

Iran Moves Vienna Talks to Qatar

Page 3

STAY UPDATED #JCPOATalks

Report

Russia captures key Ukrainian city as NATO seeks to prolong conflict

The Russian military has taken full control of a key eastern Ukrainian city following weeks of some of the conflict's most intense fighting as critics accuse NATO members of prolonging the crisis in Eastern Europe.

Both Russian and Ukrainian officials have confirmed the Russian seizure of the city of Sievierodonetsk. Ukrainian officials have said that their remaining troops have withdrawn from the city after a prolonged battle with regular Russian troops and forces from the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic (LPR).

Ukraine has described its retreat from the city as a "tactical withdrawal" to fight from higher ground in the city of Lysychansk on the opposite side of a river. Pro-Russian separatist forces have claimed that Moscow's forces are already advancing on Lysychansk.

Russia's Interfax news agency cited a representative of pro-Russian separatist forces as saying Russian and pro-Russian forces had entered Lysychansk across the river and were fighting in urban areas there.

Speaking exclusively to Sky News UK, from south of the city of Severodonetsk, Ukrainian commander Oleksandr said almost all of his experienced soldiers who had been fighting together since 2018 have been lost.

"My unit was 100 percent made up of professional soldiers who have a lot of experience. Now, 80 percent are incapacitated from serious injuries or death," he said.

The Russian defense ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov announced "as a result of successful offensive operations, units of the people's militia of the LPR, with the support of Russian troops... completely liberated the cities of Severodonetsk and Borivske,"

Raisi says Iran fully backs peace and lifting siege on Yemen

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi underlined on Saturday that the Islamic Republic fully backs an establishment of peace in Yemen and easing the oppressive economic embargoes on the impoverished nation.

Raisi made the remarks in the phone conversation with Mahdi Al-Mashat, the head of Yemen's Supreme Political Council.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the need to safeguard Yemen's territorial integrity and national sovereignty and supports a permanent ceasefire that would lead to durable peace and complete lifting of the cruel economic blockade against the Yemeni people," the president stated.

He went on to hail the courageous fight of the Yemeni people against the Saudi-led aggression over the last seven years, stressing, "Iran is ready to send humanitarian aid, especially COVID-19 vaccines, to the Yemeni people."

Mashat, for his part, commended Iran for promoting the voice of the downtrodden Yemeni people and supporting them in international circles.

The Yemeni official also called for improving ties and collaboration with Iran.

Together with its Arab allies, the U.S. and other Western states provided

Raisi, Iraqi PM underline the need for regional peace, stability



© president.ir

TEHRAN — Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi officially welcomed Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi at Saadabad Palace on Sunday.

At the welcoming ceremony, first the national anthems of the two countries were played and then the Iranian president and the Iraqi premier

reviewed the honor guards.

After holding talks, Raisi and al-Kadhimi explained the results of their lengthy meeting in a joint press conference.

During the presser, Raisi pointed out that Tehran and Baghdad have agreed to take new steps to

expedite monetary cooperation.

"Iran's relations with Iraq are deep-rooted," the president said.

He then went on to note that such a determination is required for further expansion of relations between the two neighboring countries.

Tehran, Dushanbe confer on expanding transport, trade ties

TEHRAN - A Tajik trade delegation, headed by the country's deputy minister of Industry and New Technologies, visited Tehran on Saturday to meet with Iran's transport officials and discuss the expansion of ties, IRNA reported.

Upon arrival, the delegation attended a

meeting with Deputy Transport Minister Shahriyar Afandizadeh, during which the two sides conferred on the promotion of bilateral and multilateral transport ties via different transport modes.

They also said that they are determined to increase trade and transit as per mutual in-

terests.

The officials also emphasized the need for using various international corridors in the region, noting that the two countries should advance transit in relations with other involving countries including Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

WHO praises Iran for combating respiratory diseases

TEHRAN – Iran is one of the four countries that have a well-developed program to combat the epidemic of respiratory diseases, World Health Organization Consultant Gina Saman has said.

In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic or various respiratory diseases, we need to think of future plans to manage newly emerging epidemics, she stated.

"The World Health Organization compares the methods of countries in the fight against the pandemic and uses the experience of Iran and other countries in the other parts of the world.

It is necessary to identify the existing experiences and potentials and, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, provide a clear solution for the future," she explained.

In February 2021, WHO Regional Director for Eastern Mediterranean,



© ISNA / Soheil Faraji

Junior tennis players in Urmia

TEHRAN – Urmia International Tennis Federation (ITF) J5 tournament was held from June 20 to 25 in the Iranian city.

The event brought tennis players from Iran, Turkey, South Africa, India, China and Russia together.

The competition was held in Urmia's Shahid Bakeri Court.

Archaeologists discover Sassanid age artworks in northeast Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have discovered arrays of magnificent artworks in northeast Iran, at a site that they hope will offer further clues about life during the Sassanid era (224–651).

The discoveries were made during the fifth archaeological season carried out in a valley near the village of Robat-e Sefid/Bazeh Hur in a strategic geographical point traversed by a main north-south caravan road.

According to Iranian archaeologist Meysam

Labbaf-Khaniki, previous excavations brought to light the meaning of this valley, in which religious and economic aspects show and testify to the development of this region during the Sasanian and early Islamic epochs.

Archaeologists, focusing on the continuation of excavations at the site of Qala-e Dokhtar in the village, unearthed a magnificent collection of plasterwork decorated with geometric, plant, and human motifs, the Research Institute of Cultural

Heritage & Tourism said.

"Recent discoveries will open a new chapter in the history of Iranian arts during the Sassanid epoch," ILNA quoted Labbaf-Khaniki as saying on Sunday.

"This season's excavations also revealed [other sections of] a ruined architectural complex that was a great fire temple in the Parthian and Sassanid eras... The fire temple consisted of a four-arched brick arch and a hypostyle hall," the archaeologist explained.

From Inside



- Top negotiator: Borrell's visit has nothing to do with JCPOA content **P2**
- Iran successfully launches suborbital satellite **P2**
- Iran warns of American plot to foment sectarian war in Afghanistan **P3**
- Israel 'terrorist' moves against Iran no longer tolerable: official **P3**
- Iraq calls for an increase in Iranian gas imports **P4**
- Intl. glass exhibition underway in Tehran **P4**
- Russian customs to provide special facilities to Iranian exporters **P4**
- Landscaping to tilt face of Safavid mosque in southwestern Iran **P6**
- A peek into Iranian art of embroidery **P6**
- Coronavirus outbreak at lowest point in Iran **P7**
- Solar air quality monitoring device produced domestically **P7**
- Five Iranian films competing in Cinema d'IDEA women's festival **P8**
- Raymond Kévorkian's book on history of Armenian Genocide published in Persian **P8**

Interview



Sprinter Fasihi determined to achieve more success

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Sprinter Farzaneh Fasihi broke the 100 meters Iran's women's record after eight years by setting 11.44 seconds in the 2022 Turkish Athletics Championships in Bursa, Turkey.

Dubbed the Wind Girl, Fasihi bettered Mar-yam Toosi's Iran record. She also holds Iran's record of 60 meters indoor with 7.25 seconds.

"I had planned to break the record," Fasihi said in her interview with Tehran Times.

"I'm so happy to achieve new successes, because breaking the 100m record was one of my main goals.

"Thank God, I achieved my goal. Of course, this is just the beginning of my work, and nothing is finished. It motivates me and makes me feel more confident in myself and do better in the upcoming competitions," she added.

Farzaneh Fasihi's first international experience was at the 2016 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Doha, where she finished in 5th place in 60 meters and achieved a silver in the 4x400 meter relay.

Iran's "Leo" wins Grand Prix of Croatian One-Minute Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian movie "Leo" has placed top at the Croatian One-Minute Film Festival by winning the Grand Prix of the oldest international film festival in the country.

In this film directed by Moein Ruholamini, Khaled entertains his brother in a special situation with a play-by-play commentary of a big football match. Suddenly he is confronted with certain events.

The closing ceremony of the 30th edition of the festival was held in Pozega on Saturday evening during which another Iranian film was awarded with two prizes.

"Pandora", directed by Kamran Hushmandian about an acid attack story, was granted the runner-up and UNICA Medal, a special prize given by the Union Internationale du Cinéma (UNICA) for promoting solidarity between nations or using new forms of expression.

Parviz Esmaeili, the Iranian ambassador to Zagreb, received all the awards on behalf of the Iranian filmmakers, who were unable to attend the closing ceremony, the Embassy of Iran in Zagreb announced.

Raisi, Iraqi PM underline the need for regional peace, stability

Iranian president criticizes concept of “regional NATO”

From page 1 ► President Raisi said that linking Shalamchah railway to Basra railway was one of the main topics of his meeting with al-Kadhimi.

He said that in line with the Iranian government's foreign policy to expand relations with the neighbors, Tehran has now the best relations with Iraq among its neighbors.

For his part, al-Kadhimi hailed Tehran and Baghdad's ties, labeling it as “very deep.”

The premier continued, “Today we agreed to strengthen economic relations between the two countries.”

Continuation of Yemen war increases sufferings

Elsewhere in the presser, Raisi insisted on Iran and Iraq's common view to bring the Yemeni war to an end.

“We stressed the need to find a solution to the Yemen crisis and the continuation of truce,” the president highlighted, adding, “The continuation of the war in Yemen will only increase the suffering of the people, and we call for launching a Yemeni-Yemeni dialogue.”

In this regard, the Iraqi premier also expressed Baghdad's support for a ceasefire in Yemen.

Normalization will not bring security for Israeli regime

In another part of the press conference, Raisi referred to the so-called normalization of some Arab states with the Israeli regime, underlining, “The steps taken by the Zionist regime to normalize its relations with some countries in the region will not bring security to this regime at all.”

Iran successfully launches suborbital satellite

TEHRAN— Iran successfully launched Zul-Janah suborbital satellite on Sunday, Defense Ministry spokesman Hosseini announced.

Hosseini said the “three-stage” satellite can compete with the world's modern satellites in terms of technology.

It has two stages of solid propulsion and one stage of liquid propulsion, he explained.

The spokesman added the launch of the

Iranian Army will soon unveil new missiles with 300km range

TEHRAN — Iran will soon unveil missiles with a 300km range, deputy commander of the Army aerial defense force announced on Sunday.

Addressing Armed Forces staff, including the IRGC and the police, Brigadier General Alireza Elhami said the only way to overcome all sanctions and threats is to empower all sectors, especially the military.

Commanders, officials and managers in different sectors should take unanimous steps towards the goals of the Islamic establishment, he suggested.

Elhami added, “Synergy and coordination between the various parts of the system is definitely a thorn in the enemies' eyes and will make the country to progress.”

“Increasing the missile capability of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps” is one of the requirements for deterrence power and protecting national interests, the military official pointed out, stating that Iran shall not depend on any country in the field of strategic issues.

Raisi says Iran fully backs peace and lifting siege on Yemen

From page 1 ► Saudi Arabia with munitions and logistical support as it waged destructive war against Yemen in March 2015.

The goal was to overthrow the Ansarullah resistance movement, which had been in charge of running the government in Yemen in the absence of a competent one, and reinstate Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi's pro-Riyadh regime.

Despite the fact that the Saudi-led coalition has

Tehran, Baghdad reiterate need to support peace in region

Elsewhere in the briefing, the two leaders reiterated that Iran and Iraq stress the need to support peace and stability in the region through joint efforts between their leaders.

“Our effort is to secure the interests of the two nations of Iran and Iraq,” al-Kadhimi noted.

The Iranian also criticized the concept of “regional NATO,” saying, “Foreign intervention will not resolve problems in the region, but rather will increase them.”

The comments by President Raisi come a few days after Jordan's monarch announced he would support the formation of a Middle East military alliance similar to the U.S.-led NATO.

Such a grouping could work with like-minded countries, but the military alliance's mission statement would need to be clear from the outset, King Abdullah II told CNBC News.

“I'd like to see more countries in the area come into that mix. I would be one of the first people that would endorse a Middle East NATO,” Abdullah said. “The mission statement has to be very, very clear. Otherwise, it confuses everybody.”

Abdullah's comments come as U.S. President Joe Biden prepares to visit West Asia as part of efforts aimed at normalizing ties between the region's Arab countries and Israel, in addition to boosting Washington's ties with its regional allies.

satellite carrier Zul-Janah was suborbital.

He added, “By the grace of God, the third phase of the combination development of this satellite has started by using the information obtained from this launch.”

It is worth mentioning that the Zul-Janah satellite carrier was tested and evaluated for the first time in February 2021 with the aim of achieving the technology of the most powerful solid fuel engine in the country.

Elhami said the development of missile power is a symbol of self-confidence and reliance on domestic power and knowledge.

The military official went on to say that today observation, identification and tracking of all planes, drones and fighters in aerial borders, especially in the Persian Gulf region, is not Tehran's concern.

He said, “The production of completely indigenous radar with a range of 3,000 kilometers, as well as the superiority of various drones over an altitude of more than 47,000 feet in the Army aerial defense force promise decisive control and moment-by-moment observation in the aerial borders of our country.”

The military official added the Army's aerial defense force has exceptional cooperation with scientists and academic institutions in the field of defense technology, artificial intelligence, cognitive sciences, quantum physics, cyber defense, electronic warfare and other areas of collaboration.

not succeeded in achieving any of its goals, the war has led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of Yemeni lives and caused the worst humanitarian disaster in modern history.

On April 2, Yemen and Saudi Arabia agreed on a two-month truce under the efforts of UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg. On June 2, the sides extended truce for another two months. Iran has welcomed the truce.

Top negotiator: Borrell's visit has nothing to do with JCPOA content

TEHRAN — An Iranian MP has quoted Iran's top negotiator as saying that the EU foreign policy chief's visit to Tehran had nothing to do with the content of the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

Mohammad Ali Mohseni Bandpey explained that a meeting was held on Sunday with the presence of Ali Bagheri, the head of the Iranian nuclear negotiating team.

According to the legislator, Bagheri briefed the MPs on the upcoming talks between Iran and the United States through the European Union mediators.

The parliamentarian added, “In this meeting, the representatives expressed their concerns about the erosion of the JCPOA revival talks and stressed that the negotiations must be based on protecting the interests of the people and respecting the red lines of the system.”

Referring to the response of the top Iranian negotiator to the questions of the MPs, he said, “Bagheri emphasized that the government adheres to the principles of the system and is steadfast and has tried not to tie the economy and livelihood of the people to the JCPOA.”

Mohseni Bandapey stated that in the meeting Bagheri Kani, who leads the head of the Iranian negotiating team, admitted that negotiations have been eroded, but stressed that the negotiation process is under the control of the negotiating team.

He added Bagheri did not give a clear answer about the exact timing of the conclusion of the negotiations, saying, “The head of the Iranian negotiating team in this meeting emphasized that the negotiations have two sides and both parties must reach an agreement. Finally, Bagheri pointed out that the visit of the EU foreign policy chief



to Iran has nothing to do with the content of the JCPOA.”

On Saturday, Josep Borrell, a Spaniard diplomat who serves as the EU foreign policy chief, held talks with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Secretary of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani.

After a four-hour meeting with Amir Abdollahian, Borrell and Amir Abdollahian held a joint press conference.

During the presser, Amir Abdollahian announced Iran is ready to resume nuclear talks to lift sanctions on Iran by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal.

Amir Abdollahian said the decision was made after detailed and in-depth talks with Borrell.

“What is important for the Islamic Republic of Iran is the full economic benefit of Iran from the agreement reached in 2015, and any issue that cannot guarantee our full economic benefit will not be acceptable to the government of Ayatollah Raisi and the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Iran's top diplomat noted.

For his part, Borrell said, “My visit to Tehran has one main objective: give new momentum to the negotiations and bring the nuclear deal, JCPOA,

back on track.”

Later in a press conference in Espinas Hotel attended by Western journalists, Borrell told reporters that “immediately after this meeting (in Tehran), the negotiations will restart.”

However, he went to say that “I cannot tell you a precise date on what is happening next week. I have to test the temperature of the next meeting. We are pushing for it. I appreciate the goodwill from the Iranian side. There is also goodwill from the American side. They are happy I am here.”

Borrell called preparation for talks a “cumulative process”, saying, “First, the delegations had to go back to the capitals to receive guidelines. Guidelines were delayed.”

The talks for resurrecting the JCPOA intended to lift sanctions on Iran have been on hold since March.

Borrell blamed the Ukraine war and resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors against Iran for a delay in resuming talks.

According to the EU's Borrell, the discussions between U.S., Iran and the E3 will not take place in Vienna. Rather, he said, the talks will take place “somewhere nearer to the Persian Gulf.” To be specific, he added, in a Persian Gulf country.

Though he did not mention the name of the country, Nour news, a news outlet close to the Supreme National Security Council, said that Qatar has a major chance to host the talks, given its efforts to revive the JCPOA.

The talks will be held in another country, as the format has gone through drastic changes. Russia, China, France, the UK, and Germany will no longer participate in the talks. The negotiations will take place only between Iran and the U.S. through the EU team led by Borrell and his deputy Enrique Mora.

Iran will go ahead with remedial nuclear measures until the West abandons ‘illegal practices’: top security official

TEHRAN – Iran's senior security official has criticized Europe's passivity and the United States' lack of commitment to the terms of the 2015 nuclear agreement, saying Tehran will continue its remedial nuclear measures until the West abandons its “illegal practices”.

Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), made the remarks in a meeting with Josep Borrell, the European Union's foreign policy and security chief, in Tehran late on Saturday.

“Iran's remedial measures in the nuclear sector are merely a legal and rational reaction to U.S. unilateralism and Europe's inaction and will continue as long as the West's illegal practices persist,” Shamkhani asserted.

The Iranian nation has lost faith in the West and Washington as a result of the U.S. illegitimate withdrawal from the nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Shamkhani added.

One year after former U.S. president Donald Trump order U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA Iran remained fully

loyal to the agreement. However, since the European parties to the pact failed to compensate Iran for the sanctions Iran started to gradually lift bans on its nuclear activities.

Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

Shamkhani went on to say that “Iran has never left the negotiating table and we are still looking for a strong, lasting and reliable agreement.”

In a joint press conference on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Borrell announced that talks will resume soon to revive the JCPOA.

“We are ready to resume the Vienna talks within the next days,” Amir Abdollahian said.

The announcement was made prior to Borrell's meeting with Shamkhani.

Shamkhani noted that Iran's only goal in participating in the Vienna talks were only intended to lift illegal sanctions so that Iran could fully reap the economic benefits of the JCPOA.

“Iran does not favor an agreement that fails to meet the two above-mentioned principles in securing a reliable guarantee from the U.S. and Europe,” he pointed out.

He underscored that the contradictory conducts of the U.S. and its continued use of threats and sanctions prevented the Vienna participants from reaching a final consensus on restoration the JCPOA.

The participants in the Vienna talks, which started in April 2021, were Iran and the other remaining parties to the JCPOA – Russia, China and the three European countries of Germany, France and Britain, known as E3. Iran did not negotiate with the U.S. directly during the Vienna talks.

“The language of force cannot be used in addressing a country that has overcome the most difficult conditions of sanctions with vigorous resistance and the sympathy and support of its people,” the SNSC secretary remarked.

After quitting the JCPOA, Trump declared the “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran. Trump himself called sanctions against Iran the

strongest in history.

For his part, the senior EU diplomat said a resurrection of the JCPOA can be seen as a major security success in the international system under the current circumstances in the world.

Borrell attacked Trump for withdrawing the United States from the multilateral agreement and asserted that in order to establish a favorable final accord, all parties to the JCPOA must look to the future.

He noted that the Joe Biden administration is eager to negotiate a deal to restore the JCPOA, citing his conversations with U.S. officials before departing for Tehran.

Before his travel to Tehran late on Friday, Borrell and his deputy Enrique Mora had a working dinner with Robert Malley, the United States special envoy for Iran who leads the U.S. team in negotiations with Iran.

After his meeting with Shamkhani, Borrell wrote, “Important meeting with the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of #Iran, Ali Shamkhani, on how to bring the #JCPOA back on track.”



Iran moves Vienna talks to Qatar

TEHRAN – The visit of the European Union's foreign policy chief to Tehran seems to have resulted in a number of important moves that could boost Iran's foreign policy and regional diplomacy.

After more than three months of hiatus in the Vienna talks, Josep Borrell, who also acts as the coordinator for the talks, succeeded in breaking the ice in a surprising way. His visit to Tehran was topped off with an important announcement: the stalled talks over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), will resume in the coming days.

“In meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian @Amirabdollahian we agreed on resumption of negotiations between Iran and US in the coming days, facilitated by my team, to solve the last outstanding issues,” Borrell said on Twitter.

In addition to Amir Abdollahian, Borrell also met with Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. After this long meeting, another important announcement was made: The Vienna talks will no longer be held in Vienna. Instead, they will be moved to a Persian Gulf country,



possibly Qatar.

Borrell didn't say which country will be the venue for the talks. But Iranian officials and media said Qatar will be most likely to play host for the talks. In addition to the venue, the format of the talks has changed too. According to Borrell, the new round of talks in the Persian Gulf will no longer be held in the P4+1 format. Instead, it will be talks between Iran, the EU, and the U.S., a big change that seems to have moved past the traditional format of the P5+1 group of countries.

The resumption of talks in a Persian Gulf country is also important for another reason: it comes amid Iranian efforts to patch

up relations with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries, most notably Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in line with the Raisi administration's new foreign policy doctrine known as “neighborhood policy”.

The policy is built around fostering cooperation with neighboring countries and non-Western powers. Iran has made strides under this policy in Central Asia. Leaders of Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan have exchanged visits with Iran in recent weeks.

The visits have resulted in the signing of many cooperation documents and projects. During the visit of Kazakh President Tokayev

to Iran this month, the presidents of Iran and Kazakhstan ordered the all-rail transit of Kazakhstan's first container train via Iran in a ceremony that was held through a video conference with the Tehran Railway Station.

Raisi's neighborhood policy could receive another boost from holding talks in Qatar as it will likely signal Iran's good faith and seriousness to forge ahead with mending fences.

Iranian and Arab officials have exchanged visits over the last few months and they continue to keep in close contact with each other. President Raisi has visited Oman and Qatar and he has visit to the UAE on his agenda though the exact date of this visit is yet to be set.

Relations between Tehran and Riyadh are also improving, given the visits of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi to Iran and Saudi Arabia. Of note, the Iraqi prime minister has begun shuttle diplomacy between Tehran and Riyadh. He paid a visit to Saudi Arabia and met with Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and then left Jeddah for Tehran. On Sunday, he arrived in the Iranian capital and met with President Raisi. The main goal of al-Kadhimi is reportedly to soothe tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

SPORTS

Sprinter Fasihi determined to achieve more success

From Page 1 ▶ “I broke the 100 meters record one month ago in Mashhad, Iran, but because of a technical problem, the record was not officially registered.

“That was very upsetting, but because my goal was big, I was not discouraged and became even more determined to continue working. I knew that my hard world would pay off one day, and it was clear to me,” she stated.

The sprinter responded to his critics with his record-breaking run: “I believe that the time determines everything.

“Before the 2020 Olympics, I was criticized a lot, and I was really under pressure. I ignored those judgments and kept trying until good things happened to me, and time solved everything and answered all the misjudgments,” Fasihi said.

“The name of Iran gives me extra motivation. As an Iranian girl, I am proud to compete with strong athletes. I hope to be a good representative of my country and say how capable Iranian girls are,” Fasihi concluded.

Nemati Paralympian and Olympian: IPC

TEHRAN – In nearly 10 Para sports, there are multiple athletes who have competed in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including those who have reached this milestone just weeks apart.

Here International Paralympic Committee look back at some of the legends who made history with their double appearances at the Games and at those who continue to push boundaries on the international sports stage to this day.

Iran's Zahra Nemati is more recent example of Paralympian who did double duty during the Games.

Zahra Nemati also embraced flag-carrying duties when she was selected for the role in the 2016 Rio Olympics. The Para archer also carried the flag of Iran at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, where she won her third consecutive gold medal in the women's individual recurve.

Iran finish nineth at IHF Beach Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Portugal 2-0 (20-18, 29-28) in the 2022 International Handball Federation (IHF) Beach Handball Championship on Sunday.

Iran had previously defeated Portugal 2-1 (22-24, 19-18, 8-6) in Group II on Thursday.

The ninth edition of the 2022 Men's Beach Handball World Championships is being held from 21 to 26 June 2022 at Crete, Greece under the aegis of International Handball Federation (IHF).

Iran B basketball beat American team at SADA CUP

TEHRAN – Iran B basketball team defeated the US's representative 77-73 in the final match of the SADA CUP international.

The four-team tournament was held at Karen Demirchyan Sport and Concert Complex in Yerevan, Armenia from June 24 to 26.

The Iranian team started the competition with a 77-61 win over Syria on Friday but lost to Armenia 77-73 a day later.

Mansourian steps down as Sanat Naft coach: IPL

TEHRAN – Alireza Mansourian stepped down as Sanat Naft football team head coach on Saturday.

The 50-year-old coach, who was named as Abadan-based football team side in September, in a post on his Instagram account bade farewell to Sanat Naft's fans.

Under the coaching of Mansourian, Sanat Naft finished in 10th place in the 16-team Iran football league table.

Sanat Naft have not yet responded to Mansourian's resignation.

Portuguese pair in Persia

TEHRAN – Sepahan, who finished third in the last term, announced Morais' arrival on Thursday, with José Mourinho's former assistant is out of work since a brief spell in Saudi Arabia with Al-Hilal last year.

Sepahan, are a traditional power in Iranian football, having won the Persian Gulf Pro League in the 2014-15 season. The Isfahan-based side approached Morais earlier this month and the Portuguese insisted on a visit of Sepahan's facilities before deciding to make the move on a three-year deal, according to a club statement.

Ricardo Sa Pinto has been also named as head coach of Esteghlal.

Esteghlal's huge fanbase is spread across much of the Middle East and the club nicknamed “The Capital Blues” have twice conquered Asian club football in the Champions League. Sá Pinto replaced Farhad Majidi, who left Tehran after winning the league title last term to take over Al-Ittihad Kalba SC in the United Arab Emirates.

“Very proud to join the biggest club in Iran and one of the biggest clubs in the world, Esteghlal FC,” Sá Pinto said on social media after signing a one-year contract. “I know the 40 million Esteghlal fans are passionate, just like me. Can't wait to play at the Azadi Stadium!”

The pair certainly bring with them a wealth of experience abroad. Sá Pinto has worked in Serbia, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Poland, Brazil and Turkey, as well as coaching Sporting, Braga, Belenenses and Moreirense in his homeland. Sá Pinto's only trophy as a manager so far is his Belgian Cup win with Standard Liege in 2017-18.

Morais has enjoyed spells as Mourinho's assistant at Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Chelsea, while he has worked in Germany, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen, Turkey, Greece, England, Ukraine and South Korea, where Morais won the K-League back-to-back with Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors. The 56-year-old also won trophies in Saudi Arabia, as well as lifting the Tunisian title with Espérance Tunis in 2009.

Iranian practitioners win medals at Taekwondo C'ships

TEHRAN – Iranian taekwondokas won three medals including two golds and one silver in Asian Taekwondo Championships underway in South Korea.

On the third day of the Asian Taekwondo Championships, Iranian athlete Zahra Pour-Esmail at -73 kg defeated her opponents from Jordan and South Korea to make it into the final match. She won the gold medal by beating the Kazakh taekwondoka 2-0.

Akram Khodabandeh also won over her Syrian and Chinese opponents to gain another medal for Iran.

Also, in the quarter-final and semi-final matches, Alireza Nad-Alian defeated his opponents from Qatar and Afghanistan and made it to the finals. Losing the finals to a Chinese taekwondoka, Nad-Alian was placed second and won a silver medal.

On the second day of the 25th Asian Taekwondo Championship, four Iranian representatives in both men's and women's divisions gained a silver medal each after they all lost to their opponents in the final matches.

Israel ‘terrorist’ moves against Iran no longer tolerable: official

TEHRAN – An Iranian official has warned against Israel's sabotage acts against Iran's nuclear facilities, saying that Tehran can no longer tolerate these “terrorist” moves.

In remarks to Al Jazeera, the Iranian official said, “Israel's targeting of our peaceful nuclear program and its terrorist movements are no longer tolerable.”

The official also pointed to the visit of European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to Iran, who pushed for resumption of the stalled talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

He said the venue for talks will be moved from Vienna to a Persian Gulf state, possibly Qatar.

“We seek to achieve a robust and strong agreement, and this requires Washington's recognition of our national interests,” the official said, adding, “Tehran cannot be subjected through sanctions, threats and the language of force, and these are useless methods.”

Talks with Borrell were frank, in-depth, detailed and highly responsible, according to the Iranian official.

In Tehran, Borrell met on Saturday with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani.

Amir Abdollahian said he had fruitful talks with

Borrell. “Met @JosepBorrell in Tehran. Fruitful talks on a range of bilateral, regional & int. issues, incl. the latest on the sanctions lifting negotiations. A final deal is within reach, if other parties have the will to do so. Iran is resolute on reaching a good, strong & durable deal,” the Iranian foreign minister said on Twitter.

Amir Abdollahian announced on Saturday that Iran is ready to resume nuclear talks to lift sanctions on Iran by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Amir Abdollahian said the decision was made after detailed and in-depth talks with Borrell.

“The talks to remove the sanctions imposed on Iran will be resumed soon,” Amir Abdollahian said in a joint press conference with Borrell.

Amir Abdollahian added, “Today we had long and positive talks about cooperation between Iran and the European Union. We are seeking balanced relations in the area of foreign policy and in this relationship the European Union and European countries have an important position. We are seeking to develop our relations with different countries on the European continent.”

Amir Abdollahian also said Borrell in a phone call had asked him how the EU could follow up on the stalemate that became more complicated

after the anti-Iran resolution was submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

The foreign minister then said Borrell sought to get his opinion on how to get out of this stalemate.

The chief diplomat said if Tehran's dividends from the nuclear deal are not guaranteed it will not be acceptable.

“What is important for the Islamic Republic of Iran is the full economic benefit of Iran from the agreement reached in 2015, and any issue that cannot guarantee our full economic benefit will not be acceptable to the government of Ayatollah Raisi and the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Iran's top diplomat noted.

Borrell also said, “My visit to Tehran has one main objective: give new momentum to the negotiations and bring the nuclear deal, JCPOA, back on track.”

He added that as the coordinator of the talks to revive the JCPOA, he felt that a break in the negotiations was necessary.

“Since I paused the Vienna talks, three months have passed. We need to break the current dynamic of escalation and speed up our work. We need to close the deal now,” the chief EU diplomat said, adding that the resumption of talks is a decision made by both Tehran and Washington.

Interaction with neighbors a priority, Raisi says

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has once again reiterated his administration's willingness to boost ties with Iran's neighbors, noting that strengthening ties with these countries is a priority for Iran.

Speaking in a televised interview on Saturday night, President Raisi addressed relations with neighboring countries through the prism of trade and commerce.

Responding to a question on the policy of interaction with neighbors in the 13th Administration, he said, “The policy of interaction with neighboring countries has been one of our priorities, which has led to good results, including a positive trade balance. We have contracts worth \$2.5 billion with 18 countries to export technical and engineering services.”

Referring to the launch of new rail corridors in the 13th Administration, the president said, “Iran's share in

trade and transit in the region is very high and the relationship with the member countries of the Shanghai Organization, BRICS and ECO in this regard is very important for us. We are just at the beginning of the road and only in the first quarter of this year we have had a 20% growth in trade. In the field of trade with neighboring countries and the region, we must achieve a share that suits the dignity of the Iranian nation.”

Raisi added, “In the field of oil exports, despite the threats and sanctions of the enemy, we are in good condition today and, God willing, we will have better conditions ahead,” according to a readout of the interview put out by the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Asked about European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's visit to Tehran and the latest state of negotiations for lifting sanctions, the president said, “I have stated from the beginning that we will pursue the

lifting of sanctions, because sanctions are cruel and should be lifted as soon as possible. The Americans did not fulfil their obligations, they violated the treaty, and I have repeatedly stated that the Americans must return to fulfilling their obligations.”

Raisi added, “The second path we have followed since the beginning of the government's work is the path of neutralizing sanctions. We have a base and headquarters in the government headed by the first vice-president and many colleagues across the country with whom we are pursuing the task of neutralizing sanctions as well as lifting them.”

He also described the adoption of an anti-Iran resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors drafted by the United States and its European allies as very inappropriate, saying, “The fact that in the middle of the negotiations some propose that the Board of Governors issue a resolution against the Iranian nation, especially in conditions that all

sectarian war so that the Hazara and Tajiks are sacrificed on the altar of its plot and the Afghan crisis spills over into the region. War in Balkhab is preliminary American sedition,” Kazemi Qomi said on Twitter.

He also called on the Afghan leaders to keep a distance from the conflict in Balkhab and condemn it. “The driving force behind the conflict is the multinational intelligence agencies,” he noted.



Iran warns of American plot to foment sectarian war in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan, has warned about a U.S. plot to foment sectarian and ethnic war in Afghanistan as infighting raged Balkhab district between the Taliban and a Hazara warlord.

The Iranian envoy said on Twitter that infighting in Bakhlab is directed by multinational spy agencies.

“The U.S.'s priority for creating targeted chaos in Afghanistan is to foment ethnic and

Tehran, Dushanbe confer on expanding transport, trade ties



From page 1 ► Speaking in this meeting, Afandizadeh mentioned Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) and ECO corridors as the most important routes for transit between Iran and Tajikistan, saying that these corridors should be more actively operated.

"Iran is ready for any cooperation in various sectors of transportation, including road, rail, sea, and air," the deputy minister said.

The official further noted that Iranian ports also welcome investment by Tajikistan's private sector, and given the existence of common corridors, the two sides can have bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

Intl. glass show underway in Tehran

TEHRAN – The 5th International Exhibition of Glass Industry, Crystal, Porcelain, Machinery and Affiliated Industries (Iran Glass Show 2022) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairground on Sunday, IRIB reported.

The latest achievements of the glass industry including the latest developments in the construction, industrial, and automobile glass sectors are showcased in this four-day exhibition.

The aim of this exhibition is to promote this industry and to prepare a roadmap for the development of the country's glass industry

Iran can provide landlocked Tajikistan access to the high seas through the Chabahar Port (to the south) and Amirabad Port (to the north), similarly, Tajikistan can ease transit to China, the official said.

"We need to increase road and rail transit corridors and bring other countries along the way," he stressed.

Afandizadeh also suggested that the two sides should consider the mutual elimination or reduction of tolls on the road passageways between the two countries.

The two sides also decided to form a transport committee to discuss ways of expanding cooperation and set goals in trade and transport with the presence of the officials and the private sector representatives of the two countries.

Iran and Tajikistan have resumed their relations following the meeting of the presidents of the two countries in September 2021 during the SCO summit in Dushanbe and in May 2022 in Tehran.

by examining the challenges and issues in this sector and by comparing Iran's glass industry with leading countries in this field.

Iran produces more than 2.5 million tons of glass annually, of which 1.6 million tons are flat glass, 450,000 tons are bottles and the rest are crystals.

Currently, 450,000 square meters of construction glasses are produced daily in 10 large active glass factories in the country, of which about 40 percent is exported to the countries of the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and even Europe.

Iraq calls for increase in Iranian gas imports



TEHRAN – Iraqi electricity ministry has announced that following the clearance of the country's energy debts to Iran, Baghdad is now consulting to increase gas imports from the Islamic Republic.

The Spokesperson for the Iraqi Electricity Ministry Ahmed Mousa told media sources that Iraq currently imports 40 million cubic meters of Iranian gas per day but the country needs to receive 50 to 55 million cubic meters of gas per day to meet its

electricity needs.

"The Ministry of Electricity is trying to increase its daily production to 24,000 MW, and this depends on increasing Iran's gas exports from 40 million cubic meters to 50 to 55 million cubic meters per day," Mousa added.

Iraqi Electricity Minister Adel Karim recently said in a press conference in Karbala that Iran has agreed to export 50 million cubic meters of gas to Iraq per day for four months, starting from summer.

"Iraq will import between 10 to 20 million cubic meters of gas per day from Iran in winter," he added.

Iraq relies on Iranian gas to operate electric power plants. Earlier, Karim had announced that Iraq needs Iranian gas for 5-10 years while confirming the ministry's agreement with the Iranian side to supply the country with 50 million cubic meters of gas per day.

Iran announced last week that Iraq has settled its energy dues to the country. Iraq reportedly owed

Iran about \$7 billion for previous gas imports from the country.

Iraq supplies more than a third of its energy needs through imports of electricity and gas from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The repayment of Iraq's debts to Iran came at a time when U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran are still in place. This may be the reason why some analysts underlined the need for South Korea to follow in the footsteps of Iraq.

Daily electricity demand in Iran expected to exceed 68,000 MW

TEHRAN – Considering the significant temperature rise in recent days and the forecasts for the continuation of this trend in the coming weeks, daily electricity consumption in Iran is expected to exceed 68,000 megawatts (MW), Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi has said.

According to Rajabi Mashhadi, the average temperature will reach 41.2 degrees by Thursday, and this rise in temperature is expected to increase the energy demand from the current 66,500 MW to over 68,000 MW.

"In most parts of the country, rising temperatures will create difficult conditions for electricity supply; We hope to continue supplying electricity uninterruptedly like the past two weeks with the help and cooperation of the people," IRNA quoted Rajabi Mashhadi as saying on Sunday.



The official noted that last week the electricity consumption in the country reached a record high of 63,825 MW, which was 5.23 percent more than the previous year's same week.

Emphasizing the cooperation between the Energy Ministry and the country's industrial and agriculture sectors for managing the electricity consumption, the official said: "All power consumption management programs

must be fully observed and implemented, and if these programs are implemented accurately, we can save about 800 MW of electricity over the next two weeks."

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 the past two years, however, new deteriorating factors like severe drought and the decline in the country's water resources as well as a new wave of illegal cryptocurrency mining across the country have also worsened the situation.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has previously announced that the company is implementing a variety of programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

Annual copper cathode export increases 116%

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export of copper cathode rose 116 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to its previous year, Omid Qalibaf, the spokesman of Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, announced.

Also, the production of copper cathode in Iran has risen 2.8 percent in the past year, Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has reported.

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

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

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

"Although less than 300,000 tons of copper cathodes are currently produced in the country,



with the development of reserves and more exploration and extraction, the production of one million tons of the product is projected by 1404," Shakouri stated.

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

Referring to the global target for copper

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

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

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

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

"New copper mines recently discovered in Sistan-Baluchestan Province (in the southeast

of the country) have been the result of such efforts," he said.

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

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

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



determination for cutting off the Islamic Republic's ties with the

world advances in knowledge and technology, especially in the oil and gas sector.

In the past few years, the ministry has been seriously supporting knowledge-based companies and startups, and in this regard, several events, exhibitions, and panels have been held to encourage the mentioned companies' contribution to the country's oil and gas industry.

Oil, defense ministries ink MOU to co-op in building high-tech equipment

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the oil and defense ministries for cooperation in manufacturing high-tech oil industry equipment, Shana reported.

Oji made the announcement on his Twitter account on Sunday, saying: "Military industries are among the technological

pioneers in the world, and many technologies have been developed by these industries for the first time. By signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Defense, we have tapped into this capacity to produce the sophisticated equipment needed by the oil industry, especially in the high-tech sector."

Oji has previously said that domestic producers are currently

supplying over 70 percent of the oil industry's needed equipment, adding that this figure can increase to 95 percent.

The indigenization and domestic production of oil and gas industry equipment have been always among the objectives of the Iranian Oil Ministry. However, the issue became further highlighted since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions and Washington's

TEDPIX loses 18,985 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 18,985 points on Saturday, IRIB reported.

As reported, the index closed at 1.501 million points.

About 8.879 billion securities worth 66.052 trillion rials (about \$242.5 million) were traded at the TSE on the mentioned day.

The first market's index lost 16,549 points, and the second market's index dropped 30,015 points.

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

Head of Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has said 25 new major companies are ready to offer their shares at the country's stock exchange.

"Many initial public offerings (IPOs) are going

to be made in the near future, and now about 25 companies are ready to enter the market," Eshqi told IRNA on April 24.

"Over the last six months, we have been preparing initial offerings in accordance with market conditions and the balanced entry of liquidity into the market. Currently, Tehran Stock Exchange and Iran Fara Bourse (IFB) officials and experts have made the necessary plans so that the initial public offerings can be made in accordance with the best conditions for capital to enter the market," he explained.

Eshqi further mentioned some of his organization's

programs for ensuring positive growth in the market, saying: "SEO's programs for this year include intelligent and electronic monitoring of the market. In this regard, we will strengthen the capital market monitoring center, which was launched in March, so that there is no violation in the market trading process. We will identify violations quickly."

Another program is to monitor financial institutions like brokerage firms, portfolio companies, and investment funds to ensure that they perform in accordance with the rules and regulations of the market, the SEO head added.



How Turkey and Russia are reshaping the Black Sea region

Both countries have increased their efforts to build a new regional order that is more responsive to their respective national interests.

In recent years, Eurasia has become a crucial geopolitical space, where world powers define their interests through historical, social, and cultural narratives. In particular, the Black Sea region has become increasingly enmeshed in a web of overlapping political, military, trade, and energy interests of global and traditional great land powers. Due to its geographic position between several strategic ellipses, the Black Sea region allows for power projection onto the European continent, mainly in the Balkans and Central Europe, but also in the Eastern Mediterranean, South Caucasus, and the northern Middle East (West Asia).

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the region gained additional strategic significance since it contains transport routes for Caspian, Central Asian, and Middle Eastern hydrocarbon resources to the European Union (EU). However, a remarkable transformation has been taking place in the Black Sea geopolitical setting in the post-2000 period. In recent years, the Black Sea region has become a central locus of the new West-East ideological confrontation, of the competition between orthodox Russia and the Western civilization, and a permanent area for power struggles. These developments affect the security and stability of the Black Sea region in a number of ways. Uncontrolled militarization, organized crime, terrorism, the growing influence of disinformation, and the absence of comprehensive domestic and regional peacebuilding policies make the region highly vulnerable.

While the region was largely ignored by Western policy planners since the end of the Cold War, Russia and Turkey have worked intensely to strengthen their political and economic capabilities. In fact, both countries have increased their efforts to build a new regional order that is more responsive to their respective national interests. The new regional regime is characterized by a finely balanced complementarity enabling both countries to use flexible and context-sensitive diplomatic strategies. In its current form, the Russo-Turkish complementarity model is based on the mutual recognition of spheres of influence and the willingness to make concessions for mutually beneficial outcomes. The core objective is to craft common rules for better managing the overall relationship, as well as regional dynamics and priorities. This strategy is accompanied by efforts from each country to develop strong and robust national economies. Both countries have reached different levels of development in recent



years. However, they have become influential powers by continuously expanding their military and economic posture, matching it with an assertive information campaign and uncompromising rhetoric.

A particularly conspicuous element of the Russo-Turkish adjustment strategy is to prevent the increase of Western influence in the region. More precisely, both countries perceive themselves as regional superpowers and see the Black Sea region as a crucial part of their foreign policy discourse. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ankara was seen by Western partners as a counterweight against Russia and seemed to be the only power that was able to resist Russian moves in the Black Sea region. Western-led liberals generally believed that Ankara would shape the security profile of the region and thereby increase future Western dominance. However, shifting geopolitical processes after 2007 brought forth quite unexpected dynamics in Turkish foreign policy. Russia's aggressive comeback in 2007, the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU while Turkey's accession talks with the EU repeatedly ended in a deadlock, and new NATO enlargement plans that were announced during the Bucharest Summit in 2008 encouraged a strategic recalibration in Ankara. Turkey, with its historic ties and the longest coastline among littoral states in the region, has started to pursue an active policy of creating a conscious Black Sea regionalism. It has taken a leading role by initiating various formations. After the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, President Erdogan initiated the Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Pact with Russia and South Caucasus countries. Nevertheless, the lack of regional conceptions, Russia's dominance,

and Turkey's limited foreign policy tools have so far made it impossible to regionalize the Black Sea region. It was remarkable that Western partners were excluded from this format. By doing so, Ankara sent a clear message to its Western partners that it preferred to define the regional security architecture together with Russia.

This trend became once again obvious during the conflict between Armenian and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 2020. In order to secure a place in the southern Caucasus, Ankara negotiated directly with Russia about future peacebuilding initiatives and undermined the role of the OSCE Minsk Group which had been the only international peacebuilding dialogue format in the conflict.

Despite diverging interests in Syria and other serious disagreements, Turkey and Russia have tread carefully in recent years so as not to damage their common tandem in the Black Sea region. They have even found each other in a new field. Since the military coup attempt in 2016, Ankara had significantly recalibrated its understanding of national security culture. Both countries now share the conviction that the liberal society and Western-led democratic elements threaten national security. This attitude has been translated into strong repressive internal policies that have a huge impact on foreign policy discourse. This manifested itself in the reproduction of an aggressive Russian policy course in Turkish foreign policy strategy. In recent years, President Erdogan has moved aggressively to demonstrate that Turkey sees itself as the preeminent political and military power in the Middle East (West Asia) and the Black Sea region. Turkey is moving away from the pro-Western Kemalist ideology

to an autocratic neo-Ottoman expansionist nationalism. Turkey's aggressive behavior in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict in 2020 and the demonstration of the growing defense industry made clear that Turkey seeks to be a central player in the region rather than a bridge between East and West or an exponent of the collective West.

Turkey's recent decision to reject Sweden and Finland's NATO membership applications by arguing that both countries support "terrorists," namely the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group and the Syrian Kurdish YPG which it views as closely connected to the PKK, is a sign of the ideological and political rift between Ankara and its Western partners. Turkey's objection needs to be situated within a larger context, namely in the Russo-Turkish tandem. Another element of Turkish strategy is its unclear course with regard to the Ukraine war. While Ankara supports Ukraine's territorial integrity, it continues to keep the door open for Russia.

Over the few past years, the West has obviously underestimated these changing political dynamics in the Black Sea region. The political debate in the United States and Europe towards the region was primarily focused on Russia's aggressive narratives. However, the West's strategy needs a radical rethink and a clear response to the ideological convergence between Russia and Turkey. They have to define their key narratives towards the new geopolitical situation and the impact of the growing cooperation between Moscow and Ankara. In particular, the partnership with Turkey requires new perspectives and a new understanding of trust and reliability.

(Source: The National Interest)

Putin promises Belarus Iskander-M nuclear-capable missiles

Russia will supply Belarus with Iskander-M nuclear capable missile systems within a few months, Russian President Vladimir Putin told a televised meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Saturday.

At the meeting, held in St Petersburg, Lukashenko told Putin that Belarus was concerned by the "aggressive," "confrontational" and "repulsive" policies of its neighbors Lithuania and Poland.

He asked Putin to help Belarus mount a "symmetrical response" to what he said were nuclear-armed flights by the U.S.-led NATO alliance near Belarus's borders, according to CNBC.

"Minsk must be ready for anything, even the use of serious weaponry to defend our fatherland from Brest to Vladivostok," he said, putting Belarus and its close ally Russia under one umbrella.

In particular, he asked for help to make



Belarus's military aircraft nuclear-capable.

Putin said he saw no need at present for a symmetrical response, but that Belarus's Russian-built Su-25 jets could if necessary be upgraded in Russian factories.

He did, however, promise to supply the Iskander-M, a mobile guided missile system codenamed "SS-26 Stone" by NATO, which

replaced the Soviet "Scud." Its two guided missiles have a range of up to 500 km (300 miles) and can carry conventional or nuclear warheads.

Tensions between Russia and the West have soared since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine four months ago, alleging among other things that NATO planned to admit Ukraine and use it as a platform to threaten Russia.

Russia's move has not only triggered a barrage of Western sanctions but also prompted Sweden and Russia's northern neighbor Finland to apply to join the Western alliance.

In the past week, Lithuania in particular has infuriated Russia by blocking the transit of goods subject to European sanctions traveling across its territory from Russia, through Belarus, to Russia's Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad.

Russia has termed it a "blockade," but Lithuania says it affects only 1% of the normal goods transit on the route, and that passenger traffic is unaffected.

Russia captures key Ukrainian city as NATO seeks to prolong conflict

From page 1 ▶ Ukrainian shelling is said to have forced Russian troops to suspend the evacuation of people from a chemical plant in Sievierodonetsk, just hours after Moscow's forces took the city, Russian news agency TASS cited local police as saying.

The fall of Sievierodonetsk will be viewed as Russia's biggest military gain since capturing the port of Mariupol last month. The Russian military is expected to press on and seize more ground on the opposite side of the river bank.

In a video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy vowed that Ukraine would win back the cities it lost, including Sievierodonetsk. But acknowledged that "we don't have a sense of how long it will last,"

Russia had shifted its focus to the eastern Donbas region next to its border. The territory is made up of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. The cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk were the last major Ukrainian bastions in Luhansk.

Moscow says Luhansk and Donetsk, where it has voiced support for uprisings by ethnic Russians since 2014, should be considered independent countries. It has called on Ukraine to cede the territory of the two provinces to its separatist administrations. Ukraine and the self-proclaimed separatist provinces accuse the other of violating the Minsk agreement.

Europe's biggest land conflict since World War Two has now entered its fifth month.

Critics accuse NATO members, with the U.S. and the UK in particular of using Ukraine to expand the Northern military alliance.

Instead of backing a peaceful solution to the conflict, Western nations have been pumping weapons and money into the war zone.

The latest NATO member, the UK has promised to send more support for Ukraine without mentioning any peace talks.

Analysts had hoped that if Russia takes control of the Eastern Donbass region, the peace process will resume.

British prime minister Boris Johnson however has called on G7 leaders to carry on supporting Kyiv with arms and money as London pledged additional financial loans for the country without making any mention about the stalled peace talks.

"Ukraine can win and it will win. But they need our backing to do so. Now is not the time to give up on Ukraine," Johnson said.

A statement from Downing Street said "Britain stands ready to provide another \$525m in loan guarantees," warning that the Ukrainian government fears it could run out of cash by autumn without fresh injections of loans.

London's new pledge raises the total amount of British loans to Ukraine this year to around \$1.8 billion. There are question marks on how Ukraine will repay the debt.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr

Zelenskiy is expected to address G7 leaders on Monday virtually and, according to the British government, he will be calling on allies to provide long-term support for his country.

On Saturday, President Zelenskiy admitted that the conflict was becoming difficult to handle emotionally saying "at this stage of the war it's spiritually difficult, emotionally

difficult... we don't have a sense of long it will last, how many more blows, losses and efforts will be needed before we see victory is on the horizon,"

"The air defense systems – the modern systems that our partners have – should not be on training grounds or in storage, but in Ukraine, where they are needed now, needed more than anywhere else in the world," he said.

The U.S. earlier announced that it will provide 18 patrol boats to Ukraine as part of the 13th military package to Kyiv.

Analysts say the conflict could have been avoided if NATO and the U.S. responded to Moscow's security guarantees concerning NATO's eastward expansion on Russian borders, that the Kremlin sent months before the fighting started.

Ironically, the U.S. economy is not looking in the best of shape with many experts saying a recession is now a matter of when, how strong it will hit, and how long it will last?

The sanctions imposed on Russia has exacerbated the economic downfall in the U.S. and a halt to the conflict in Ukraine could potentially help the economy rebound from the losses that are currently affecting ordinary households. Inflation in America has hit a 40-year high.

However, that doesn't appear to be a priority for President Joe Biden whose approval ratings have nosedived to their lowest last week, falling for the fourth consecutive week to a record low while the price of gasoline is rising on an almost daily basis.

Analysts say Biden has been diverting the blame for the economic hardship back home on Russia's military operation in Ukraine. He has repeatedly blamed the rising prices on "Putin".

Whether Americans will buy into that will be seen in the November mid-term elections (Macron's efforts didn't work out too well in the parliamentary election). Biden's popularity is an indication of how developments will unfold but Americans will also be asking themselves that prices were already rising before the conflict erupted in Ukraine.

Likewise, crossing the pond, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson just seems like he can't escape the political nightmare following him, with the British economy also suffering record inflation levels and performing the worst in Europe.

The UK Premier's latest setback came a few days ago when the ruling Conservatives lost two by-elections which also saw the party's co-chairman resign saying "we cannot carry on with business as usual".

That came hot on the heels of a no-confidence vote that Johnson narrowly escaped but will find it difficult to pass legislation with so many Tory MPs turning against him, following scandals including "partygate".

The UK PM is on an eight-day trip, traveling to the G7 summit and then to NATO. Critics say Johnson might be out of the country but will almost certainly be telling the media back home that Russia is the "cause" of the rising living crisis facing ordinary households in Britain.

Again will voters buy that argument? Nothing indicates that they have so far.

Erdogan tells Sweden, NATO leaders that Turkey awaits steps for NATO bids

President Tayyip Erdogan told the heads of NATO and Sweden on Saturday that Nordic countries must take binding steps to address Turkey's concerns and overcome its opposition to their membership bids, Turkish state media reported, according to Reuters.

Sweden and Finland applied for NATO membership in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But Ankara surprised allies in opposing the bids on grounds it says Stockholm and Helsinki support Kurdish militants like the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), and they maintain arms embargos on Turkey. It wants reversals on both fronts.

On one call, Erdogan told Swedish Prime

Minister Magdalena Andersson that Turkey wants to see the "concrete and clear applications of binding commitments Sweden will make" before backing its bid, Anadolu agency reported.

Andersson said she had a good call with Erdogan. "Agreed on importance of making progress in run-up to the NATO Summit in Madrid next week, where I look forward to meeting President Erdogan and other Allied leaders," she said on Twitter.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg also described on Twitter his separate call as good and said he and Erdogan agreed to continue talks over the Nordic states' membership bids at a NATO summit in Madrid this week.

Mazandaran preparing to mark Tirgan festival



TEHRAN – Mazandaran province is getting prepared to celebrate the ancient festivity of Tirgan on Friday, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

“As an ancient ritual and national heritage, the Tirgan festival can be turned into a tourism product, as well as creating vitality in the region and providing the ideal environment for attracting tourists,” CHTN quoted Mohammad Arman Ershadi as saying on Sunday.

The one-day festival will be held in collaboration with the private sector, the official added.

Tirgan is a time-honored Iranian festival usually observed as a rain festival. Tiragan, along with Noruz, Yalda Night and Mehregan are amongst feasts widely celebrated in the ancient land.

Currently, the summer festival is mainly celebrated by Iranian Zoroastrians. The celebration is widely attested by historians such as Abu Sa'ed Gardezi, Biruni, and Al-Masudi, as well as European travelers to Iran during the Safavid era.

The Tirgan festivity refers to the archangel, ‘Tir’ (meaning arrow) or ‘Tishtar’ (lightening), referring to thunderstorms that bring much-needed rain that boost harvest and avert drought.

The ancient legend of the Tir (arrow) refers to “Arash of the swift arrow” or ‘Arash the archer’ (Arash-e Kamangir).

According to the Zoroastrian calendar, every thirty days of the month carries a name. The thirteenth day of the month of Tir

on the Persian calendar (June 22 – July 22) is named after the respective month, Tir.

Legend has it that Arash was the best archer in the Persian army. He was selected to settle a land dispute between Persia and Turan (present-day Central Asia).

When the kings of the two lands – Manouchehr and Afrasiyab – decided to settle their dispute and set a permanent boundary between Persia and Turan, they arrived at a mutual understanding that Arash should climb to the tall Mount Damavand’s peak, and from there shoot an arrow toward the east. Wherever his arrow landed, they agreed, would determine the boundary between the two kingdoms.

Arash shot his arrow (Tir) on the 13th day of the Persian month of Tir, which fell on the banks of the Jeyhun (the Oxus) River. Thus, the borders of the two countries were marked.

Legend has it that as soon as the border dispute was settled, rain began pouring down on both lands, which had been suffering from an eight-year drought.

Thus this day, the 13th of Tir (July 4th) is celebrated as the Festival of Rain.

It is customary for Zoroastrians to tie rainbow-colored ribbons around their wrists for ten consecutive days and toss the ribbons into a stream on the day of the festival.

The Festival of Rain is celebrated by people dancing, singing, reciting poetry, and serving delicacies such as spinach soup and ‘sholeh zard’ (saffron-flavored rice pudding).

An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty.

The northern section of the region consists of lowland alongside the Caspian and upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains. Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.



patterns from Kelims, holy names, etc.

Monjughs are regularly sewed to thick silk, satin, and other shiny fabrics in different colors, and in styles such as “Khati” or linear, “Tupor” where the motif is filled by Monjugh, “Bast-Duzi”, “Cobareh-Duzi” and “Barjesteh-Duzi” or embossed. Sometimes it is used along with other embroideries like “Gheythan-Duzi” which is done with thick yarn, or with silk yarn, sequins, pearls, and filigree.

Tiny beads being sewed to clothing and other textiles, Monjughs became highly popular in the late 20th century, during the Qajar era. Some of the valuable and elaborate Monjugh-Duzi pieces of this era are kept in the Decorative Arts Museum of Iran and can be visited.

Archaeologists discover Sassanid age artworks in northeast Iran

From page 1 ► The fire temple is in the form of a traditional Chahar-Taq (Chahartaq), where the four sides of the square room show an arched opening. Experts say this architectural form turned into the most typical form of Sassanid religious architecture, relating closely to the expansion and stabilization of Zoroastrianism under the Sassanid reign and continuing during the Islamic era thanks to its usage in religious and holy buildings such as mosques and tombs.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the archaeologist said each of the columns of this hall was decorated with capitals bearing exquisite stuccoworks.

“Moreover, the discovery of seals suggests administrative activities performed in this religious collection and the use of high-quality materials and decorations shows the importance of this collection to the Sassanid central government.”

Since 2014, Labbaf-Khaniki has



conducted several surveys at the ancient site to study the Sassanid monument itself, carrying out the plan of the original building and identifying further structures around it.

In 2018, a joint Franco-Iranian mission decided to study the whole valley, its human occupations, its geomorphology, its implication in the large territory of Khorasan Razavi province, as well as the monuments surrounding the Chahar-Taq.

The Sassanid era is of very

high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian architecture and arts experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Generally, a Sassanid archaeological landscape represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural

centers of the Sassanid civilization.

In 2018, an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran, titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region”, was named a UNESCO site. The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan.

The World Heritage reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Apart from architecture, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Bastam fortification restored

TEHRAN – The first phase of restoration work has been completed on Bastam fortification in a bid to safeguard the Safavid era (1501–1736) monument located in north-central Iran. The fort is located in the ancient town of Bastam near Shahroud.

This phase of the restoration involved replacing worn-out materials, repairing the cracks, and strengthening the foundation, Shahroud’s tourism chief Morteza Nazari explained on Sunday.

Based on narrations in various books, Bastam was initially built during the reign of the Sassanid king Khosrow II, byname Khosrow Parviz (“Khosrow the Victorious”), ruling from 590 to 628, by a master named Wastam, and then the city was expanded in the Islamic era, the official added.

Clay and stratified mud are the main materials of Bastam tower and fortification, he noted.

The fortification tower is rectangular, and on its northeast side was a government citadel, of which there is no trace, he mentioned.



Bastam is home to countless historical sites including the holy shrine of Mohammad Ibn Jafar Sadeh (AS), Bayazid Bastami tomb, Bayazid Monastery, Bayazid Mosque, Eljaito Iwan, Ghazan Dome, Jame Mosque, Kashaneh Tower, and Shahrokhieh School, which were built in different eras from Seljuk era (1037–1194) to Qajar period (1789–1925).

The prominent Persian mystic Bayazid Bastami lived in the historical city of Bastam, which is located six kilometers north of Shahroud. The monastery was a simple place where he studied and prayed.

Fars home to 200,000 crafters, provincial data suggests

TEHRAN– Some 200,000 artisans are currently employed in the handicraft sector of the southern Fars province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

A total of 900 jobs are also being created in this sector annually, Majid Salimi explained on Sunday.

“However, in the realm of handicrafts, the biggest challenge is the large size of the province and the diversity of disciplines as well as the lack of specialized personnel,” the official added.

“There is 80 percent of artisans working independently, who are unable to turn their business into revenue, and there are major craftspeople who work in the villages far from the handicrafts centers,” he explained.

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

Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

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”.

Landscaping to tilt face of Safavid mosque in southwestern Iran

TEHRAN – A landscaping project has commenced on Murk Mosque, aimed to trim the face of the modest place of worship and its premises located in the ancient city of Belad Shapur, southwestern Iran.

Most recently, a team of restorers completed work on the Safavid-era (1501–1736) mosque following years of neglect and poor maintenance, according to the provincial tourism chief.

The architecture of the mosques in Iran varies from one region to another, due

to geometric structures, materials, and styles specific to each location. However, a considerable number of mosques have very complex structures decorated with intricate tilework, stuccowork, and brickwork to name a few.

Belad Shapur was built upon the order of the Sassanid Shapur I (known as Shapur the Great) who ruled the Persian Empire from 241 CE to 272.

Under his leadership, the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the

north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it extended to the Indus River, and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates rivers valleys.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad is well-known for its ancient nomads and their traditions. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Apricot festival makes debut in Mahneshan

TEHRAN– For the first time, an apricot festival has been held in Mahneshan county, northwestern Zanjan province, according to the county’s tourism chief.

The festival, which was held on Friday, included the sale of apricots and other agricultural products, various handicraft products, and a performance of traditional rituals, Abedin Safai said on Saturday.

“Music performances, family

walks, and the awarding of prizes to the best farmers of the region were also part of the festival,” the official added.

The Mahenshan county has many potentials for agritourism, and such festivals could introduce and market it, he concluded.

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery

tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, or outfitter services), and on-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

It is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands,

which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Experts believe that in addition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services.

Coronavirus outbreak at lowest point in Iran

TEHRAN – The coronavirus outbreak is currently is at the lowest point in Iran, though the disease is still prevalent in other countries, spokesman for the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, Abbas Shiravjen, has said.

There is a possibility that the virus will emerge with new strains, but we hope that it will not spread massively, he highlighted, ISNA reported.

The pandemic is still taking lives in Europe, North and South America, and Australia. This means that the incidence of the disease is still high and the number of deaths in these countries is double digits or even triple digits.

In the region, the trend is the same, for example, countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United



Arab Emirates, and Qatar have an increase in cases, therefore, there is a possibility for the emergence of new variants.

Iran has been able to reduce the COVID mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10, and this

successful experience of the Islamic Republic was made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said on May 27.

So far, about 150 million dos-

es of vaccine have been injected into the Iranian population and the coverage of vaccination in the total population is about 75 percent, he highlighted.

Following the decision of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control and President Ebrahim Raisi, all universities affiliated with the ministries of science and health, and schools, started education in person on April 3 as the new cases of the disease have notably reduced.

Iran has been able to reduce the COVID mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10.

Solar air quality monitoring device produced domestically

TEHRAN – An Iranian knowledge-based company has succeeded in designing and producing a solar air quality monitoring device.

This device is able to monitor ambient air pollutants, noise pollution, odors, and atmospheric parameters. It works with solar energy and provides air monitoring information online and offline without the need for city electricity.

It also provides information on urban air pollution including PM2.5 and PM10 and polluting gases (O3, CO, NO2, SO2, and VOC), and meteorology (temperature, humidity, air pressure, sound, wind speed, and direction) which were measured before by foreign samples.

The whole process of design, electrical board, computer programming, online site, and assembly is done domestically and by young researchers in the country, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Similar products are produced by countries such as China, Japan, Germany, Italy, and France.

The device provides information on polluting gases, meteorology temperature, humidity, air pressure, sound, wind speed, and direction.

The ambient air quality monitoring device saves more than \$600,000 of foreign currency annually.

Life-threatening environmental factor

Air pollution is one of the life-threatening environmental factors. The effects of air pollution on human health have long been considered, since the early 1990s, air pollution in cities, especially in the metropolises of developing countries, has been recognized as one of the most important environmental concerns in the world.

According to experts, airborne particles can cause short-term and long-term effects on the health of residents of polluted areas. Air pollution has diverse impacts on different people, which appears more on vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.

Three million people die of air pollution each year, and in some countries, the number of people who die from the same factor is higher than the number of victims of traffic accidents. Air pollution is one of the most important preconditions for sustainable development due to its implications for the living conditions of future generations, which may be affected by many potential factors.

Air pollution kills 7m people worldwide

Air pollution is the contamination of the indoor or outdoor environment by any chemical, physical or biological agent that modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. Household combustion devices, motor vehicles, industrial facilities, and forest fires are common sources of air pollution. Pollutants of major public health concern include partic-



ulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide.

Outdoor and indoor air pollution cause respiratory and other diseases and is an important source of morbidity and mortality.

Air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year. WHO data shows that almost all of the global population (99%) breathe air that exceeds WHO guideline limits containing high levels of pollutants, with low- and middle-income countries suffering from the highest exposures.

Air pollution is responsible for around 40,000 premature deaths in Iran annually, Mohammad-Sadeq Hassanvand, head of the air pollution research center at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, said in July 2020.

From smog hanging over cities to smoke inside the home, air pollution poses a major threat to health and climate. The combined effects of ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution cause millions of premature deaths every year, largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and acute respiratory infections.

WHO praises Iran for combating respiratory diseases

From page 1 ► Ahmad al-Manzari, said that Iran is a role model in West Asia for taking measures to control non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Al-Manzari stressed the need to transfer Iran's knowledge and experience to other countries in the region, especially experiences related to the COVID-19 pandemic and non-communicable diseases by setting up regional

and global networks.

Unfortunately, with the over-emphasis of the health system on the recent pandemic and the disruptions in the provision of prevention measures, it is predicted that in the coming years, non-communicable diseases bring up new challenges to the world, lamented.

NCDs kill 41 million people each year,

equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally. Each year, 15 million people die from an NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; over 85% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Some 300,000 Iranians die of NCDs annually in Iran, which means that one-fourth of the country's population (standing at 80 million) are overweight

or obese which also results in developing NCDs.

In June 2021, al-Manzari said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

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

health services, he explained.

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



Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Mental health screening scheme to be launched at schools

A scheme to determine the prevalence and incidence of psychiatric disorders in students will be implemented at schools across the country by the next school year (starting on September 23), director for education department at the Ministry of Education has said.

Since last year, all students on seventh to ninth grades have undergone the mental health screening, so, we decided to conduct the tests on students on all grades, ISNA quoted Masoud Shokouhi as saying on Saturday.

"The scheme will be launched by the beginning of the next school year," he added.

For the current school year, screening of mental health was carried out in February and the results were presented to consultants for in-school or individual counseling, he said.

There are several types of screening that baseline testing is done by teachers, who record their observations on the system, he explained, adding, in the next step, specialist interventions will take place whether by the school counselor or counseling services outside the schools.

غربالگری «سلامت روان دانش آموزان» کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی از مهر ماه

مدیرکل امور تربیتی و مشاوره وزارت آموزش و پرورش، اعلام کرد که از مهرماه آینده غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان در کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی انجام می‌شود.

مسعود شکوهی در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، افزود: تا سال گذشته همه دانش آموزان پایه هفتم، هشتم و بخشی از دانش آموزان پایه نهم مورد سنجش قرار گرفتند. وی اظهار کرد: غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان از سال تحصیلی جدید آغاز می‌شود.

مدیرکل امور تربیتی و مشاوره وزارت آموزش و پرورش ادامه داد: برای سال تحصیلی جاری، غربالگری اولیه سلامت روان بهمن ماه سال ۹۷ انجام شد و نتایج آن جهت استفاده مشاورین در برنامه ریزی‌های درون مدرسه‌ای و فردی در اختیارشان قرار گرفت. شکوهی افزود: چند نوع غربالگری داریم که غربالگری پایه توسط معلمان انجام می‌شود و معلمان مشاهدات خود را در سامانه همگان ثبت می‌کنند. در مراحل بعدی در صورت نیاز مداخلات تخصصی از سطح مشاور مدرسه تا هسته‌های مشاوره در سطوح استانی و واحدهای مددکاری در بیرون آموزش و پرورش صورت می‌گیرد.

Astrology and astronomy in Iran

Part 1

i. History of Astronomy in Iran

The Achaemenid and Parthian periods

In the earlier portions of the Avesta there is no trace of mathematical astronomy (which in any case, would be inappropriate in such a context) and only a few hints at some sort of observational astronomy involving the sun, the moon, and certain fixed stars. See Yashts 6 (to the sun), 7 (to the moon), 8 (to Tishtrya), and 10 (to Mitra).

The earliest mathematical astronomy that developed in territory under Iranian control was that which originated in Mesopotamia, was improved during the Achaemenid period, and culminated in the Babylonian solar, lunar, and planetary theories of the Seleucid and Parthian periods.

That some of this Babylonian astronomy and the astral omen literature that was associated with it was adopted by scholars in Iran itself is implied by its transmission to India in the late fifth or early fourth century B.C. and by the preservation of Babylonian methods of interpreting gnomon-shadows.

This is included in the Pahlavi text Shāyast ne shayast, chap. 21 (E. W. West, Pahlavi Texts I, SBE 5, pp. 397-400). We have no direct evidence, however, that would clarify the nature of Iranian astronomy during the Achaemenid period.

In the Parthian period, however, we do find evidence from eastern Iran that Babylonian mathematical astronomy and astral omens continued to be studied and that Indian concepts had begun to be influential.

For the first of these hypotheses the evidence consists of planetary omens reported by the Chinese historian Ssu-ma Chien (ca. 100 B.C.) and of the structure of Early Han planetary theory; both the omens and the theory seem to have originated in Mesopotamia.

The evidence for the second hypothesis is found in the Buddhist Sanskrit texts of which manuscripts were preserved in Central Asia or which were translated into Chinese or into Central Asian languages in the second century A.D. and later.

In some of these texts—particularly the Shārdulakarnavadana and the Mahamayurividyarajni—there are included both Indian adaptations of Mesopotamian astronomy and astral omens and lists of the Indian nakshatras.

The latter were originally 27 or 28 constel-



lations, in one of which the moon appeared to be on each night of a sidereal month; they had become, in the second half of the first millennium B.C., 27 arcs of 13;20° each along the ecliptic.

The Sasanian period

In the third century A.D. the first two Sasanian rulers sponsored Pahlavi translations of Greek and Sanskrit works on astronomy and astrology.

Among the texts so translated were the Greek astrological treatises of Dorotheus of Sidon and Vettius Valens, and the astronomical Syntaxis mathematica (Almagest) of Ptolemy, as well as a Sanskrit astrological work by one Farmasb.

These Pahlavi translations are now lost, but we do have Arabic translations of the Pahlavi version of Dorotheus of Sidon and of a Sasanian astrological treatise entitled Ketāb Zaradosht which clearly illustrate the fact that Sasanian science was indeed syncretic, based on both Greek and Indian sources.

Arabic texts also preserve numerous fragments of other lost Pahlavi astronomical and astrological texts; and it appears probable that Sasanian scientists transmitted some Indian theories to Syria.

From this evidence and from passages in the Bundahishn (a ninth-century compilation of older data) we can form some idea of the character of Sasanian astronomy.

The astronomy of the Bundahishn, as befits a "popular" encyclopedia, was elementary and basically Indian; it devotes completely disproportionate space to the nakshatras, for instance, and repeats a primitive Indian explanation of the cinematics of the planets, according to which their motion is effected by cosmic chords.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 26

New cases	297
New deaths	2
Total cases	7,236,361
Total deaths	141,385
New hospitalized patients	40
Patients in critical condition	215
Total recovered patients	7,061,727
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,571,646
Doses of vaccine injected	150,323,278

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**

Editor-in-Chief: **Ali A.Jenabzadeh**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

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

JUNE 27, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is no greater wealth than wisdom, no greater poverty than ignorance; no greater heritage than culture and no greater support than consultation.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:07 Evening: 20:45 Dawn: 4:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:51 (tomorrow)

Jamshid in Persian literature

Part 8
Jam and Jami (Jamag): In the Rigveda, Yama has a twin sister Yami, while, in Iran, only Pahlavi Jam has a twin sister Jami (Jamag). The form Jam-i for Av. Yam-i is formed like Pah. ahuran-i (spelled with -ydy) for Av. ahuran-i and Jam-ag is formed like Rudab-a, etc.

According to the Pazand Ayadgar i Zamaspig, Wiwangan had a pair of twins, Jam and Jami, and Jam took Jami with him when he went into exile (see above on Yima's sin; also the Persian Rivayats, tr. Dhabhar, pp. 580-81).

Similarly, according to the Pahlavi Rivayat, after the loss of his kingship, Jam and his sister Jamag went into the war in order to escape from humans and devs. When he was nowhere to be found in the world or in Hell, Ahriman suggested he might be in the war, and a dev and a parig (a male and female demon) went looking for him. They presented themselves to Jam and Jamag as fleeing from the dewes and suggested the four of them be united in marriage, which they were.

In the Bundahishn, the background story is omitted and it is only said that, out of fear for the devs, Jam took a female dev as his wife and gave Jami to a male dew. According to both accounts, it was from these unions that monkeys, bears, and other harmful creatures were born (including the Gandarw, Pahlavi Rivayat, Zohhak's evil counselor Kandrow in the Shahnameh).

Interestingly, Zadspram has a parallel story about Manushchihr and his otherwise unknown sister Manushag, who has the daughter (?) Koxred (Av. kaxareidi, a kind of sorceress) with Wrath (heshm).

The Pahlavi Rivayat goes on to tell the story of how, one time Jam and the dev were on a drinking spree, Jamag switched clothes with the parig and took her drunken brother to bed, thus performing xwedodah (next-of-kin marriage), by the virtue of which the two demons fell back into Hell. The Bundahishn also reports that Jam and Jamag had twins, a man named Aspi(g)an and a woman named Zreshom, who married and so continued the lineage. The story is reminiscent of the story of Lot and his daughters, who have intercourse with him when he is drunk, in order to continue the family.

A later version of this story, perhaps influenced by the story of Yima's sisters, is reported by Ebn Meskawayh, according to whom Jamshid had married his sister to a relative, whom he then made king of Yemen, and she gave birth to Dahag. Biruni, too, mentions that Bivarasp was the son of Jamshid's sister.

Jam's twin sister shows up only in the Pahlavi books and later, but it has been speculated whether this part of the myth is related to the "twins" (ye'ma) of Yasna 30.3 "who have ben renowned as the twin 'sleeps'" Since the "twins" in this passage are the two "spirits" (manius), any direct connection with Yima seems to be excluded, although an indirect allusion (typical of the style of the Gatas) cannot be ruled out, but discussions have produced nothing convincing.

Wolfgang Lentz, for instance, suggested that the passage meant "the twins (Yima and his sister), who have become known by their sleep(ing together)," for which Helmut Humbach suggested "who, because of Yima, have become renowned as the two (kinds of) sleep(ing together);" that is, with the dev and the parig. It is unlikely that the passage in its context has this literal meaning, but it is not

impossible that the poets expected the listener to make these connections if the myths existed at the time.

The "cutting apart" of Yima, although reminiscent of Plato's myth in the Symposium, that the primordial androgynes were cut in two to produce men and women, also leads to no further insight on the matter of the twins. The same is true if the "cutting" was castration, which brings to mind the myth of Uranus and Cronus, where Cronus castrates his father with a sickle with jagged teeth. On the other hand, the story of the incest connects the Iranian myth with the Old Indic myth, in which Yami tries to seduce her brother.

Yam in Manichaeism: The Manichean Book of Giants contains two Sogdian fragments of a story about Yam, one in which Yam is presented with five diadems, which he accepts, and one in which he is described as lord of the world, before whom all the lords of the world would assemble on New Year's Day, all of which echoes closely Ferdowsi's account of the beginning of Jamshid's reign.

Prods O. Skjavo has argued that numerous features of the mythical Yima, Jam(shed) agree with those of the Manichean Rex Honoris, the second son of the five sons of the Living Spirit, who sits on a throne in the seventh heaven, is the ruler (sman-xshed) of all ten heavens, and watches over the heavens and the earths, and further with the description of God in 1 Enoch 14:18, who sits on a throne of crystal with wheels like the shining sun, recalling the description of Jamshid's throne as a glass chariot.

The Rex Honoris is also in charge of a wheel that is like a big mirror and allows him to see everything, which is reminiscent of Jamshid's Cup, which allows him to see everything that goes on in the entire world.

According to 1 Enoch 7-8, the 200 angels, led by Semyaz, taught people medicine, decorations, ornamentation, etc., crafts that, according to the Sogdian fragment, the 200 devs had seen in the heavens among the gods, etc.

This may indicate that Mani correlated the Iranian mythical characters with his own in his narrative of the origins of the world in his book Pragmaiteia, deeds of heroes.

Jam in the medieval chronography: The Arab historians, who, following earlier traditions, try to establish synchronisms between the Iranian and Biblical legends, place Jam variously.

Ebn Qotayba makes him the Persian Solomon, a tradition also reported by Dinavari, Maqdesi, Ebn Hawqal, and Ta'alebi. Maqdesi also points out that the Persians assign to Jamshid all the miracles assigned to Solomon; Estakhri and Ebn Hawqal refer to Persepolis as the mosque of Solomon and that Jam was Solayman; and Hamdollah Mostawfi reports that in the Sower al-aqalim (apparently of Abu Zayd Balkhi, lost), the columns in Persepolis were said to be of the Mosque of Solomon and suggests that perhaps Solayman had turned Jamshid's house into a mosque.

Ebn al-Nadim simply points out that some say Solayman was the first to make the demons his subjects, others say it was Jamshid. Several of the Muslim authors criticize the notion that Jamshid was Solomon by referring to the great time span separating them, including Dinavari and Mirkhand, who produces additional arguments why they cannot have been the same person.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Iran's "Leo" wins Grand Prix of Croatian One-Minute Film Festival

From Page 1 ▶ The awards were handed over to Esmaeili by the director of the festival, Zeljko Balog, and jury president Vaclav Antonin Simek.

"You Reap What You Sow" by Taiwanese director Kao Chia-Hung won first prize and "The Little Prince for Grownups" by Zoran Catic from Bosnia and Herzegovina garnered third prize.

The audience award went to "New Age" by Slovakian director Jan Kuska.

Lejla Dedic, Tadija Tadic, Velimir Grgic and Zvonimir Karakatic were the members of the jury.

The 30th edition of the Croatian One-Minute Film Festival, which is organized annually by GFR FILM – VIDEO Pozega, took place from June 22 to 26.

The official program of the festival was presented at several locations in Pozega.

During the festival days, a selection of one-minute films



Iranian Ambassador Parviz Esmaeili (2nd L) shakes hands with jury president Vaclav Antonin Simek after receiving an award on behalf of an Iranian filmmaker at the Croatian One-Minute Film Festival in Pozega, Croatia, on June 25, 2022.

from the previous editions was screened, as well as an exhibition of photographs and one of the highlights of the festival -

the international film quiz for filmmakers and guests.

In addition, a half-day excursion for all the guests was organized.

This year, all the filmmakers who could not attend the festival were offered the opportunity to watch the official program online.

Five Iranian films competing in Cinema d'iDEA women's festival

TEHRAN – Five Iranian movies are competing in the 6th edition of Cinema d'iDEA, a women's international film festival currently underway in Rome, Italy.

"Prestige", "Woodgirls – A Duet for a Dream", "Radiograph of a Family", "The Choice" and "Bewitchment" are being screened in the different categories of the festival, which will run until July 1.

Directed by Zahra Ahui, "Prestige" is about Mahsa Bayat, a TV host who faces a challenge in a live program that places her in a dilemma of choosing between work and personal interest.

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

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

Raymond Kévorkian's book on history of Armenian Genocide published in Persian

TEHRAN – "The Armenian Genocide: A Complete History" by French historian Raymond Kévorkian has been published in Persian by the Afkar publishing house in Tehran.

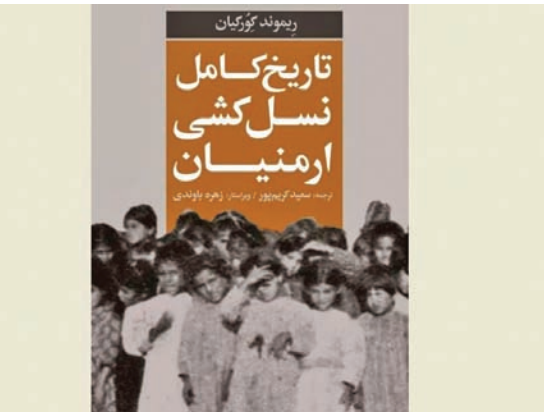
Saeid Karimpur is the translator of the book originally published in 2006.

The Armenian Genocide was one of the greatest atrocities of the twentieth century, an episode in which up to 1.5 million Armenians lost their lives.

In this major new history, Kévorkian provides a long-awaited authoritative account of the origins, events and consequences of the years 1915 and 1916.

He explains and analyses the debates that occurred within the elite circles of the Young Turks, and traces the roots of the violence that would be raged upon the Ottoman Armenians.

Uniquely, this is also a geographical account of the Armenian genocide, documenting its course region by region,



Front cover of the Persian edition of Raymond Kévorkian's book "The Armenian Genocide".

including a complete account of the deportations, massacres and resistance that occurred.

Kévorkian considers the role that the Armenian Genocide played in the construction of the Turkish nation-state and Turkish identity, as well as exploring the ideologies of power, rule and state violence, presenting an important contribution to the understanding of how such destruction could have occurred.

Thus, Kévorkian examines the history of the Young Turks and the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

as they came into conflict with one another, taking into consideration the institutional, political, social and even psychological mechanisms that culminated in the destruction of the Ottoman Armenians.

Beginning with an exploration of the origins of the Young Turk Revolution in 1908, Kévorkian analyses the decision-making process which led to the terrible fate of those who were deported to the concentration camps of Aleppo and along the Euphrates.

Crucially, "The Armenian

"The Secret Player" surfaces in Iranian bookstores



Front cover of the Persian translation of "The Secret Player" by Vahid Namazi.

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of "The Secret Player" has recently been published by Cheshmeh in Tehran.

Vahid Namazi is the translator of the book, which is by an anonymous writer.

In the vein of Hotel Babylon and Confessions of a GP, "The Secret Player" will fascinate football fans with its wealth of insider knowledge and willingness to talk, albeit anonymously, about the inner workings of the game.

Based on the hugely popular "The Player" columns in FourFourTwo magazine, the book gives awarts-and-all insight into the daily life of professional footballers.

Month by month, it chronicles the oscillating rhythms of the season, from the trudge of pre-season to the "squeaky-bum time" of promotion and relegation.

The player himself has played at all levels of English football, from Premier League to a season of non-League, and represented England (alongside David Beckham) at the U21 level.

Books can be attributed to "Anonymous" for several reasons, including they are officially published under that name, they are traditional stories not attributed to a specific author and they are religious texts not generally attributed to a specific author.