes from 33 countries across the six days of competition. ▶ Page 3



© File photo

West using terrorist groups as tool: professor

TEHRAN – More than four years ago, Assadollah Asadi, a third diplomat of the Iranian embassy in Austria, was arrested in Europe despite enjoying diplomatic immunity, a move that Iran rejected as unlawful and a violation of international law.

This year’s June marked the fourth year since

the Iranian diplomat was put behind the bar. Asadi was arrested on June 10, 2018 on his way to his residence in Austria, the place of his posting.

Three years later, on February 4, 2021, the Iranian diplomat was sentenced by a Belgian court to 20 years in prison despite Iran’s repeated appeals

for his release.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Secretary-General of Iran’s High Council for Human Rights, said on Saturday the detention is illegal and violates the provisions of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. ▶ Page 3

Thermal power plants break new output record

TEHRAN – Electricity generation by Iran’s thermal power plants has currently reached 51,800 megawatts (MW) which is a new record in the history of the country’s electricity industry, Head of Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC) Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi announced.

According to Rajabi Mashhadi, the output of the country’s hydropower plants is also at an acceptable level proportional to the current water shortage situation and the electricity demand, IRNA reported.

So far, no systematic blackouts have been imposed across the country in the domestic

sectors, Rajabi Mashhadi said.

Increasing the country’s power generation capacity and preventing blackouts during the peak consumption periods have been among the Energy Ministry’s top priorities since the current government administration took office in August 2021. ▶ Page 4

Iranian knowledge-based products hit markets in 70 countries

TEHRAN – Iranian knowledge-based companies marketed their products in 70 countries, and in some global markets have overtaken European and American companies, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, has said.

In the last two days, the number of knowledge-based companies has exceeded 6,800, he stated, emphasizing that half of them is active in the field of electronics and electricity.

Last year, knowledge-based companies gained about \$800 million in revenue from export, and in the current year (started March 21), it seems to reach over \$1 billion, he noted.

These knowledge-based companies have now found their export markets in 70 countries around the world. ▶ Page 7



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Endurance riding held in Kurdistan

TEHRAN – Endurance riding competition was held in Sanandaj, Kurdistan Province, on Friday. The event brought 80 male and female riders from 13 provinces in Sanandaj.

Endurance riding is an equestrian sport based on controlled long-distance races. It is one of the international competitions recognized by the (International Federation for Equestrian Sports) FEI.

Tourism key to economic prosperity in desert areas, expert says

TEHRAN – Tourism is essential to the economic development of desert areas, a nature tourism expert has said.

“Paying attention to desert-based tourism is the way to ensure economic prosperity in desert regions of Iran,” ISNA quoted Farid Javaherzadeh as saying on Saturday.

In present-day Iran, about three-quarters of the country is desert, so utilizing these areas is a tremendous opportunity for eco-

nommic growth and the livelihood of the people, which should be taken advantage of, and there should be serious consideration of tourism in the desert, he explained.

While tourism has the potential to preserve ecosystems, water resources, and even natural areas, in previous years, there was a neglect of the desert, while many areas of the country have little water or no water at all, and suffer greatly from limited resources, he added.

Many European citizens are very interested in desert tourism, as it is a natural ecosystem that many countries are lacking, so desert tourism can be an attractive field of tourism, he noted.

“Dunes, various species of animals, plant life, and the horizon found in a desert as well as changing climatic conditions have made the desert a tourist attraction worldwide.” ▶ Page 6

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Report



MPs shed light on future of Vienna talks

TEHRAN — Several MPs have expressed their dissatisfaction over the duplicity of the United States and the E3 (France, the UK, and Germany) in the Vienna talks, which have stalemated since March.

Since March European Union’s chief diplomat Josep Borrell and his deputy Enrique Mora, have been acting as intermediaries between Iran, the E3 and the U.S. to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Mora has been visiting Tehran twice since the talks in Vienna were suspended.

In an interview with ICANA news agency on Saturday, Mohammad Saleh Jokar, head of the Internal Affairs Committee of the parliament, recalled the double standards of the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), saying, “The trend of hypocrisy is quite evident in the international community. The director general of the Agency made some remarks during his visit to Tehran, but when he left Iran,” he started behaving differently.

He added that Rafael Grossi’s tone changed due to outside pressure, and the IAEA Board of Governors also prepared a report based on the forged evidence and false claims of the Israeli regime.

“Finally, we saw that the IAEA acted in line with U.S. policies in the international arena,” he noted.

The MP went on to say that the IAEA acts based on “what the Americans and Westerners dictate.”

The recent anti-Iran resolution of the Board of Governors also had a political aspect, Jokar continued, noting that the U.S. and E3 are looking to impose more pressure on Iran so that Tehran may back down from its demands in the negotiation table. ▶ Page 2

3 Iranian projects nominated for Aga Khan Award for Architecture

TEHRAN – Three Iranian buildings have been nominated for the 2022 Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) as the organizers have announced their shortlist.

Aban House, Argo Contemporary Art Museum and Cultural Center and Jadgal Elementary School are among 20 projects competing for a share of the \$1 million prize, one of the largest in architecture.

Aban House designed and implemented by USE Studio is a three-story residence arranged around three open courtyards on a narrow rectangular site in Isfahan’s historic center.

The ground-floor kitchen is the nucleus of the house; the living room is located on the first floor, and the bedrooms are on the upper floor; a terrace on the roof provides expansive views over the central Iranian city. ▶ Page 8

MPs shed light on future of Vienna talks

From page 1 ► “What is certain is that everyone should know that the United States of America has left the nuclear deal (JCPOA) and violated the agreement, so they themselves must heal this wound and compensate for the damage they have done to Iran,” Jokar said, noting that if the Americans are making excessive demands and do not “guarantee” the future of the agreement, it will not be acceptable to Iran.

The MP added that the Americans and the Westerners are looking for an “interim agreement” so that the next U.S. administration could violate it easily. “Due to this distrust, no foreign government will be willing to invest in Iran because foreign investors’ future is not guaranteed, so the guarantee of the future of the agreements must be given by the other side in the negotiations to resolve the issue,” Jokar remarked.

'Iran professional in its approach toward negotiations'

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, another prominent parliamentarian who serves as the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said Iran will most likely interact with the countries that have made their relations with Iran subject to a return to the JCPOA.

“The Islamic Republic knows the correct rule and the principled method of relations with the world and is compatible with any country. Tehran treats all countries according to the kind of behavior it sees.”

He added that friendship, reconciliation and fight have different rules.

“The Iranian nation has proved that it knows all these rules well and gives good lessons to countries that want to break the rules of the game,” the legislator emphasized.

The parliamentary committee spokesman said Iran is engaged in the negotiations to achieve its rights and release it frozen money.

“In some cases, we have achieved results and we will continue this path with different countries,” Abbaszadeh Meshkini emphasized.

Stressing that Iran is not dependent on any power, the parliamentarian noted, “While facing severe sanctions, we have a growing volume of economic exchanges with neighboring countries and we have a good economy and we are prominent in some areas in the region and most projects are actively running. I believe that what we have gained is much more than what we have lost.”

'IAEA resolution is undiplomatic'

Another legislator, Hossein Nooshabadi, pointed to the Iranian foreign minister's phone call with the UN Secretary General regarding the IAEA Board of Governors resolution, saying, “It was not logical to issue a resolution against Iran, and this action is considered undiplomatic.”



Stating that the resolution will make the Vienna negotiations more complex and the prospect gloomy, Nooshabadi underlined that Iran was and is determined to resolve international issues, including the nuclear issue, through diplomacy.

“Unfortunately, the issuance of the resolution was against the path of diplomacy and is in line with bringing the political and diplomatic efforts of the JCPOA signatories to a stalemate,” noted Nooshabadi, who sits on the Parliament National Security and Foreign policy Committee.

He then went on to say that Iran is the only country that “fully” cooperates with the IAEA.

“In any case, Iran still believes in dialogue, negotiation and finding political solutions to resolve existing issues and disputes, and we emphasize this,” he said, adding that the foreign minister also spoke with the UN Secretary General in line with Tehran's principled policy.

Responding to a question that after the census resolution was adopted diplomats from certain countries started consultation with Iran to continue the negotiations, Nooshabadi stated, “This kind of behavior is unprecedented and they are seeking to gain concessions through exercising pressure.”

With these behaviors, they try to distort the international mindset towards Iran, “but the world is aware of the peaceful actions of the Islamic Republic,”

he remarked.

“The world knows that Tehran is a pioneer in the negotiations, and it is the Western and American sides that do not let the work end and a desirable agreement would be reached,” the parliamentarian underlined.

Concluding his remarks, the MP noted that Iran has said from the beginning that it is looking for a “win-win” agreement to ensure the interests of the world and the region.

“We hope that the behavior of the negotiators will not jeopardize the fruitful nuclear deal which would bring peace and stability, as well as global security, because they are the founders of everything that happens in the world. Iran is not a belligerent and domineering country; we just want our rights to be respected in order for us to act within the international framework and norms.”

Tehran, saw a sabotage attack in June last year, which authorities blamed on Israel. The attack damaged surveillance cameras at the site.

In response to reports in Western media about construction activities near the Natanz nuclear site, Kamalvandi said the IAEA has been informed about it, even though Iran has no obligation to provide such information to the agency.

In a report on Thursday, the New York Times, citing unnamed Israeli and American intelligence officials, said Iran was digging a “vast tunnel network” south of the Natanz nuclear site.

The report said Biden administration officials have been following the construction of the new facility for more than a year, “but are not especially alarmed”.

Kamalvandi said Iran has no Safeguards obligation to inform the IAEA of its activities intended to promote passive defense capabilities in nuclear facilities and establish underground workshops to relocate some activities to new locations, but it has still notified the agency of all its measures.

He described Iran's actions as “fully transparent” and blasted the Israel-affiliated media for creating a false atmosphere around the country's peaceful nuclear program.

Vienna talks failure will mark decline of U.S., E3

TEHRAN — As diplomatic efforts to remove the unilateral sanctions on Iran is continuing, the attitude of the United States and E3 (France, UK, and Germany) seems to be more focused on bringing the Vienna talks to a failure.

What the U.S. and E3 fail to understand is that a failure of the Vienna talks will mark their decline, as they need a swift revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) more than ever.

With the lowest approval rating of all-time, and considering the prospect of wounded snake (Donald Trump) regaining power in 2024, the 79-year-old Joe Biden needs to be more agile in making decisions.

Considering the number of foreign policy failures that the Democratic Party has endured, to avoid another major crisis Democrats must show more flexibility than before.

The shameful withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, and the bad management of the Ukraine war have drawn a lot of criticism from both Democrats and Republicans, which have so far led to baffling the already disorganized Biden administration.

Meanwhile, Western analysts are trying to reverse the reality by portraying Iran's situation as devastating.

In a tweet posted on Saturday, Barbara Slavin, Director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, came up with a suggestion that Iran must swiftly sign a 27-page draft which is on the Vienna negotiation table, all ready to be signed.

“#Iran should immediately accept the 27-page draft for reviving the JCPOA to get its economy growing again. As the letter (by some economists to President Ebrahim Raisi) says, Iran needs balanced and active interaction with major economic powers ‘including restoring the JCPOA and removing FATF-imposed restrictions’ on banks,” Slavin wrote.

Well, there are many factual errors

in this single tweet. For one, there is no draft ready on the table in Vienna, as there are major differences between Iran and the U.S, hence they are exchanging messages on a daily basis. If there is a draft, why messages are constantly being exchanged?

An American journalist told the Tehran Times correspondent on the condition of anonymity that the United States has offered an initiative last week, and is awaiting Iran's response, a matter which was also confirmed by Iran's top negotiator's media advisor on Twitter last night. If there is a draft in Vienna, there was no need for the United States to offer new proposals.

In response to another tweet by Slavin on Friday which claimed that “there is an excellent 27 page draft that is only awaiting Iran's signature,” Mohammad Marandi, media advisor to Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's top negotiator, wrote, “They aren't telling you the truth. If there's a final text, why is the U.S. STILL giving new proposals? Differences remain & the U.S. can resolve them easily. They violated & tore up the deal, not Iran. They know they can no longer slow Iranian oil related exports. Iran is waiting.”

It seems the Western side has launched a disinformation media campaign with the aim of gaining more concessions inside the negotiation room. However, they must realize that this is a fruitless path and a grave mistake. The Westerners must allow the negotiations to be held between “diplomats,” not “journalists.”

If the United States and E3 are interested in a quick and desired conclusion of the Vienna talks, they must adjust a thing or two in order to lead the talks to a prosperous atmosphere.

For starters, their heavily unconstructive behavior in pushing for an anti-Iran resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors was a critical mistake, which should not be repeated again. The resolution,



although did not enforce anything on Iran, hampered all the hymns sang by Biden and his staff about their goodwill.

In his joint presser in Tehran with his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian highlighted that Tehran strongly believes in diplomacy is the best way to conclude the Vienna talks.

“We believe that negotiation and diplomacy are the best way to reach the end point of the agreement. We have taken important steps in recent months in the negotiations that my colleague Mr. Bagheri (Kani) had with Mr. Enrique Mora and the 4+1 countries in Vienna, as well as in the exchange of messages that took place between Iran and the United States during this period,” Iran's top diplomat noted.

Amir Abdollahian went on to say that in recent days, particularly last week, despite the continued exchange of indirect messages between Tehran and Washington and despite the progress that was made in the course of talks, all of a sudden, the American side submitted a resolution to the IAEA Board of Governors to put political pressure on Iran and to gain more concessions.

“Despite the fact that the American side informed us that this resolution was hollow, the very spirit of (issuing) the resolution made us warn the American side in doing so,” Amir Abdollahian noted.

“We put a new political package and a new initiative on the table, the American side accepted the initiative, but insisted on passing the resolution. As a result, we carried out these (reciprocal nuclear) measures by increasing our nuclear activities in areas that were announced, and implemented them through the Atomic Energy Organization (of Iran). These measures were officially noted to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency before the resolution was issued,” he

elaborated.

However, it is important to note that Iran has not, and will not escape from dialogue.

The second thing that the Americans and the Europeans need to adjust is their media wars. Spreading false data and launching disinformation campaign will only make the talks more complicated. The Vienna talks, which have now taken a second place for the Americans and the Europeans due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, are highly important for the West. A quick return to the deal will reconstruct the public opinion's image of Biden. However, it seems that he doesn't have any plans in the Vienna talks.

After a closed-door briefing in the Capitol Hill on Wednesday, the U.S. senators gave mixed signals. While some spoke of an American plan A and B, others said that Biden doesn't even have a plan A.

Senator Marco Rubio said after the briefing, “I don't think they have a plan B, certainly not one they've shown to us,” while Chris Van Hollen noted that the White House's plan B includes “lots of different elements” including a military option but “would likely result in a lot of Americans getting killed.”

Senator Ted Cruz, however, was the most pessimist of the bunch, describing the briefing as “quite concerning” and the Biden administration's policy an “absolute dumpster fire... they don't have a plan B, they don't have a plan A, they don't have any plan.”

Even Chris Murphy, a senator who has always encouraged the Biden administration to quickly conclude a deal in Vienna seemed disappointed, saying, “The chances of a breakthrough are much smaller today than they were six months ago.”

Indecision and lack of managerial and negotiations skill on the Americans side will have calamitous results for them. They just don't know, or don't want to know.

Tehran insists on commitment to encouraging regional dialogue

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's foreign minister, has reiterated that the Islamic Republic is committed to fostering good relations and communication among neighbors for the benefit of the whole region.

In a phone conversation with his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi late on Friday, Amir Abdollahian emphasized that regional states, not outsiders, should be free to decide on the fate of the region.

“Officials of regional countries should not allow foreign powers to affect regional cooperation and stability,” he noted.

He also praised Oman's efforts to build regional peace and stability, as well as its important role in regional developments.

Iran and Oman place a premium on expanding bilateral ties, according to Amir Abdollahian, who urged the two nations to follow through on commitments struck during Iranian President

Ebrahim Raisi's May visit to Muscat.

Iran and Oman inked 12 cooperation documents and memorandums of understanding for advancing cooperation in various fields during President Raisi's visit to the Persian Gulf sultanate.

Energy, politics, transportation, diplomacy, economy, tourism, sports, and the environment were among the disciplines in which documents were signed.

A scheduled visit by an Omani government delegation to Tehran was also welcomed by the senior Iranian diplomat, who stated that the two countries are committed to improving bilateral ties.

For his part, the Omani foreign minister emphasized the significance of carrying out the agreements reached during Raisi's visit to Muscat.

He noted that his government feels the new

Iranian administration is pursuing a positive approach centered on strengthening regional connections.

According to Albusaidi, the Omani government has created a working group tasked with pursuing bilateral agreements.

The restoration of the truce in Yemen was hailed by both parties as well.

President Raisi has emphasized the need for increasing trade and economic ties with Arab nations in the Persian Gulf since taking office in August. His government has struck important deals with Qatar, and trade delegates have just been deployed to the United Arab Emirates and Oman to explore ways for commercial relations.

According to Iranian customs data, commerce between Iran and Oman reached \$1.336 billion in the Persian calendar year 1400 that ended late March, showing a new high and a 53 percent rise over the previous year.

Iran says informed IAEA of Natanz construction work



TEHRAN – Iran has notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its plan to relocate the activities of the TESA complex in Karaj to the city of Natanz, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced late on Friday.

In an interview with Nour News, which is affiliated to the Supreme National Security Council, Behrouz Kamalvandi said the move was taken to intensify security measures around Iran's nuclear facilities.

Pointing to last year's sabotage at the TESA complex, Kamalvandi said the transfer of some of the activities to an area near the Natanz nuclear plant aims to prevent the recurrence of such attacks, Press TV reported.

The complex in Karaj, on the outskirts of

Ambassador seeks development of ties with Azerbaijan

TEHRAN— In a tweet posted late Friday, Iran's ambassador to Baku stated that he had met with the assistant to the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

“Today I had a cordial meeting with @HikmetHajiyev, the Hon. Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. At this meeting, we reviewed the latest developments in the relations between two brotherly neighbors. Further development and deepening of relations between Iran

and Azerbaijan is on the agenda,” Seyyed Abbas Mousavi wrote.

The meeting comes at a time when media misunderstandings between Tehran and Baku have been cleared up, and the two countries have focused on strengthening their ties.

On June 5, Iran inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Azerbaijan to double the amount of natural gas the country is going to swap with Turkmenistan, according to Shana.

The agreement between Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan on a natural gas swap for up to two billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas took effect as of January 1, 2022, and now Iran and Azerbaijan have agreed on doubling this volume.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji and Azerbaijan's Economy Minister Mikayil Chingiz Oghlu Jabbarov.

Oji visited Azerbaijan to attend the Baku Energy Week.

Baku Energy Week 2022 was

held during June 1-3 by Azerbaijan's Energy Ministry in collaboration with the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR).

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the visit to Azerbaijan, Oji underlined the expansion of relations with Azerbaijan, saying, “The gas swap contract [that the two countries have signed recently] has provided the ground for cooperation in other sectors including transportation, power, trade and such areas.”

Iran providing maritime security in cooperation with regional states: Navy chief

TEHRAN - There is no doubt that Iran will ensure the highest possible level of maritime security in cooperation with the countries of the region, the commander of the Iranian Navy has said, noting that there is no place for enemies in the region and there is no justification for insisting on their presence.

“Submarines have the highest level of technology, and today the naval force of the Islamic Republic's army is proud of having the highest level of technology in the subsurface field and uses that in practice,” Admiral Shahram Irani said on Friday on the sidelines of his visit to the 12th Exhibition of Maritime Industries and Navigation.

He added, “Having the highest level of modern technologies in the world is one of the requirements.... To achieve this goal, in addition to the ability of the sacrificing forces, we use without any restrictions the capabilities of knowledgeable companies in the relevant fields.”

Irani pointed out that the navy always uses all the country's capabilities to build its equipment, according to Al Alam.

“Today, this force is at a high level in terms of readiness and combat capability, and the capabilities of its basic sciences, training and vitality in the subsurface, surface and air fields have reached such an extent that major naval powers are conducting joint maneuvers with us today,” the admiral boasted.



He said, “Sea is a complex sector, and if a country conducts joint exercises and maneuvers with another country, it will undoubtedly accept its ability and capabilities.”

The commander went on to say that Iranians have always extended a hand of friendship to all and have always been and will always be supporters of peace and friendship.

“Enemies have no place in the region and there is no justification for insisting on their presence. We advise the enemies not to encroach, and we will undoubtedly work to ensure the highest possible level of maritime security and safety in cooperation with the countries of the region,” he remarked.

Regarding the 12th Exhibition for Maritime Industries and Navigation, the commander of the Army's Navy said, “Despite all the restrictions, a good exhibition was held, and its difference from previous exhibitions

is the response of those concerned to the directives of the Leader of the Revolution and giving the opportunity for knowledge-based companies to introduce their capabilities.”

The remarks came amid ongoing efforts to modernize Iran's naval capabilities. On Saturday, Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani unveiled plans to update and modernize Iran's naval fleet in proportion to regional threats, according to Tasnim.

He paid a visit to the coastal province of Hormozgan in southern Iran to observe the process of manufacturing the latest homegrown destroyers, military vessels and submarines.

Highlighting Iran's geopolitical position in the region and the strategic importance that the Persian Gulf has for the Islamic Republic, he said, “The Defense Ministry will update and furnish the naval fleet of

the Armed Forces proportional to the needs of the Armed Forces and the regional threats across all territorial waters.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the presence of aliens and the ultra-regional forces as the cause of insecurity in the region,” the defense minister added.

“Our message for the region and the world is peace and tranquility. On the other hand, we believe that regional peace and stability will be achievable with the presence and cooperation of all countries of the region,” the general stated.

Reaffirming the Defense Ministry's commitment to promoting defense power in all spheres, particularly the naval power, Brigadier General Ashtiani stressed that military forces would not hesitate about protecting the Iranian nation's interests and countering threats.

He also noted that the Navy's operational power is not confined to a specific region anymore, as the Iranian servicemen can have access to all high seas in any part of the world.

In a decree in August 2021, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei appointed Rear Admiral Irani as the Navy chief. At the times he stressed the need for “serious and decent efforts to exploit the capacities” of the Navy, Army and other military forces for “jihadi and revolutionary progress” of the Armed Forces, according to Tasnim.

West using terrorist groups as tool: professor

Frome Page 1 ► “He enjoys diplomatic immunity. His arrest in Germany and his 101-day detention in inappropriate conditions is a violation of international law, human rights, and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,” Gharibabadi, an advisor to the Judiciary chief, said, according to ISNA.

Assadi was arrested and put on trial on charges of trying to target the gathering of the Iranian opposition group Mojahedin-e Khalq, also known as the Hypocrites. But the history of the group has cast doubts over the legality and credibility of the Assadi trial. Many Iranians believe that the whole episode is a plot by the MEK to ramp up pressures on Iran.

Seyed Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a member of the Iranian Parliament, has said that the Assadi issue was a “pre-planned plot” aimed at increasing pressure on the Islamic Republic. In an interview with Mehr News, he said that the Assadi trial should be viewed in the contexts of MEK activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ghazizadeh Hashemi said MEK cooked up the story of Assadi to put maximum pressure on Iran with the purpose of forcing Iran into giving concessions in international relations.

Heibatollah Najandi Manesh, a professor of international law at Allameh Tabatabaiei,

is of a similar opinion. He said the issue of Assadi should not be looked at only from a legal perspective. Speaking to Mehr News, He described the detention of Assadi as a “very dangerous move” and said the United States is somehow involved in this case. Underling that MEK had long been blacklisted by the U.S. and the European Union, the professor said, “The main victims of these terrorist acts [by MEK] were neither European nor American citizens but happen to be Iranian citizens.”

Accordingly, Najandi Manesh said, Western countries should extradite the members of MEK to Iran so that justice be done. “Anyone who commits international crimes, including terrorist acts, must be tried and not go unpunished,” he said.

The professor said the West uses terrorist groups as a foreign policy tool. “Why in 2002, for example, when George W. Bush wanted to invade Iraq, did he say that Saddam Hussein provided safe haven to terrorists? Who was in Iraq at that time? I dare say that George W. Bush meant these Hypocrites, otherwise there would have been no other terrorist group in Iraq,” he said.

Najandi Manesh said Germany and Belgium have turned into a tool for MEK because they refused to take the legal measures set out in international law. He said they acted in bad

faith. “A Belgian court ruling is no different from a criminal act because they both break the law,” he said.

Earlier this month, Gharibabadi sent a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to protest the detention of Assadi. “Despite enjoying diplomatic immunity, he was unlawfully arrested in July 2018 in the State of Bavaria in Germany on his way back to his residence in Vienna. After 101 days in custody, Assadi was extradited to Belgium in October 2018 pursuant to an unlawful ruling issued by the Karlsruhe court, after which, the Antwerp criminal court illegally sentenced him to twenty years in jail irrespective of diplomatic immunity thereof by virtue of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. He is currently imprisoned in Belgium,” Gharibabadi said in the letter.

He added, “The Federal Republic of Germany is a signatory to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Membership of numerous international conventions on human rights and additional protocols as well as membership of the European Convention on Human Rights requires Germany to enforce provisions set forth therein. Nonetheless, the measures undertaken by the German Government amount to Berlin's flagrant violations of its international and human rights obligations vis-à-vis Assadi and his family.”

diverse capacities. He expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to increase trade volume with Armenia to \$1 billion a year.

Amir Abdollahian also referred to Iran's principled position to support the territorial integrity of the region and stressed the unchangeability of international borders and the need to respect the sovereignty of the regional countries.

Armenia ready to open consulate in Tabriz

TEHRAN - The Armenian Parliament speaker has said that his country is ready to open a consulate in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz.

Alen Simonyan, the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, who has traveled to Tehran at the invitation of the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly,

met with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Thursday evening.

Simonyan said the establishment of the consulate general of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Armenia's Syunik Province is a turning point in the relations between the two countries and announced Armenia's readiness to establish its consulate general

in Tabriz, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

In this meeting, Amir Abdollahian called Armenia “an important friend and neighbor of the Islamic Republic of Iran”. Citing high-level political relations between the two countries, Amir Abdollahian stressed the need to develop economic cooperation and take advantage of the two countries'

Iran's top Hajj official arrives in Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - Sadeq Hosseini, the head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, arrived in the Saudi holy city of Medina on Friday to closely oversee the executive procedures for Iranian pilgrims.

He was received at the airport by some officials of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrh and a group of directors of the Iranian Hajj Committee, Al Alam reported.

The head of the organization is scheduled to closely supervise the affairs and follow up on matters related to pilgrims.

This year, 39,600 Iranian pilgrims will perform Hajj. The first batch of Hajj pilgrims from Iran left the country on Sunday through Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport.

This year's Hajj comes after a two-year interruption brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also comes against a backdrop of diplomatic talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia that facilitated the Hajj for Iranian citizens.

After a two-year shutdown of the Hajj



pilgrimage due to the coronavirus pandemic, Iranian pilgrims began setting 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 pilgrims starting their journey to perform the 2022 Hajj pilgrimage, Ayatollah Khamenei met with a number of officials in charge of Hajj. He addressed a number of issues pertaining to Hajj and its rituals as well

as international relations.

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.”

SPORTS

Iran's Aminzadeh sweeps golds at 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships

Frome Page 1 ► It is the first of four Regional Championships in the 2022 Para powerlifting season followed by the Americas, Africa, and European Open Championships.

The competition is divided in to 10 weight classes each in men's women's categories. Athletes compete in a single weight class. The event will end with the men's, women's, and mixed team events.

Iran registered female athletes for the first time and powerlifters are on their journey towards Paris 2024.

Iran beaten by India at 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship

TEHRAN - Iran were defeated against India 83-78 in the 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship on Saturday.

Mohammad Amini scored 27 points for Iran and Harsh Dagar earned 25 points for India.

Iran will play the Philippines on Sunday for the seventh place.

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

Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon booked their place at the 2022 FIBA U17 Basketball World Cup which will be played from July 2-10 in Malaga, Spain.

Two Iranian athletes charged with doping offences

TEHRAN - Mohammadhadi Pourhosseini and Sadaf Beiranvand have been suspended for three years for violations of anti-doping rules.

Male powerlifter Pourhosseini has been banned for using the prohibited substance androstenediol, Iran's National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) announced.

He will be ineligible for competition for three years from May 7, 2022 to May 6, 2025.

Female Kurash athlete Beiranvand is also ineligible for three years from May 29, 2022 to May 28, 2025. She has been suspended for using the banned steroid norandrosterone.

Hosseinzadeh in ones to watch at Qatar World Cup

TEHRAN - Iranian winger Amir Hossein Hosseinzadeh is among ones to watch from all 32 teams at 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The Esteghlal star is one to watch for Iran at the World Cup after the 21-year-old's debut in March.

The midfielder forced his way into international recognition after offering eight goals from 30 Persian Gulf Pro League games with the Blues in 2021-22.

He represented Iran against Algeria in a friendly math held last week in Doha.

FIBA lauds Iran young star Mohammad Amini

TEHRAN - Mohammad Amini, 1.99M (6'6") shooting guard, is light off his feet, has long arms, and just seems to glide through the air every time he leaps for these jams, and it's become a joy to watch.

He is part of Iran U-16 team in the Asian Championship underway in Doha, Qatar.

For Amini, even though he's becoming more and more well-known as a high riser, he doesn't actively make it a focus to churn out these acrobatic maneuvers in each game. It just kind of happens, FIBA reported.

“I don't know, I just dunk in the game,” Amini said of his high-flying antics. “In the sequence, randomly, whatever comes to my mind in the situation. I never thought about a dunk contest and I won't rate myself, I just leave it to the people who watch the game.”

“I had a bigger brother three years older than me and I was following in any sports he was playing. We started with gymnastics first and then taekwondo, and then football and wrestling. At the end, we ended up playing basketball,” Amini said.

Born in 2005, Amini might have been a bit too young to have fully witnessed Iran's rise to Asia basketball dominance in its early stages. However, that means that throughout the entire childhoods of Amini and his teammates, they've only known about Iran being among the best in Asia.

“That was really good for me as a kid to watch this golden generation's achievements. Going in the tournaments and getting all of the championships. Going to the Olympic games and World Cups and all the things they did. That was really exciting as a kid to watch and it really motivated me to have that kind of experience.”

“Samad is the best example for me, the players in my age, because when we watched his games, it was more easy for us to understand,” said Amini. “The best thing about Samad was, for me as a role player, the competitiveness he had in the games.”

“He never gave up and he was a fighter. I was so excited about this kind of mentality he had and I was really inspired by him.”

“Whenever I see him or he has time to contact me, he gives me advice, which is really useful.”

“This is the biggest stage I've ever experienced, so I'm excited to be at this kind of competition and compete against these kind of teams,” he said.

The excitement is not reserved only for the players, but also the senior national team veterans that have been watching the games as fans of the youngsters like Arsalan Kazemi.

“Every few years we have a generation that comes up big in the youth championship and this team definitely have the potential,” said Kazemi. “I watched a few of their practices before they headed to the U16 Asian Championship and some of them have pure talent. They just need to put in work and will have a bright future.”

“The biggest honor any sportsman can have is to wear a jersey of their country,” said Amini. “I'm really enjoying this especially because of the big names that have worn this kind of jersey before me, so it's really exciting.”

Kazemi, one of those big names that have worn this jersey before Amini, had some final advice for the youngsters. “Keep grinding and push themselves because at this age, the sky is the limit.

In this tournament, just focus on the next game and try to get better every game as team and stay together.”

Over 600 companies participating in Iran Agrofood intl. exhibition

TEHRAN- The 29th International Exhibition of Food, Food Technology and Agriculture (Iran Agrofood 2022) is running at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from Friday until Monday.

The opening ceremony of the international event was participated by Hooman Razdar, the managing director of Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) on Friday.

Commodity groups of this exhibition include: food products, processing and related industries, equipment and technology of food industry, packaging equipment, machinery and related industries, agricultural machinery and related industries including irrigation machinery and equipment.

The exhibit is participated by 665 Iranian and foreign exhibitors from Germany, Italy,



Brazil, Belarus, Russia, Netherlands, India, Spain, Austria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Belgium, Turkey, Tunisia, Denmark, Switzerland, Oman, and France.

In addition, the pavilion of knowledge-based companies and startups by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund of the President Office is one of the features of this edition of Iran Agrofood Exhibition.

Tehran hosting 1st Iran-Croatia halal trade conference



TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) is hosting the first Iran-Croatia halal trade conference during June 18-20, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The event has been organized by the Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) which is a subsidiary of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

As reported, the opening ceremony of the conference was attended by senior officials from the two countries including ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, Chief Executive Officer of Croatia's Center for Halal Quality Certification Aldin Dugonjic, heads and members of the Croatia-Iran parliamentary friendship group and the Croatian friendship group in the Iranian parliament as well as a number of traders and businessmen active in the two countries' halal industries.

Speaking in the conference, Shafeie underlined the great capacities of Iran's halal industries, saying: "Iran is one of the top producers of halal commodities among the Islamic countries. Halal food has been one of the world's booming industries in recent years, and its market value is projected to reach about \$1 trillion by 2027."

"In 2020, Iran was the sixth largest producer of halal food among 73 Muslim

and non-Muslim countries," he added.

According to the official, undeniable role of the food industry in job creation and revenue generation has made this industry one of the most important contributors to the economic growth of many countries.

"Currently, the food sector in Iran is the third largest production industry after the refining and petrochemical and chemical industries," Shafeie said.

Given Iran's capacities and capabilities, it is possible to export Iranian foodstuff to various countries, including Southeast Europe with proper planning and investment, he stressed.

Dugonjic, for his part, emphasized the significant capacities of Iran and Balkan countries in the field of halal trade, and said: "Croatia produces about 7,000 halal products in 250 certified halal production centers and we can provide some of our products to the Iranian market."

He noted that another meeting will be held later in October which will be attended by the representatives of the two countries' private sectors to further discuss future cooperation.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, the capacities and potentials of the halal industries of Iran, Croatia, and other Southeast European countries will be discussed and explored in detail during this three-day conference.

Strategies for developing cooperation and trade exchanges with Croatia and also with other Southeast European countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro are also among the subjects explored in the event.

Annual GDP growth stands at 4.4%: CBI

TEHRAN- Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.4 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

According to the CBI, the figure was 3.9 percent excluding oil.

The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has previously put the country's GDP growth at 4.3 percent including oil, and at 3.5 percent excluding oil in the previous year.

As reported by the center, based on the fixed prices in the Iranian year 1390 (ended on March 19, 2012), the country's GDP stood at 7.569 quadrillion rials (about \$27.725 billion) including the oil sector, and at 6.511 quadrillion rials (about \$23.849 billion) excluding the oil sector in the past year, while the figures were 7.254 quadrillion rials (about \$26.571 billion) and 6.289 quadrillion rials (about \$23.036 billion), respectively, in 1399.

The SCI said that the agriculture sector



experienced a negative growth of 3.7 percent, while the industries and mines sector grew six percent, and the services sector's growth stood at 4.5 percent in the previous year.

According to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released on June 7, 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.

"Output in the Islamic Republic of Iran is expected to grow by 3.7 percent in 2022, boosted by the waning of the

Thermal power plants break new output record

From page 1 ► To this end, the ministry had put it on the agenda to increase the capacity of thermal power plants by 5,300 MW by the current Iranian calendar year's summer time peak consumption period (starting on June 22), of which more than 3,000 MW has been achieved so far.

Back in August 2021, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian announced that his ministry was planning to boost the country's power generation capacity by 35,000 MW over the next four years.

The mentioned figure would be achieved through the construction of the thermal power plants with 15,000 MW of capacity, and renewable power plants with the capacity of 10,000 MW by the public and private sectors, as well as the



construction of new power plants with 10,000 megawatts capacity by large industries.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant

decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry

has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

Constructing new units in the country's power plants and also building new power plants for major industries are among the mentioned programs that are being pursued seriously by the ministry in collaboration with other related government entities.

The Islamic Republic's total power generation capacity currently stands at about 85,500 gigawatts most of which is supplied by thermal power plants.

Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share of the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.

Iran, Russia take new steps to expand all-out ties

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) who traveled to Russia during June 15-17, to attend the 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, held talks with senior Russian officials on the sidelines of the mentioned event.

During his three-day stay in St. Petersburg, Alireza Peyman-Pak met with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, the country's Minister of Construction and Housing Irek Faizullin, Trade Minister of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Andrey Slepnev, as well as, Maxim Sokolov, former transport minister and head of the country's major automobile company Avtovaz.

Completing Iran's Rasht-Astara railway

In the meeting with Overchuk, the Russian official expressed his country's readiness for completing the Rasht-Astara railway in Iran in order to develop the north-south corridor.

"Russia is ready to build the 162-kilometer-long Rasht-Astara railway for Iran," he said.

Peyman-Pak for his part emphasized Russia's role in modernizing Iran's rail transport and shipping fleet in the Caspian Sea, as well as renovating the country's road fleet.

He suggested that Iran should join the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as an observer member.

Monetary issues, formation of a joint production working group, supply of industrial parts to Russian factories by Iranian

manufacturers, and creation of joint free zones in the north and south of Iran were also among the subjects discussed in this meeting.

Importing construction materials from Iran

The TPO head also met with Russia's Construction and Housing Minister Irek Faizullin and discussed potential areas for cooperation between the two countries.

In this meeting, Faizullin expressed Russia's willingness for importing construction materials from Iran. He also noted that his country is also considering the imports of power plant turbines from the Islamic Republic.

Signing a free trade agreement with EAEU by yearend

Attending an Iran-Russia business forum in St. Petersburg, Peyman-Pak stressed Iran's readiness for signing a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) by the end of the current year.

He also pointed to the holding of joint specialized exhibitions as an important measure that will lead to the development of trade relations between Iran and Russia and stressed the need for removing obstacles to monetary, banking, and trade exchanges.

"Both countries are facing harsh sanctions that have targeted the monetary and banking systems in the first place. The Islamic Republic of Iran has gained good experience through its long struggle against sanctions and has designed various ways to combat these



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (4th R)

sanctions," he said.

He proposed the formation of joint transport companies and joint ventures to renovate and modernize Iran's road, rail, and sea transport fleet, as well as accelerate the joint completion of the Rasht-Astara railway, which was welcomed by the Russian side.

The TPO head also attended a meeting with Andrey Slepnev, the minister in charge of trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), in which he emphasized Iran's complete readiness for the signing of a free trade agreement with the EAEU.

Peyman-Pak suggested that in addition to the cooperation between Iran's free industrial zones and the industrial parks of the EAEU member countries, the two sides should begin working on joint production of industrial goods.

Increasing rupee deposits, a prerequisite for boosting Iran-India trade: UCO Bank



Head of Iran-India Joint Chamber of Commerce Ebrahim Jamili (C) and Managing Director of UCO Bank Shri Soma Sankara Prasad (R) attend an ICCIMA meeting in Tehran On Saturday.

bank's performance as the intermediary in settling rupee-rial trade exchanges.

According to Ebrahim Jamili, the head of

the Iran-India Joint Chamber of Commerce, although India is claiming to be interested in increasing trade with Iran, the Indian government hasn't taken any practical steps in this regard.

UCO has been the major Indian banker that tackled the country's oil trade with Iran even during the sanctions.

Under the framework of the bank's settlement program, Indian oil importers deposit money at the rupee accounts of Iranian oil exporters maintained at the Kolkata-based bank and the Islamic Republic used that money for making payments to Indian exporters against letters of credit opened by Iranian private banks.

TEDPIX loses 16,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 16,632 points to 1,547 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 6.437 billion securities worth 41.626 trillion rials (about \$148.66 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 11,138 points, and the second market's index fell 36,729 points.

Back in October 2021, Head of Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi had outlined new strategies and programs for the country's stock market during his tenure, among which supporting investors, creating a transparent, efficient, and equitable market, as well as reducing inclusive risk based on the market's broad objectives can be mentioned.

Eshqi had stressed the use of modern technologies and mechanisms to increase

public access to market data as a major strategy in this regard.

According to the SEO head, another strategy would be amending the market's rules and regulations to increase justice and accountability, while strengthening the medium- and small-scale level financing through new mechanisms.

"Diversification and promotion of the capital market (in terms of market, tools, and institutions), increasing the transparency and quality of information published in the capital market, reforming business processes and increasing the efficiency of financial markets, development of financial institutions and de-monopolization, development and strengthening of technical infrastructure, facilitating and clarifying the issuance of licenses in the capital market and the development of the debt market and increasing its liquidity will also be pursued," Eshqi had explained.

Activists denounce Toronto Police Chief’s apology over discrimination

From page 1 ► The police data also shows people from West Asia, Latino, Asian and indigenous communities have faced disproportionate use-of-force and strip searches.

Revealing the never-before-seen statistics following many years of criticism, Toronto Police Chief James Ramer said “as an organization, we have not done enough to ensure that every person in our city receives fair and unbiased policing, and for this, as chief of police and on behalf of the service, I am sorry and I apologize unreservedly.”

Neil Price, the executive director of the non-profit consultancy Logical Outcomes also spoke out, telling local media it’s unsurprising that a police apology wouldn’t be met with open arms from members of the communities affected.

“The reason why you’re hearing this caution, this frustration, and this lack of interest quite frankly... is because the history is so dreadful, and we know that while we are looking at data and talking about apologies, people are dying,” he said.

The police data has been drawn from records of 949 use of force incidents and 7,114 strip searches over the course of 2020.

Black Canadians were the most likely to disproportionately have force used against them. This is despite Black people making up around ten percent of the city’s population that year but faced 22.6 percent of police enforcement, which also included arrests, provincial offenses tickets, cautions, and diversions.

Similarly, Black, Latino, East/Southeast Asian, and West Asian people were overrepresented by factors of 1.6 times, 1.5 times, 1.2 times, and 1.2 times, respectively, when it came to use of force.

Police also used more force against non-white groups in

comparison to white people, especially when it came to officers drawing their firearms.

In a statement, Moya Teklu the executive director of the Black Legal Action Centre said the police report simply confirms what Black people have known for decades.

“The police continue to fail to fulfill their purported mandate. They continue to fail to serve and protect Black people. And yet, year after year, all levels of government continue to pour money into police services,” Teklu said. “They do this instead of funding Black communities.”

“The solution is not to provide the police with more money for body scanners, or training,” she said.

“It is to de-task the police and to redirect funding into those services that will actually protect and serve and increase the public safety of Black people.”

Sam Tecle, an assistant professor at Toronto Metropolitan University, told Canadian news that given the statistics, it’s clear Toronto police isn’t providing a service, rather, it is a “force” in the lives of racialized groups.

He also says the police apology carries no weight saying that these communities have gotten similar statements at different points over the last 40 years.

“We cannot accept this apology as even a modicum of any kind of reform... I think what we can try is that we place external pressure on policing, and do not place faith that they will change and reform themselves.”

After Ramer’s apology, author and activist Desmond Cole told reporters that while the police chief said the force won’t tolerate overt acts of racism, that still leaves room for “the implicit, quiet, subtle, hard-to-prove kind that takes years of data and reporting and study to



even acknowledge.

“But while an apology is a welcome first step, it is just noise unless it is backed by sustained, concrete, and systematic actions to dismantle the police service’s failed strategies and institute new approaches free from embedded racism,” he added.

Quite astonishingly, following the apology, fresh revelations hit the police force after a survey among Toronto police officers found 28 percent of female police respondents said they experienced sexual harassment in the workplace.

Participants also expressed concern that a culture of protection within senior leadership was exacerbated by a lack of diversity.

“Senior leadership was described as ‘white and male-dominated,’ with leaders promoting others who ‘look like them,’ reinforcing these same issues.”

This comes as a new report suggests that while there was widespread awareness of the rise in hate crimes against people of Asian descent, little was known about how COVID-19 affected their sense of safety and belonging in their communities, particularly in Canada.

A team at Dalhousie University, Halifax found that many Asian Canadians experienced outright racism or felt unsafe and unsettled during the pandemic because of the unexpected and unpredictable nature of discrimination, leaving many stressed and exhausted.

“I was disappointed but unsurprised by what we found,” says Josh Ng-Kamstra, a trauma surgeon, intensivist, and health services researcher in the School of Health Administration.

“The study was conceived at a time when the racist rhetoric about the virus coming from

U.S. political leadership was saturating the Canadian news cycle. Unfortunately, we discovered that such messages found resonance in Canada. Every single one of our participants witnessed or directly experienced discrimination during the pandemic.”

Meanwhile, research conducted by the Sharing Halal campaign, which hopes to educate and address Islamophobia in the country has revealed one in four Canadians “do not trust people belonging to the Muslim faith group,”

Sarah Ketty spearheads Sharing Halal, and she hopes a conversation on Islamophobia will give Muslim Canadians a chance to address the discrimination they have faced.

“These findings identify a significant opportunity to enhance understanding and compassion for the Muslim community in Canada,” Ketty says.

Hasan Alam is the community liaison for the Islamophobia Legal Assistance Hotline and says although the survey is disheartening, he is not surprised.

“Well, I think it stems from Canada’s history of white supremacy, it’s not just the Muslim community that faces racism in the form of Islamophobia historically, communities of color have always faced prejudice and discrimination in Canada, starting with the Indigenous stewards of these lands right from the very creation of Canada,” Asam said.

Canada has been rocked by a series of racial scandals recently that have alarmed the international community. The discovery of mass graves for indigenous children who were tortured to death in what a national commission said amounted to the cultural genocide of 150,000 native children has made the most disturbing headline around the world.

Although China’s two initial aircraft carriers increased its naval power, their capability was still far behind the US, which has a total of 11 of the vessels in service.

In addition, both the Liaoning and the Shandong were based on outdated Soviet technology. Those two carriers used the ski-jump launching system, where planes would simply take off from a slight ramp, while US carriers use a more advanced catapult system to launch their aircraft.

Aircraft launched by catapults can get airborne quicker and with greater quantities of fuel and ammunition, giving them an advantage over planes launched by ski jump, which rely on their own power when lifting off.

However, despite the advanced launch system, CSIS’ Funairole said there are still signs the Chinese carrier lags behind its US counterparts, which have more catapults, a larger airway and more elevators to allow for quicker deployment of aircraft.

All US aircraft carriers are also nuclear-powered, while the Fujian is believed to run on conventional steam propulsion, which Funairole said would limit its reach. “(Although) this may be less of a factor for China right now as many of its interests are in the near seas,” he said.

Following its launch, the Fujian will need to be tested and fully outfitted before it is fit to be commissioned and officially enter service.

Initially the US Department of Defense had estimated the carrier to be ready for active service by 2023, but it has now pushed that date back to 2024.

The Shandong aircraft carrier also took two years from launching in 2017 to when it finally entered service in 2019. Moreover, the Fujian could struggle to operate the electromagnetic launching technology for its catapults.

Even the US has had difficulty utilizing the same system on its latest carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, leading to lengthy deployment delays.

Russia puts the gas squeeze on France and Italy

Russia’s Gazprom has cut gas deliveries to France and Italy, just days after their leaders were in Kyiv to formally back Ukraine’s bid to join the EU, politico reported.

That’s raising alarm that a slowdown in deliveries could derail EU efforts to build up supplies ahead of next winter and protect the bloc from Russian energy blackmail.

France’s gas network operator GRTgaz said Friday it hasn’t received any Russian gas via Germany since Wednesday; Italy’s state energy company Eni said it would only receive half its requested shipments on Friday, the third day of a shortfall in deliveries.

Germany reported a sharp reduction in supplies through the undersea Nord Stream pipeline on Wednesday, with Gazprom saying flows were at 67 million cubic meters per day instead of 167 million cubic meters.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was in Kyiv on Thursday alongside France’s Emmanuel Macron and Italy’s Mario Draghi to show support for Ukraine.

Italy gets around 40 percent of its gas from Russia, while Germany gets a third. France, with access to liquefied natural gas import terminals, gets about a fifth of its supply from Russia.

Gazprom blamed the lower flows on maintenance work on pipeline compressor stations and Canada’s reluctance to send back crucial equipment because of sanctions levied against Russia for invading Ukraine. But Germany’s Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck dismissed that explanation and labeled the reduction a “political decision.”

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said: “We and Germany and others believe that these are lies.”

Russia is warning that the gas squeeze could get even worse.

“I do not rule out that there will be serious problems in the European market this year, especially in terms of passing the fall and winter period,” Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said Friday, according to Interfax.

In recent weeks Russia’s gas export monopoly Gazprom has cut off gas deliveries to Poland, Bulgaria, Finland, the Netherlands and Denmark after companies in those countries refused Kremlin demands to pay in rubles.

Novak said that 90 percent to 95 percent of Russia’s remaining foreign customers have agreed to the ruble payment scheme, but now Russia is turning off the taps even to them.

Lower gas flows could wreak havoc on EU plans to rapidly build up gas storage ahead of the winter heating season. The EU has agreed to a mandatory target of filling storage to 80 percent by November 1 — aimed at allowing the bloc to ride out a complete shut-off of Russian deliveries and part of the wider program of ending the EU’s dependence on Russian energy.

2 killed, 7 injured in attack on Sikh temple in Afghanistan

Bomb blast, gunfire target temple in capital Kabul’s Karte Parwan region, Sikh worshipper, Taliban member killed

At least two people were killed and seven others injured when a Sikh temple in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul was hit by a bomb blast and gunfire on Saturday, an Afghan official said.

The attack targeted the temple in the Karte Parwan region early in the morning, said Abdul Nafi Takor, a spokesperson for the Interior Ministry of the interim Taliban government.

The attackers were neutralized, he said, adding a Sikh worshipper and a Taliban member lost their lives in the attack.

The temple partially burned due to the attack and some houses around the temple were damaged, said the spokesperson.

According to eyewitnesses, the attack took place during a ceremony at the temple.

Taliban forces have blocked all the streets leading to the temple after the assault.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

In 2020, 25 people were killed in an armed attack on a Sikh temple in the Shor Bazar neighborhood of Kabul, for which Daesh, or ISIS, later claimed responsibility.

Small Sikh and Hindu communities are still living in Kabul. Afghanistan has a population of



French President Emmanuel Macron, center; German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, right, and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi travel on board a train bound to Kyiv after departing from Poland, June 16, 2022 (Ludovic Marin, Pool via AP)

The overall level of European gas storage is 52 percent, GRTgaz said. Germany’s gas storage is about 55 percent full, Italy’s is at 52 percent and French storage is at 56 percent, while other countries like Poland say theirs are 95 percent full.

“The pressure point is this winter. [Russian President Vladimir] Putin knows this. He will have max leverage now. Hence Russia is cutting deliveries,” Tim Ash, an analyst at BlueBay Asset Management, said in an emailed research note on Friday.

The slowdown in deliveries is causing prices to spike; they were above €125 per megawatt hour on the benchmark Dutch TTF hub on Friday, compared to €100 on Wednesday and €60 at the beginning of the year.

EU countries are also scrambling to find other suppliers.

France’s GRTgaz said that flows through pipelines connecting to Spain had greatly increased in response to the Russia cut-off. LNG deliveries are also up 66 percent in the first five months of this year compared to the same period in 2021, it said.

However, the company warned that LNG import terminals were now “close to their technical maximum,” which could put a ceiling on efforts to import more liquid gas shipments until capacity expansions are completed in the coming years.

If Russian deliveries aren’t reactivated and Europe experiences a frosty winter then GRTgaz said it would be forced to issue a national alert encouraging reduced gas consumption.

Germany is already calling on people to use less gas, with Habeck calling it, “the order of the day.”

Russia’s Novak told national TV on Friday that Russia would be willing to supply the up to 45 billion cubic meters of gas that European countries would need to bolster their gas storage reserves to 80 percent — but there are strings attached.

“We’re ready to cover in full gas supplies,” Novak told Rossiya-1. “But of course, it’s necessary to create economic conditions and not close supplies politically.”

China launches third, most advanced aircraft carrier named ‘Fujian’

China on Friday launched its third and most advanced aircraft carrier from Shanghai’s Jiangnan Shipyard, with new combat systems that experts say are fast catching up with the United States.

Named “Fujian,” the ship is China’s first domestically designed and built catapult aircraft carrier, state-run news agency Xinhua reported.

Its electromagnetic catapult-assisted launch system is a major upgrade from the less advanced ski jump-style system used on the Liaoning and the Shandong, its two predecessors, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based think tank.

The new system, similar to the ones used by US aircraft carriers, will allow China to launch a wider variety of aircraft from the Fujian faster and with more ammunition, according to CNN.

In addition to the launch system, the Fujian is equipped with blocking devices, and a full-load displacement of more than 80,000 tons, Xinhua reported, adding that the ship will carry out mooring tests and navigation tests after the launch.

Matthew Funairole, senior fellow at the CSIS’s China Project, told CNN previously that the new ship would be the Chinese military’s first modern aircraft carrier.

“This is a pretty significant step forward,” he said. “They’ve really committed to building out a carrier program, and they continue to push the boundaries of what they’re able to do.”

China names its aircraft carriers after its coastal provinces, with Liaoning in the northeast and Shandong in the east. Fujian, in the southeast, is the closest province to Taiwan, separated by a strait that is fewer than 80 miles (128 kilometers) wide at its narrowest point.

China’s ruling Communist Party claims sovereignty over the self-ruling democracy of Taiwan, despite having never governed it. Chinese leader Xi Jinping has repeatedly said



that “reunification” between China and Taiwan is inevitable and refused to rule out the use of force.

China now wields the largest naval force in the world, and aircraft carriers are the core vessels of any major power’s fleet. The massive ships are essentially a mobile airbase, allowing for the rapid, long-term deployment of aircraft and weaponry to a combat theater.

China’s naval buildup comes amid growing geopolitical tensions with the US, which under President Joe Biden is seeking to strengthen ties with allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region to counter Beijing’s growing economic influence and military might.

Last year, Beijing bristled at a security pact between the US, the UK and Australia named AUKUS, an agreement by which the three nations would exchange military information and technology to form a closer defense partnership in Asia. The naval exercises attended by members of the resuscitated informal dialogue between the US, Japan, Australia and India,

Naval rivalry
China’s first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, was an unfinished Soviet-era vessel that Beijing bought from Ukraine in 1998, updated and finally commissioned in 2012.

Annual handicraft exports fetches Golestan \$1.1m



TEHRAN – Handicrafts products worth some \$11 million were exported from the northern province of Golestan during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended March 21), CHTN reported on Saturday.

The products include kilims, carpets, jajim (a kind of handwoven rug), traditional textile, traditional embroidery, pottery, and woodworks, the report added.

During the time mentioned, the National Seal of Excellence was also given to 25 works handcrafted by native artisans.

Some 184 billion rials (\$614,000) was also paid to the craftspeople across the province in loans to develop and support the handicrafts sector during the mentioned period.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous. Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. For instance, Shiraz is named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”, Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the title of a “world city of filigree”.

Moveable properties in Bushehr approved as national heritage



TEHRAN –A selection of six historical objects being kept in Bushehr province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Saturday in separate letters to the governor-general of the southwestern province, CHTN reported.

Clay flask, stone inscription, and a gravestone were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

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

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts suggests the value of Iran’s handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country’s handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

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

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr is one of Iran’s most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

was allocated to the restoration project, the provincial tourism chief said during the opening ceremony on Friday.

Art galleries and handicrafts exhibits are planned to be set up inside the historical structure, Hadi Shahverdi added.

The garden and the mansion in it are from the Zand dynasty (1750–79). The trees in this garden mainly include pine, poplar, and fruit trees such as apricots and barberry.

In 2011, a selection of nine Iranian gardens, which bear important

Tourism key to economic prosperity in desert areas, expert says

From page 1 ► Even in famous historical travelogues, there are sections about desert and desert tourism in the countries of the region, especially countries on the Silk Road, he stated.

Although there are many hardships of desert tourism, many tourists cross these deserts, making adventure trips for themselves as the geographical and climatic features of the desert have made it a sustainable ecosystem and a tourist center, he mentioned.

“However, to prevent tourists from damaging the environment, studies should be performed and indicators and criteria established so as not to damage ecotourism sites.”

Activities in this tourism branch can be hiking, camel riding, nature therapy, sun therapy, sand therapy, nature meditation, cycling, motorcycling, rally, sand skiing, hang gliding, and observing the desert sky at night, he concluded.

Central Iran is home to vast deserts known worldwide, of which UNESCO-registered Lut, Rig-e Jenn, and Maranjab deserts are more famous.

The Lut Desert, widely referred to

as Dasht-e Lut (“Emptiness Plain”), is a large salt desert encircled by the provinces of Kerman and Sistan-Baluchestan, and South Khorasan. It is the world’s 27th-largest desert and was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List on July 17, 2016.

The vast desert is teemed with giant dunes, shifting sands, salt plains, and wind-hewn kaluts, offering visitors epic journeys of breathtaking beauty and wilderness. It is a destination for people who are in search of new adventures; outstanding scenery and unparalleled serenity.

It is considered one of the top areas in the world for finding meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant finds have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams of researchers. Seven years of satellite temperature data analyzed by NASA show that the Lut Desert is the hottest spot on Earth. Based on the research, it was the hottest during 5 of the 7 years and had the highest temperature overall: 70.7°C in 2005.

Rig-e Jenn (“Dune of the Jinn”) is a barren and desolate place



dominated by enormous sand dunes that defy avid skillful sightseers, adventurers, and motorists driving 4WD vehicles.

Rig-e Jenn is in fact home to giant sand dunes, and vast swamps that could pose a serious challenge even to passionate trekkers with arduous hikes and scarcity of water.

It is situated in a border area between Semnan and Isfahan provinces. In another world, it is part of Dasht-e Kavir (the central desert of Iran). The bizarre desert can be reached after hours first on asphalt roads, and then for some hours through uninhabited terrain.

Rig-e Jenn assumed its name from whom believed that it was haunted by spirits and the devil. This say-so was strengthened by, or probably originated from the fact that perhaps many had entered the desert and never returned.

Narratives say that even caravans used to skip passing through Rig-e Jenn, believing it to be a place where evil spirits and “jinn” dwell. A “jinn” is a spirit in Islamic culture and Rig-e Jenn was once (and in some places still) believed to accommodate evil spirits.

Popular for off-roading,

Maranjab is one of the most popular deserts in Iran situated about 60 Km from Kashan in a northeast direction.

The desert is surrounded by a salt lake from the north, Band-e Rig Desert and National Park from the east, Masileh Desert, Hoz-e sultan and Moreh Lakes from the west and eventually Aran-Bidgol from the south.

Shah Abbasi Caravanseraï of Maranjab is one of the landmarks of this stunning desert. This structure was built in 1012 AH by the order of Shah Abbas, the Safavid monarch, along the Silk Road so that the passengers, most of whom traveled through deserts, would spend nights in this roadside inn.

A well is located five kilometers east of the caravanseraï and stores fresh and drinkable water. The reason for the purity of the water is the layers of sand that absorb the salt and purifies the water.

Although it has a harsh environment, visitors may find plenty of salt-friendly plants on the margins of the tranquil desert. Besides, it is home to some the desert birds and reptiles like eagles, snakes, and lizards.

Parts of Safavid-era public bathhouse undergo restoration



TEHRAN –Hammam-e Khiruz, a Safavid-era (1501-1736) public bathhouse in Ferdows, South Khorasan province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a local tourism official has said.

The project involves repairing the damaged parts and strengthening the structure, Aqdas Karampur explained on Saturday.

The historical structure, which has been repurposed into an anthropology museum,

has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Bathhouses or ‘hammams’ in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

There were also male and female public bathhouses; at daybreak, a longhorn (booq-e javaz) was blown to announce that the bath was ready. Men came to the baths from

daybreak till the afternoon. Women could use the bathhouses from then to sunset. In some cases, five days were allocated to men and two days to women.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past time.

South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert. It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

The province is an explorer’s delight – lots to discover yet barely another visitor to be found, even at the most important sights (despite a decent infrastructure of recently paved roads).

There’s also a wealth of old mud villages that seem to have been left almost complete as though to tempt archaeologists.

Tehran to launch historical properties data bank

TEHRAN –A data bank will be established on the historical properties across the Iranian capital, an official with Tehran Municipality has said.

“Tehran Municipality plans to launch a data bank on mansions, garden museums, and other historical properties of the city,” ISNA quoted Mohammad Moayyedi as saying on Saturday.

More than 600 aging structures and old buildings can be found in Tehran, some of which belong to the tourism ministry, while others are privately owned, the official added.



The data bank could contribute to better preservation and protection of the properties, he noted.

The first time Tehran is

mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Rey.

Rey, in which signs of

the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of “The Persian Garden.”

The genuine concept of the Persian Garden that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions.

According to UNESCO, the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired

and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

For millennia, Iranian gardens have combined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth. UNESCO describes the Persian Garden as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

Historical garden in Birjand reopens doors to public

TEHRAN – Following a full restoration, the historical garden of Rahimabad in Birjand, South Khorasan province, has been reopened to the public, CHTN reported on Saturday.

A budget of 25 billion rials (\$84,000)



architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, were collectively inscribed on

Iran to attend IFRC General Assembly

TEHRAN – A delegation headed by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) chief, Pir Hossein Kolivand, will attend the 23rd session of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland from June 19 to 21, IRIB reported on Friday.

Members are gathering to explore the ways in which the world's largest humanitarian network can scale up efforts to tackle the most pressing humanitarian issues confronting the world today.

This year's theme is 'local action, global reach'—with members discussing themes such as trust and integrity, localization, volunteering, and investing in National Societies.

Elections are being held for the IFRC President, Vice-Presidents, and Governing Board members for the next four-year term.

The IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian network. It supports local Red Cross and Red Crescent action in more than 192 countries, bringing together almost 15 million volunteers for the good of humanity.

The IRCS, established in 1922, is one of the first and oldest members of the movement and is currently one of the top five societies in the world due to its significant activities in the national and international arenas.

In 2005, the IRCS received the Henry Davison Award for outstanding humanitarian services, and the IRCS initiative of volunteers was select-



ed as the best project (out of 50 projects from 45 national societies), by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In addition to offering services to the victims of natural disasters in the country, it has taken numerous missions in international disasters and incidents helping the people of Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Southeast Asia earthquakes, Lebanon, Gaza, Somalia, and Yemen.

IFRC praises IRCS

In May, IFRC head Francesco Rocca said the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has done its best in providing support to refugees despite U.S. sanctions and international pressures.

Rocca made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and the director-gen-

eral of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Robert Mardini.

"We are well aware that the Government of the Islamic Republic, despite sanctions and political pressures, has never stopped supporting the Red Crescent Society and is one of the few governments that has always had the full support of the Society," Rocca stated.

Expanding cooperation with the IRCS is one of the policies and priorities of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and today we proudly announce that Iran, as the educational hub of this international organization, is transferring its experiences to other countries and aid workers worldwide, he highlighted.

Mardini appreciating the actions of the Islamic Republic in helping the displaced and war

victims in the region despite international sanctions and pressures stressed that "We will not allow sanctions to hinder the provision of services and cooperation between the IRCS and the ICRC, and we will announce complaint wherever necessary."

IFRC head Francesco Rocca: The Iranian Red Crescent Society has done its best in providing support to refugees despite U.S. sanctions and international pressures.

Iranian knowledge-based products hit markets in 70 countries

From page 1 ► In some markets, they have been able to overtake European and American companies, he emphasized.

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP, he also said.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard, the Iranian houses of innovation have been set up in several countries to develop the global market for knowledge-based products.

These centers have already been set up in countries such as Russia, Turkey, China, Syria, Kenya, Armenia, and Iraq.

Knowledge-based companies

Due to the necessity of Iran's presence in the global technology markets and the high capability of knowledge-based and creative companies, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology stepped into the field to pave the way for its presence in the global market.

To this end, it has developed and implemented programs, policies, and support packages related to the development of export, planning to attract foreign investment, eliciting the participation of Iranians abroad, and connecting domestic capabilities to the global market are among the actions taken in this regard.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating".

A plan for strengthening knowledge-based companies is on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.



The Leader has called on all Iranians, including citizens and government officials, to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund, stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

Summer school for Afghans to be launched in Sistan-Baluchestan University

TEHRAN – Sistan-Baluchestan University will host the first international summer school for Afghan students and scholars, IRNA reported on Saturday.

In collaboration with the Scientific Association for Peace Studies of Iran, the University of Sistan and Baluchestan is holding the first international summer school for Afghan students and scholars for more than four months as part of the "Heart of Asia" international program.

In 2011, an initiative of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey was officially launched at a conference hosted by Turkey in Istanbul.

Since then, Afghanistan supported by fourteen Participating Countries of the Heart of Asia Region and 16 Supporting Countries beyond the region as well as 12 Regional and International Organizations is leading and coordinating this Process.

The Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process aims at promoting and strengthening peace, security, stability, and prosperity in Afghanistan and in the region through confidence building and enhancing regional cooperation among 15 countries of the Heart of Asia Region.

A detailed program called International Summer School for Afghan Students and Researchers (whether living in Afghanistan, Iran, or other parts of the world) has been prepared.

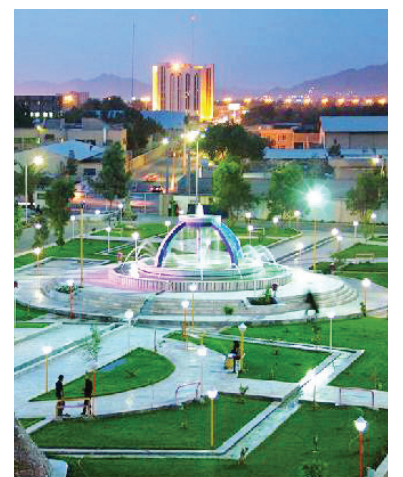
This summer school will be opened for the first time with the presence of 43 prominent professors from both Iran and Afghanistan in more than 260 hours of online education and in the form of 9 specialized topics in the field of humanities and social sciences from June 21 to October 28.

Afghans account for 25% of foreign students in Iran

In April, Mohammad Javad Salmanpour, the deputy head of the Organization for Student Affairs, said twenty-five percent of the foreign students studying in Iranian universities are Afghan nationals.

Afghan students attend Iranian universities in three ways; some enter the university by participating in the national entrance exam of Iran, and some others receive admission from universities that have non-Iranian student licenses. The third group also attended the country's universities through scholarships, he explained.

Many of the Afghan students are studying master's and Ph.D. courses



es in Iranian universities, he added, IRNA reported.


Currently, foreign nationals constitute 1.64 percent of the country's student population, which is about 0.14 percent higher than the goal set by the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021).

According to the plan, some 1.5 percent of the population of university students in the country should be non-Iranian, however, the figure stood at 1.64 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020-March 2021), Afshin Akhoundzadeh, an official at the Organization for Student Affairs, said, IRNA reported in May 2021.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 18

New cases	74	Total deaths	141,363	Total recovered patients	7,060,283
New deaths	2	New hospitalized patients	32	Diagnostic tests conducted	52,500,860
Total cases	7,234,597	Patients in critical condition	305	Doses of vaccine injected	150,207,700

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING
INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1401/108-23 /03
Renewal

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :
Broadcasting JAME JAM 2 TV Channel on Galaxy 19 satellite 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 **Monday 20 June 2022 (1401/03/30) 09:00 a.m** until **Wednesday 22 June 2022 (1401/04/01)** 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 33490 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 10985000000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivery Tender Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes in a master envelope and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Saturday 30 July 2022 (1401/05/08)** 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 30 July 2022 (1401/05/08) 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 31 July 2022 at 05:00 p.m (1401/05/09)** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of 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

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JUNE 19, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

To render relief to the distressed and to help the oppressed make amends for great sins.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:06 Evening: 20:44 Dawn: 4:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:49 (tomorrow)

Jamshid in Persian literature

Part 2

Since Yima is said to be like the sun to look at among men and his life is immortal and “sun-filled” (xanuuant), xshaeta would seem to refer to the color of the sun (golden or reddish).

It could then be the same term that is used to denote the color of horses, as in the proper name shedasp, the name of Jamshid’s grandson (son of Tur) in the Garshasb/Garshasp-nama.

The Indian Yama and Iranian Yima are both the sons of a solar figure, Old Ind. Vivasvant, Av. Viuuanhant, “the one who shines far and wide” (Gathic genitive Viuuan-husho from Viuuanhah-, cf. Old Ind. vi-vas-, present stem vi-ucha-, Av. vi.usa- “light up, shine far and wide”).

The Old Indic verb is commonly used of dawn and the Avestan verb in the description of dawn on the third morning after death (Oritia xshapo vi.usaiti “as the third night turns into bright [dawn]”.

Yima possessed the divine Fortune in the highest degree (xarenanhastema) among those born, like Zarathustra and like Mitra, Ahura Mazda, and his Word, among gods.

The Muslim authors routinely state that shid means “shine, radiance, some comparing khorshid. Ebn al-Asir adds that jam means “moon” (jam-shid means “brightness of the moon” [sho’a al-qamar] versus khor-shid “brightness of the sun” [sho’a al-shams]).

Friedrich Carl Andreas and Walter B. Henning suggested that the word meant “ruler” (xwarshed “sun-lord”; presumably from xshay- “rule”), but the evidence is slim and complicated by Sogdian axshed “ruler” (Manichean sman/ Bayan axshed “ruler of the heavens/ the gods”), also mentioned by Muslim authors as a title of the rulers of Sogdiana.

In the Kushan empire, Yam-shed achieved divine status and appears as the god lamsho on coins and in personal names, such as lamsho-lado “given by Yamsho”. François Grenet suggests -sho may be a byform of shao “king” (or could it be an abbreviation for Yam-shid?). In the coin representations, lamsho holds a bird, which has been identified as the Avestan Vareyna.

Yima and the heroes of origins: In Yasna, the praise-hymn to Haoma, Haoma tells Zarathustra that the births of the four most important human beings in history were gifts given as rewards when their fathers pressed the haoma for the benefit of the world of the living: Viuuanhvant begot Yima (who made the world immortal); Atbiia (Mid. Pers. Aspi, New Pers. Abtin) got Oraetaona (Mid. Pers. Fredon), who overcame and chained Azhi Dahaka to Mount Damavand; Orita of the Samas begot Keresaspa (New Pers. Garshasp), who will kill Azhi Dahaka (New Pers. Zahhak) at the end of time; and Pourushaspa begot Zarathustra, who will initiate the return to the state of immortality.

In the Avesta, these heroes are only four in a relatively stable list of hero-sacrificers who sacrifice to various deities in order to be permitted to fulfill specific functions in upholding the cosmic order.

The first three in the sequence are Haoshiianha (Mid. Pers. Hoshang, New Pers. Hushang), Taxma Urupi (Mid. Pers. Tahmoraf, New Pers. Tahmuras), and Yima, who all three fight evil in their own ways.

Yima is followed by Azhi Dahaka, the giant dragon who wishes to do evil, but is overcome by Oraetaona. Last in the sequence is a succession of kauuis, which concludes with Kauui Vishtaspa, who is associated with Zarathustra.

Each of the heroes sacrifices in different locations: Haoshiianha on the skirts or top of Mount Hara and Yima from High Hukairiia, the high peak of Mount Hara, via which the Heavenly River comes down at Ahura Mazda’s request.

In the later tradition, the list has become a chronological sequence of two dynasties. The first is that of the (Mid. Pers.) Peshdadis, or Peshdadids, named after Haoshiianha’s standing epithet paradata “established before (others);” Mid. Pers. pesh-dad, but is expanded to include Gayomart/d as its first member (Av. Gaiio Mareta, New Pers. Gayumars, the first to listen to Ahura Mazda).

The second is that of the Kavis, or Kayanids, named after the title kauui (Mid. and New Pers. kay), which must originally have referred to poet-sacrificers with special powers (cf. OInd. kavi).

The Avesta does not suggest any family relationships between the heroes, but, in the Middle and New Persian epic tradition, they have become members of royal dynasties, and Jamshid has become Tahmoraf/Tahmuras’s brother (Bundahishn; brother or brother’s brother, e.g., in Banakati). There is also no explicit link between Yima and Azhi Dahaka in the Avesta.

In the Middle Persian literature, we find several examples that Jam(shed) was considered to be linked with Zarathustra (the first and last of the four born as a result of their fathers’ haoma sacrifices).

In the Denkard, Zarathustra is said to be of human lineage (tohmag) through Jam and of the lineage of the Life-giving Immortals through Neryosang. Zadspram, remarkably, states that Zarathustra’s lineage connects him back to Ohrmazd himself.

According to Zadspram, Zarathustra was descended from Neryosang through Porushasp and from Fredon son of Aspiy through Porushasp’s mother Wezag and from Jam through the Aspiyan family.

Another passage of the Denkard, however, appears to say that Zarathustra’s luminosity made him resemble Jam’s lineage. The Bundahishn also records that Porushasp was descended from Manushchihir, a tradition found later as well.

Yima and the golden age: In Videvdad, Zarathustra asks Ahura Mazda who he spoke with first among mortals, upon which Ahura Mazda tells Zarathustra the story of Yima.

He originally offered Yima the task of carrying (forth) and memorizing (for practicing and proclaiming) his daena (i.e., Ahura Mazda’s thoughts, words, and deeds), which Yima declines.

Ahura Mazda then offers him, as an alternative, the role of protector and furtherer of living beings, which Yima accepts, promising that, as long as he is in command, the world will be perfect, there being no excesses of heat and cold and no sickness or death.

Ahura Mazda then gives him two tools, a cattle goad (ashtra) and a subra, either some kind of pick (cf. Pers. sumb- “pierce”) or a shepherd’s flute or horn.

Although it is not said explicitly, it may have been Yima’s xarenah that enabled him to maintain the world in this state, and one reason that it did not last may have been his refusal to accept the promotion of Ahura Mazda’s daena.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

3 Iranian projects nominated for Aga Khan Award for Architecture

From Page 1 ► The frame structure of the house is clad entirely with handmade local ochre-colored brick laid in a variety of horizontal and vertical patterns.

The exterior façade is blind, while all of the interior spaces enjoy abundant lighting from the three courtyards.

Dating back to over 100 years ago, the Argo Contemporary Art Museum & Cultural Center was formerly a Tehran brewery that had been abandoned for decades. ASA North, an Iranian-Austrian company, converted the building into an independent art museum.

The architect’s aim in designing it was to create a dialogue between old and new by inserting a new foundation and metal structure to support floating concrete floors and roofs independently of the original exterior walls. Restored brickwork is indicated by deeply recessed pointing. Former basement brewing pools were converted

This file shows art aficionados visiting an exhibition at the Argo Contemporary Art Museum and Cultural Center in Tehran.

into sunken galleries.

The Jadgal Elementary School is located in the village of Seyyedbar in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

DAAZ Office designed and implemented the structure based on a request from villagers for building a school. The plan to build the school led to the idea of having it also serve as a sustainable development center for surrounding areas, nurturing creativity, freedom and critical thinking.

Photographer Armin Amirian places second at Alpine Fellowship visual arts contest

TEHRAN – Iranian photographer Armin Amirian has finished runner-up at the Alpine Fellowship Visual Arts Prize 2022.

He won the prize for his work “Analog-1”, a monochrome digital c-type print that shows half-naked boys climbing up ladders on a snow-capped mountain that overlooks a city.

27-year-old Amirian is a self-taught artist who spent his childhood and teenage years experiencing different genres and media of art while being affected by Iran, the world, family and culture, and continued his education in physics. He started working professionally in the field of photography and cinema at the beginning of his teenage years.

In a Facebook post, he has said that for him, it was the freedom to create something new with his images that drew him to staged photography.

“I love digital photography and using apps to manipulate my photos,” he said.

“It’s not about the superficial editing, such as photometric corrections, colors and good techniques. Digital technology allows me creativity with new experiences,” he added.

“It’s a sign that people aim to have

everything under their control, and they have the freedom to do so instead of being stopped by the limitations; nowadays, the more we grow, creative art plays a more important role in our lives rather than our control over tools,” he mentioned.

The Alpine Fellowship is a London-based charitable foundation that supports, commissions and showcases artists, writers, academics and playwrights at all stages of their careers.

They have committed to discovering emerging talent, disseminating new ideas and sharing thoughts about art, literature and philosophy.

First place in the Alpine Fellowship visual art category was taken by Hong Kong artist June Wong Siu Ling for her short animation “See the Sea with Me”.

“Film” by Jin Yang Ding received third prize, while “Saegiri Girl” by Takehiro Nagaoka, “Muwawa” (“Without Care”) by Odur Ronald and “Mara” by Aleksandra Kulak won honorable mentions.

“Freedom” was the theme of the Alpine Fellowship 2022. The winner will receive

“Analog-1” by Iranian photographer Armin Amirian won second place at the Alpine Fellowship Visual Arts Prize 2022.

a £3,000 cash prize and a further £1,000 towards the artist’s travel, and the shipping and installation of their work at the symposium, which will take place in August at a venue in the United Kingdom.

Runners-up will be invited to attend the symposium to exhibit their work. Travel expenses will be reimbursed up to a total of £500, and all food and accommodation will be covered.

Sure to intrigue casual readers and scientific veterans alike, “Seven and a Half Lessons about the Brain” is full of surprises, humor and important implications for human nature, a gift of a book that you will want to savor again and again.

Barrett is a distinguished professor of psychology at Northeastern University, where she focuses on affective science.

She is a director of the Interdisciplinary Affective Science Laboratory. Along with James Russell, she is the founding editor-in-chief of the journal, Emotion Review. Along with James Gross, she founded the Society for Affective Science.

Front cover of the Persian edition of Lisa Feldman Barrett’s “Seven and a Half Lessons about the Brain”.

Barrett demystify that big gray blob between your ears.

Intimate with the sun

A review of the book “Salman Harati”

With the goal of giving effective role models, Soore Mehr’s book series “Mana Characters” deals with the lives of notable individuals who were professionals in the domains of science, culture, politics, and society in contemporary Iran.

This collection has been created for a general readership, particularly young people and academics, and the tenth book in this collection is “Salman Harati” by Ali Taghavi.

Who is Salman Harati?

He is one of the poets of the revolution era, who has a new vision, ideas, and language in his poems. He was born in 1959 in Marz Dasht village of Mazandaran state, and studied from the beginning to the end of high school in his hometown. Then he was accepted at

the academy of arts and after two years, received a master diploma. After graduation, he started working in one of the Langroud villages. His pen name was AZAR BAD. We can see the influence of SOHRAB SEPEHRI on his poems. He even dedicated one of his poems to SOHRAB. On November 30, 1986, he was killed in an accident while driving to school on the Tonekabon-Langrud route.

About the book

The book provides a relatively detailed portrait of Salman Harati’s thoughts and ideas, as well as a synopsis of his life. The first chapter of the book begins after an introduction. The author provides useful information on Salman’s life and the impact that his environment and lifestyle had on the development of his poetic style in this chapter.

Following that, we move on to the second chapter of the book, which is likely the most important chapter of the book and is longer than the other chapters in terms of length. His poetry is sincere and simple. He was showing full honesty and sincerity in his poems. Even though his poem has a close relationship with God and nature, has social content and is sensational. He never copied. We can observe his creativity in imagination and ideas. Ali Taghavi has presented a clear and, of course, accurate picture of Salman Harati’s poetry and life in this book, as well as a scientific perspective, particularly on the critique and review of Salman Harati’s poems.

The book’s final chapter also includes documents and photographs relating to the poet.