

Iran Ramps Up Neighborhood Diplomacy

► Page 3

Report

Blame game starts early on Doha talks

TEHRAN— In a joint effort to portray the first round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States in Doha as “a failure,” the Western media has launched a heavy blame game to show Iran and the negotiating team as a culprit. But what is the truth?

The Doha talks officially began on Tuesday with a meeting between Iran’s top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani and Enrique Mora, the European Union coordinator who conveys messages between Iran and the United States. The talks continued on Wednesday as well, and concluded on Wednesday night. Although it was agreed that the first round of talks would be conducted in two days, the Western media and their agents started propagating that the Doha talks were an absolute failure, painting gloomy pictures and casting doubt on the next possible round of indirect talks between Iran and the U.S.

In this regard, on Wednesday evening the new Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani tweeted, “Intensive talks were held in Doha on Tuesday and Wednesday with EU deputy foreign policy chief Enrique Mora being the mediator, as the sanctions removal negotiations continued. Iran put forth its operational views and proposals regarding the remaining issues and the other side had its own considerations. As always, Bagheri and Mora will be in touch over continuing down this path and the next stage of the negotiations.”

The tweet clearly indicated that the talks were initially planned for two days. Being unable to plant seeds of despair, their blame game took another twist. ► Page 2

◀ STAY UPDATED #DohaTalks

Report

China hits back at NATO

After NATO declared Beijing as a security threat for the first time, saying the country is a major challenge to its interests, the People’s Republic of China hit out at the U.S.-led military alliance.

The United States and some of its Western allies alongside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg used the NATO summit in Spain to level all sorts of allegations against China. The accusations are also included in the NATO summit’s communique dubbed “Strategic Concept”, which the Chinese Mission to the European Union denounced as being “filled with Cold war thinking and ideological bias,”

NATO has indeed attacked sovereign countries and been involved in countless wars, something that was not lost in the scathing criticism of the military alliance by China’s mission to the EU.

Its spokesperson said, “NATO claims itself to be a defensive organization that upholds the rules-based international order, but it has bypassed the UN Security Council and waged wars against sovereign states, creating huge casualties and leaving tens of millions displaced.”

NATO has also claimed that its “defense zone” will not go beyond the North Atlantic, as the spokesperson pointed out, “but it has flexed its muscle in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years and sought to stir up bloc confrontation here, as it has done in Europe. Who’s challenging global security and undermining world peace? Are there any wars or conflicts over the years where NATO is not involved?” ► Page 5



8th decade curse

TEHRAN — As the Israeli regime is heading off towards its 5th election in 3 years on November 1, the million-dollar question has been raised again. Is the 8th decade curse

striking again?

The prophecies of Israel in the Old Testament Tanakh (or the Hebrew Bible) say that the fall of the Israeli Kingdom has internal causes and is caused by conflicts between the Israeli tribes, and in the end, God will do

what He did. Like King Solomon’s kingdom which fell apart.

These prophecies are being examined today in the discourse of Israelis with the arrival of Israel in its 8th decade with concern about internal differences in Israeli politics. ► Page 2

Iran, Russia ink road transportation co-op MOU

TEHRAN- Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on road transportation cooperation, at the end of the two countries’ Road Transportation Joint Committee meeting in Moscow on Wednesday.

The MOU, inked by Iranian deputy transport

and urban development minister and Russian deputy transport minister, is a step toward strengthening the two countries’ economic exchanges in the field of road transport.

The parties also discussed and made agreement on the exchange of statistics and information in terms of road transport, inter-

national road transport issues in the territory of Iran and Russia, the use of traffic permits, border crossings and the development of international transport corridors.

Sberbank ready to lay ground for Iran-Russia financial exchanges ► Page 4

Report

Cooperatives build a better world

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The International Day of Cooperatives has been celebrated worldwide since 1923 as the unique contribution of cooperatives is making the world a better place.

The 100th International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated on the first Saturday of July. A decade on from the UN International Year of Cooperatives, which showcased the unique contribution of cooperatives to making the world a better place, this year’s slogan – “Cooperatives Build a Better World” – echoes the theme of the International Year.

The aim is to increase awareness of cooperatives and promote the movement’s ideas of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality, and world peace. Since 1995, the ICA and the United Nations ► Page 7

ister said only 74 foreign travelers arrived in the country during the spring of 1399. “During the first three months of the year 1399, only 74 foreign tourists visited Iran.”

“Citizens from the neighboring countries have been the main source of tourism for Iran since coronavirus restrictions were eased several months ago,” Shalbfafian said, addressing the World Tourism Industry Conference held in Seoul, South Korea, on June 23. ► Page 6

tional travelers, the majority of whom were from the neighboring countries, arrived in the country during the past [Iranian] year (1400), Mehr reported.

Iran’s tourism industry has tremendously suffered from the international coronavirus restrictions so the number of foreign arrivals in 1399 decreased by more than 94% in comparison to the year 1398, the official noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the deputy min-



Tehran Auction exhibit held

An art aficionado visits an exhibition of the 16th Tehran Auction at Tehran’s Parsian Hotel on June 29, 2022.

120 artworks by contemporary Iranian artists went under the hammer at the auction held on Friday. A report of the sale will be published in the Sunday edition of the Tehran Times.

715,000 foreign travelers visit Iran in spring

TEHRAN – Some 715,000 foreign travelers toured Iran during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

“A total of 715,519 foreign travelers, mainly from Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, visited Iran during the first three months of the current year,” the deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbfafian announced on Wednesday.

The official said over 1,957,000 interna-

From Inside

- Iran backs multilateral diplomacy to lift illegal sanctions: envoy **P2**
- Iran rejects accusations of Arab officials **P3**
- Iran president, Qatar emir discuss nuclear talks **P3**
- Quarterly loading, unloading of goods in Iran’s ports up 7% on year **P4**
- Annual non-oil export anticipated to hit \$45b-\$55b’ **P4**
- Housing price increases 8.4% in Tehran city **P4**
- Masouleh joins League of Historical Cities **P6**
- Archaeologists race against time to safeguard antiquities against sinking **P6**
- Despite sanctions, Iran has the strongest health system: minister **P7**
- Tehran, Harare pledge to boost media cooperation **P7**
- Hichem Rostom, Tunisian actor of Iranian TV series “Salman Farsi”, dies at 75 **P8**
- Nominees for 2022 Golden Pen Awards unveiled **P8**

Interview

Iran indispensable to Russia as gateway to India: analyst

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A geopolitical analyst says that Iran has a pivotal place when it comes to connecting Russia to India.

“The Islamic Republic is indispensable to Russia since transit across its territory links that Eurasian great power with their shared Indian strategic partner, which safeguards Russia’s strategic autonomy in these new international conditions,” Andrew Korybko tells the Tehran Times.

“By functioning as Russia’s gateway to India and vice versa, Iran is positioned to assist both great powers in jointly creating a third pole of influence to help balance Eurasian affairs between the American and Chinese superpowers according to the bi-multipolarity model posited by Indian thinker Sanjaya Baru,” Korybko adds.

Following is the text of the interview:

What’s the relevance of Russia’s relations with other four Caspian countries, especially in light of the Ukrainian conflict?

None of Russia’s fellow Caspian countries voted against it at the UN or sanctioned it despite considerable Western pressure upon them to do so. This speaks to their strategic autonomy and state sovereignty, which bolsters their multipolar credentials. The U.S.-led West’s unprecedented sanctions have successfully cut off Russia from the EU, which necessitates Moscow pivoting to the Global South. ► Page 5

Iran to play Uruguay in Vienna: report

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will reportedly play a friendly match with Uruguay in September.

Iran were supposed to face the South American team last month in Montevideo but Iran coach Dragan Skocic canceled the match due to the long distance.

Now, the media reports suggest that the teams will play in a friendly match on September 22 in Vienna, Austria.

La Celeste will also play Qatar in Vienna five days later. Uruguay are in Group H along with Portugal, Guinea and South Korea.

Led by veteran strikers Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani, they also have Fede Valverde of Real Madrid and Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo among their most important players.

Uruguay reached the last four in 2010 and have been a regular in the knockout stages since.

The match could be a real test for Iran, who lost to Algeria 2-1 in a friendly match in Doha in early June.

The ‘Persian Leopards’ are in Group B along with favorites England, the U.S. and Wales.

Blame game starts early on Doha talks

From page 1 ► “As time goes by, the chances of a deal diminish quite rapidly,” a senior U.S. official told Laurence Norman, the Wall Street Journal correspondent in Brussels.

The unnamed U.S. official continued, “Based on what happened during the last 48 hours, it’s hard to see what benefit another round of such talks would have.”

“We didn’t need to come to Doha to hear this list of complaints or demands that have nothing to do with the JCPOA,” the official said. “Of course, we are always open to consider what the EU suggests as a next step and we welcome their efforts. But the lesson we draw from this round of talks is not that another one will get us any closer or that it is the answer to the impasse that we are currently in.”

The Western media then tried to cling on to Mora’s tweet, noting that the talks were a letdown.

On Wednesday, Mora tweeted, “Two intense days of proximity talks in Doha on #JCPOA. Unfortunately, not yet the progress the EU team as coordinator had hoped-for. We will keep working with even greater urgency to bring back on track a key deal for non-proliferation and regional stability @JosepBorrellF.”

Even by reading this tweet, one can infer that the EU hoped for a breakthrough, but it did not achieve it. However, let’s keep in mind that progress, no matter how small, is progress. Mora did not completely rule out the talks being positive in his tweet, therefore, the Western media’s inference is hasty.

This comes while in a Wednesday phone call between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Qatari counterpart, the Qatari top diplomat hailed the first round of talks as “constructive and forward-looking,” according to the Iranian foreign ministry readout of the phone call.

During the same conversation, Amir Abdollahian assessed the Doha talks as “positive”.

“I stress that we are ready to reach a good, robust and lasting deal, and if the U.S. acts realistically, an agreement is at hand,” the chief diplomat reiterated for what it seems to be the hundredth time.

However, in a Thursday meeting of the United Nations Security Council meeting, the ambassadors of the United States, UK, France, Germany and other Washington’s friends repeated their hollow and baseless claims against Iran’s intentions, claiming that Iran does not want the JCPOA to be revived.

In the same meeting, Iran’s ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi outlined Tehran’s positions and what has been done in the most perfect manner.

“Iran’s nuclear ‘escalation’ is a remedial measure meant to compel U.S., UK and other

JCPOA participants to abide by their obligations, the violation of which in fact undermined international peace and security and the non-proliferation regime,” Takht Ravanchi noted, adding, “Our negotiating team is ready to engage constructively again to conclude and reach a deal. The ball is in U.S. court and if the U.S. acts realistically and shows its serious intention to implement its obligations, the agreement is not out of reach.”

According to the Iranian envoy to the UN, Tehran agreed to hold indirect talks with Washington through the EU in order to overcome “the last hurdles in the talks.”

“We were sincere in the Doha talks that were serious and positive. As in the past, we will be in touch with the EU coordinator for the next stage of the talks,” he noted.

“In the course of the Vienna talks, we exercised maximum flexibility and showed good faith in order to reach an agreement acceptable to all and even introduced innovative solutions to the

remaining issues with the hope to break the impasse.

However, the United States’ unrealistic and rigid approach has led to the current stalemate.

We are continuing our remedial measures because other parties’ non-performance of commitments continues, sanctions remain in full force, the maximum pressure policy is still being pursued, and our people’s sufferings continue.

Nonetheless, as soon as other parties fulfill all of their obligations in a complete, effective, and verifiable manner, Iran will immediately reverse all of its steps. However, the sufferings of our people as a result of other parties failing to perform their commitments are nearly completely irreversible,” he added.

Prior to Takht Ravanchi’s statement, UN Under-Secretary General Rosemary Anne Di Carlo called on the U.S. to remove the sanctions imposed on Iran, which are consistent with the JCPOA. The same position was addressed by Antonio Guterres in his 13th report on the assessment of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

“I again call upon the United States to also lift or waive its sanctions as outlined in the Plan and to extend the waivers with regard to the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Guterres highlighted.

Let’s not forget that the same gloomy picture was drawn by Western media on November 29, when Bagheri led Iran in the 7th round of the Vienna talks. They spoke of an abysmal failure, yet the talks proceeded in a satisfying manner, despite the wrench-throwing of the Israeli regime and its allies.

Iran has been perfectly clear in Doha. The White House can take Iran’s initiatives or leave it.

8th decade curse

From page 1 ► The majority of Israel’s leaders believe in the 8th-decade curse. According to scholarly reports, most of Israel’s governments collapsed after Solomon during the eighth decade.

There are lessons to be learned from the fragmentation and division of the former Jewish kingdoms that began to disappear in the eighties. This is not a reading of a Jewish rabbi or even a religious person, these are the words of the former prime minister and the most honored soldier in the fake history of Israel, Ehud Barak.

In an article in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper, Barak, a left-wing Zionist, fears an internal rift in the orthodox society and hatred between the right and the left, religious and secular, religious Zionists and religious Jews.

Every Israeli prime minister is eager to avoid civil war during his reign and to avoid collapse from within, as occurred in previous Jewish kingdoms.

However, Naftali Bennett failed in uniting his faction, and he failed miserably.

On Wednesday, the Israeli parliament, known as the Knesset, voted to dissolve itself. The motion was passed with 92 members in favor and none opposing, after days of backbiting by coalition and opposition politicians over the date for new elections and other last-minute legislation.

Just a bit more than a year ago, Bennett formed a coalition cabinet and ousted former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli media went on and

on about this “historic move,” and called Bennett the fake state’s “savior.”

However, Bennett who rose to power with bold and somewhat bullocks promises, particularly about Iran, has given up his power and handed the premiership to Yair Lapid, his best buddy who acted as his Foreign Minister.

Bennett announced on Wednesday in the Knesset that he would not run in the coming elections.

“I strived as prime minister to care for all citizens, regardless of who they voted for,” said Bennett, who we should call the former Prime Minister from now on. “We proved this year that people with all different opinions can work together.”

Barak Ravid, an Israeli journalist writing in Axios, wrote Thursday, “Based on recent polling, Netanyahu’s Likud party is expected to get the highest number of seats in the next Knesset.”

Not to mention that Netanyahu has begun his shows, a video of the 73-year-old Bibi has gone viral on social media showing him wandering around in the supermarkets, holding milk, bread and other goods and saying, “Everything’s price has gone up. These people deserve more.”

Bennett, with his hollow promises to “cut off the octopus’ head” went down the drain in a year. What will Netanyahu bring for the Israeli settlers who are living in the occupied territories on a borrowed time? Only God knows that, but one thing is sure: The 8th decade curse is working its magic.

Iran backs multilateral diplomacy to lift illegal sanctions: envoy

TEHRAN- The Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN confirmed on Thursday that Tehran supports multilateral diplomacy that would ensure the effective and verifiable lifting of the illegal sanctions against the Islamic Republic by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or the JCPOA.

“We believe that JCPOA is a hard-won multilateral diplomatic achievement that remains the best option with no alternatives,” Majid Takht Ravanchi underlined before the United Nations Security Council on “Non-Proliferation: Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)”.

He highlighted that any global deal should ensure and confirm the lifting of the illegitimate sanctions placed on Iran.

The complete text of Takht Ravanchi’s remarks is as follows:

“I thank you for convening this meeting and I also thank the USG and Ambassador of Ireland and the EU for their briefings.

Almost seven years after JCPOA’s conclusion and adoption of Resolution 2231, today the Council members once again reaffirmed their support for the restoration and full implementation of JCPOA.

We believe that JCPOA is a hard-won multilateral diplomatic achievement that remains the best option with no alternatives.

I feel compelled to refresh our memories about the reasons behind the current situation. Unfortunately, certain Council members that have disregarded their own obligations with regard to JCPOA and Resolution 2231, continue to ignore the underlying causes of the current situation and present a spurious narrative as to why we are here, attributing certain falsehoods and fabrications to my country.

The commitments under the deal, which have been carefully worded and explained in JCPOA and Resolution 2231, are explicit and unambiguous.

While Iran’s nuclear commitments were connected to the effective lifting of all sanctions and normalization of Iran’s trade and economic relations, the sheer fact is that sanctions are still in place and Iran is not enjoying the economic dividends as promised in the deal.

In accordance with JCPOA, other parties are committed, and I quote, “to ensure Iran’s access in areas of trade, technology, finance and energy”, end of quote. Specifically, the United States, in addition to its obligation to lift sanctions against Iran, is explicitly committed to, and I quote, “make best efforts in good faith to sustain this JCPOA and to prevent interference with the realization of the full benefit by Iran of the sanctions lifting”, end of quote.

Despite these explicit commitments, Iran has been denied its rights and benefits for the past four years.

Let me remind ourselves that in defiance of Resolution 2231 and in flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter, the United States withdrew from the agreement on May 8, 2018, and re-imposed unilateral sanctions that had previously been lifted, putting unparalleled pressure on other countries to either disregard their obligations under Resolution 2231 or face punishment. This is unprecedented in the history of the Security Council.

Despite the enormous difficulties we faced as a result of the sanctions, Iran decided to continue honoring its commitments, validated by the IAEA for 15 times, after being promised and assured by the European participants of JCPOA that they would compensate the losses Iran suffered after the U.S. withdrew from JCPOA.

Unfortunately, the E3 disregarded their obligations and promises, leaving Iran with no choice but to utilize its rights under paragraphs 26 and 36 of JCPOA to partially suspend its commitments on May 8, 2019.

In this context, Iran has taken certain remedial measures in accordance with JCPOA to re-establish some balance



in the reciprocal commitments and benefits under the accord, however, these certain States refer, with much fanfare, to Iran’s remedial measures in a manner as if it was Iran that withdrew from JCPOA and re-imposed or introduced countless inhumane sanctions with the publicly declared objective of starving an entire nation.

While the former U.S. administration recklessly sacrificed a well-established tenet of international law and withdrew from the deal and re-imposed sanctions, the present administration is following in its predecessor’s footsteps as it continues to adopt the notorious maximum pressure policy and impose sanctions on Iran. There is no doubt that such a policy is advanced as a leverage in the negotiations.

Against this backdrop, I would like to address a few points that clarify our position on the current situation as well as the ongoing talks.

Iran is committed to multilateral diplomacy, the outcome of which should assure the effective and verifiable lifting of all unlawful sanctions.

Iran has demanded verifiable and objective guarantees from the U.S. that JCPOA will not be torpedoed again, that the U.S. will not violate its obligations again, and that sanctions will not be re-imposed under other pretexts or designations - as occurred during the previous U.S. administration - and that JCPOA mechanisms will not be abused. In fact, these are the minimum requirements for determining the deal’s long-term viability.

In the course of the Vienna talks, we exercised maximum flexibility and showed good faith in order to reach an agreement acceptable to all and even introduced innovative solutions to the remaining issues with the hope to break the impasse.

However, the United States’ unrealistic and rigid approach has led to the current stalemate.

We are continuing our remedial measures because other parties’ non-performance of commitments continues, sanctions remain in full force, the maximum pressure policy is still being pursued, and our people’s sufferings continue.

Nonetheless, as soon as other parties fulfill all of their obligations in a complete, effective, and verifiable manner, Iran will immediately reverse all of its steps. However, the sufferings of our people as a result of other parties failing to perform their commitments are nearly completely irreversible.

Our patients, particularly those with rare diseases, have been suffering from inhumane sanctions which include even medicine and medical equipment. How can the deaths and sufferings of these innocent patients be reversed? This injustice cannot be erased from the Iranian people’s memory.

With regard to our cooperation with IAEA, as well as our peaceful nuclear activities, I would like to stress that all of our peaceful nuclear activities are entirely consistent with our rights and obligations under the NPT, as well as the Agency’s safeguards agreement.

As a responsible member of the NPT, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to the principle of collaboration with the Agency and has fulfilled all of its obligations under the NPT and Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, as the Agency continues its activities in Iran without hindrance.

Our peaceful nuclear program has been under the most robust and intrusive nuclear verification, monitoring, and transparency measures ever conducted in a country during the history of non-proliferation.

Iran also provided the Agency with the necessary information concerning the alleged locations on March 20, 2022, in compliance with the Joint Statement agreed upon on 5 March 2022 and within the timetable established.

Despite this unprecedented, strong, and proactive cooperation with the IAEA, the Agency’s response was neither appropriate nor productive. Iran was surprised by the Agency’s latest report on the issue because we have gone to great lengths to explain and clarify the remaining questions. We have responded to all of the Agency’s questions in a thorough, constructive, and cooperative manner. We believe that the Agency’s recent claims are based solely on erroneous and fabricated information provided by the Israeli regime who has done all in its power to kill the JCPOA.

Despite Iran’s constructive cooperation with the Agency, the U.S. and the E3 pushed for the adoption of a resolution at the recent IAEA Board of Governors’ meeting. And their mere motive was to build up their negotiated position in the current talks.

We believe that the IAEA’s resolution is politically driven and that it will have negative effects on the ongoing talks, the consequences of which will be the responsibility of the resolution’s authors. This childish game must end.

As a result, in line with our Parliament’s resolution, we have decided to suspend certain measures that were not covered by the safeguards agreement. However, Iran is willing to continue engaging with the IAEA to address concerns and misunderstandings as long as the issues are technical and nonpolitical. The Agency needs to respect the principles of independence, impartiality, and professionalism in its work.

During our intensive consultations with the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr. Joseph Borrell, in Tehran last week, Iran once more emphasized its willingness to provide creative solutions to the remaining issues in the hope of ending the deadlock. We agreed to hold indirect talks with the U.S. through the EU in order to overcome the last hurdles in the talks. We were sincere in the Doha talks that were serious and positive. As in the past, we will be in touch with the EU Coordinator for the next stage of the talks.

Our negotiating team is ready to engage constructively again to conclude and reach a deal. The ball is in U.S. court and if the U.S. acts realistically and shows its serious intention to implement its obligations, the agreement is not out of reach.

Finally, with regard to the Secretary-General’s report on Resolution 2231, our

observations are contained in my letter dated 27 June 2022 to the Secretary-General (S/2022/518), covering our views on issues that I did not address in my remarks today.

However, we believe that the report should have addressed the root causes of the current situation around JCPOA, and focused on the United States’ violations of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), which includes sanctions-lifting commitments.

According to certain paragraphs of the report, the Secretariat has continued to engage in unauthorized travel and verification visits as well as measures “to-examine” the allegations regarding the implementation of annex B to the resolution.

The Note by the President of the Security Council (S/2016/44) has elaborated the Secretariat’s mandate on the implementation of resolution 2231 which is confined to “administrative support” for the Security Council. As a result, such ultra vires activities by the Secretariat are unacceptable and should be avoided. Similarly, any possible findings or assessments made by the Secretariat are rendered null and void. In this regard, any allegation that may be attributed to the Islamic Republic of Iran is hereby rejected.

In Conclusion, Mr. President, allow me to say a few words about the region.

First, we categorically reject baseless accusations and unfounded allegations made against my country at this meeting.

As a responsible State, Iran is committed to its international obligations and has never engaged in any activity that breaches its obligations including under Resolution 2231.

Our space and missile programs, fall outside the purview or competence of the Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and its annexes and are not subject for negotiations.

Iran’s foreign policy is based on the full respect for international law, mutual respect, good neighborliness, cooperation, and dialogue, as well as maintaining regional peace and security through active participation of all regional States.

We are determined to pursue this policy in good faith. Our constructive engagement and efforts with the UN to assist and support the truce and its extension in Yemen stem from our firm belief that regional countries should work together to work toward a peaceful settlement of disputes.

The massive U.S. military build-up and export of sophisticated weaponry to the region, as well as certain European countries’ supply of lethal weapons to regional countries, have transformed this region into the world’s biggest concentration of foreign military installations, making it a ticking time bomb.

Another key source of regional insecurity is the Israeli regime’s destabilizing, malicious, and terrorist activities in the region, which have always been accompanied by persistent U.S. support.

The Israeli regime has used every opportunity to threaten and destroy the JCPOA as well as undermine the implementation of resolution 2231 by the UN Member States.

This regime has committed covert operations, subversive and disruptive measures against Iran’s peaceful nuclear program as well as the cowardly and abhorrent assassination of innocent Iranian scientists to further its sinister objectives in the region.

It is regrettable that some Council members continue to modernize their nuclear arsenals, as recently reflected and acknowledged in a new SIPRI report. Instead of shedding crocodile tears about our current peaceful nuclear activities, they should adhere to their NPT commitments particularly those under article 6. Those States are also deafeningly silent about the Israeli regime’s nuclear weapons as well as its repeated terrorist and disruptive activities against our peaceful nuclear facilities. It is high time to avoid double standards.”

Iran ramps up neighborhood diplomacy

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi gave a new boost to his administration's policy of cementing ties with Iran's neighbors as part of the country's new foreign policy agenda.

President Raisi had a busy weekend in terms of holding meetings with foreign leaders. He left Tehran on Wednesday for Ashgabat to attend an important regional summit held in Turkmenistan's capital.

He met with a number of foreign leaders on the sidelines of the 6th summit of the Caspian Sea littoral states, which provided him with a unique opportunity to advance his “neighborhood policy”. It marked a new orientation in Iran's foreign policy which is aimed at strengthening ties with neighbors. President Raisi visited Turkmenistan with a clear goal in mind: further advancing the neighborhood policy. In his meeting with the Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, Raisi said his administration “has a special program in the field of foreign policy to develop neighborly relations, and Iran-Turkmenistan relations are expanding rapidly



based on extensive cooperation and mutual trust.”

He reiterated this in his meeting with Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow, saying that his administration “attaches a special priority to develop relations and cooperation with neighbors”.

President Raisi pointed out that the relations between Tehran and Ashgabat are expanding rapidly based on the development of neighborly relations and on the basis of mutual trust and extensive cooperation.

Raisi also addressed the Caspian Sea summit, where he

underlined Iran's sincerity in its quest for building better relations with its neighbors. He described this as a strategy of Iran.

“The interaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran with its friends and neighbors is original, and this interaction and cooperation not only will lead to economic prosperity and increase the welfare of our nations, but also strengthen regional peace and stability and solve the problems of the Caspian Sea zone merely through its coastal countries. This major strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue,

regardless of international developments,” Raisi said.

This policy was initiated a year ago when President Raisi assumed office in August 2021. Back then he expressed his administration's strong desire for fostering cooperation with neighboring countries. To this end, the Raisi administration has made great strides. In the early days of his administration, Raisi succeeded in ironing out Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Interestingly, the SCO membership was achieved during a summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Iran is now eyeing a similar membership in the BRICS group of emerging countries which includes Russia, China, Brazil, India, and South Africa. President Raisi was invited by China to address the recent BRICS summit. Russia and China have voiced support for Iran's membership in the group.

The Raisi administration is pursuing regional diplomacy simultaneously with its efforts to hammer out a deal with the West over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. The latest round of talks in this regard was held in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Iran renews support for political solution to Ukraine crisis

TEHRAN –Iran has once again underlined its support for a political solution to the war in Ukraine in a phone call between the top diplomats of Tehran and Kiev.

In a telephone conversation between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdullahian and his Ukrainian counterpart Dmitry Kuleba on Thursday, the two sides discussed some issues of mutual interest.

The Iranian foreign minister reaffirmed Tehran's principled stance in opposing war. He also referred to the Wednesday meeting between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Turkmenistan and also his own talks with the Russian foreign minister, underlining Iran's position regarding the need to focus on finding a political solution and ending the war in Ukraine, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Amir Abdollahian stressed Iran's readiness to pursue a diplomatic solution and make good



efforts to end the Ukraine crisis.

The Iranian foreign minister added, “We have announced from the very beginning that while noting the root cause of the crisis, we are opposed to resorting to war and do not think war is a suitable solution to problems.”

Amir Abdollahian also said Iran's relations with Ukraine have always been based on friendship, respect and mutual interests over the past three decades and “we are ready to participate in the agreement for the opening of a corridor for transportation of

cereals in the Black Sea.”

The Iranian foreign minister also invited his Ukrainian counterpart to visit Tehran.

Foreign Minister Kuleba also thanked the Islamic Republic for its opposition to war. Kuleba said Ukraine is ready to receive any political assistance or support to end the war in his country.

Kuleba also announced Ukraine's readiness for all-out expansion of ties with Iran including in the field of agriculture and cereals. He described the continuation of talks between Tehran and Kiev for expanding ties as constructive.

He outlined the latest conflict situation in his country and thanked Iran's valuable efforts to end the war. Kuleba added that due to the state of war, conditions for talks with Russia are difficult.

In the end, the Ukrainian foreign minister invited Amir Abdollahian to visit Kyiv.

Iran president, Qatar emir discuss nuclear talks

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has received a phone call from Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in which they discussed the situation around the latest round of nuclear talks held in Doha.

During the phone conversation, Ayatollah Raisi emphasized the clear positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the talks on lifting the sanctions, according to a readout of the call put out by the Iranian presidency.

President Raisi referred to numerous and official reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran's nuclear program is completely transparent and has never deviated from the legal path.

He added, “Repeated accusations

and repeated allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran during the talks indicate their political targeting in the negotiation process.”

President Raisi went on to say that Iran considers unilateral sanctions as cruel, illegal and unjust and is determined to defend its rights.

“All efforts should be directed towards the full lifting of sanctions with necessary guarantees in this regard,” the president added.

Raisi, who is also constitutionally considered chairman of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), stressed, “A lasting agreement requires the lifting of sanctions and the unconditional abandonment of baseless claims.”

In another part of the conversation,

President Raisi referred to the FIFA World Cup that Qatar is going to host, saying Iran is ready to help hold this important event as best as possible.

In the telephone conversation, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also appreciated the support of Iran for his country, saying, “Doha supports Tehran's position in realizing its rights and advancing the talks, especially strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation, and welcomes Iran's initiatives for better holding of the World Cup in Qatar.”

After the Doha talks, Iran said it will coordinate with the European Union on next stage of talks.

“Our team is ready to engage constructively to reach a deal,” tweeted Majid Takht Ravanchi, Ambassador and Permanent

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations.

He added, “If U.S. acts realistically & shows serious intention to implement its obligations, agreement is not out of reach.”

Speaking at the UN Security Council one day after indirect U.S.-Iran talks ended in Doha, Takht Ravanchi said, “Iran has demanded verifiable and objective guarantees from the U.S. that JCPOA will not be torpedoed again, that the U.S. will not violate its obligations again, and that sanctions will not be re-imposed under other pretexts or designations.”

“We were sincere in the Doha talks that were serious and positive. Our negotiating team is ready to engage constructively again to conclude and reach a deal.”

IRAN IN FOCUS

JULY 2, 2022

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Mahjoub wins bronze at 2022 Open Biathle/Triathle Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Parsa Mahjoub won a bronze medal in the 2022 Open Biathle/Triathle Asian Championships on Friday.

The medal is the first ever medal of Iran at the sport in history.

The competition is being held in Burabay, Kazakhstan from June 28 to July 3.

Kazakhstan's athletes Ayan Beisenbayev and Temirlan Temirov won the gold and silver medal respectively.

Mehdi Taremi in Liga Portugal ‘Team of the Year’

TEHRAN – Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi has made the Liga Portugal Team of the Year in the 2021-22 season.

He played a key role in the blue and white this season, which culminated in the title of the national championship, the conquest of the Portuguese Cup, and also ended up being one of the most voted player by coaches and captains to act in the competition.

Taremi played for 2613 minutes in the top flight team in which he scored 20 goals and 13 assists. He was also awarded the Man of the Match Liga Portugal award on five occasions.

Thus, the Portugal League Eleven of the Year is now decided:

Diogo Costa, Porro, Pepe, Mbemba, Matheus Reis, Vitinha, Otávio, Matheus Nunes, Darwin, Ricardo Horta, Taremi.

Iran finish 30th in 2022 IHF Women’s Junior World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran finished in 30th place in the 2022 IHF Women's Junior World Championship on Friday.

The Iranian girls lost to Italy 35-20 on Friday in President's Cup.

Iran started the campaign with a 19–19 draw with Guinea in Group B. The team lost to Tunisia 29-24 and Sweden 33-15 in their following matches.

The Persians also lost to India 31-30 and Slovakia 37-22 in Group in the President's Cup.

Iran registered their first ever win in the world championship by defeating Mexico 46-26 but lost to Italy 35-20 in the 29th place match.

The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Hungary have qualified for the competition's semifinals.

Reza Mirzaei joins Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team right back Reza Mirzaei signed a contract for Esteghlal.

The 26-year-old player has penned a two-year deal for an undisclosed fee.

Esteghlal have already completed the signing of Sepahan forward Sajad Shahbazzadeh, Sanat Naft defensive midfielder Omid Hamedifar and Sanat Naft midfielder Mohammadhossein Zavari.

Esteghlal, who have recently hired Portuguese coach Ricardo Sa Pinto, are determined to defend title in the Iran Professional League (IPL).

Persepolis defender Jalal Hosseini retires from football: official

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team veteran defender Jalal Hosseini announced his retirement on Friday.

The 40-year-old defender started his playing career in Malavan in 2002 and has also played in Saipa, Sepahan, Naft Tehran and Persepolis.

Hosseini also was a prolific figure in Team Melli. He played 115 matches for Iran national football team and scored eight goals.

Hosseini represented Iran in the 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups and three 2007, 2011 and 2015 AFC Asian Cups.

With nine league titles, Hosseini is considered the most honorable and unattainable Iranian player in this regard.

Iran’s Tabatabaei clinches gold at Stepan Avagyan Memorial

TEHRAN – Iranian chess player Amin Tabatabaei came first at the third edition of the Stepan Avagyan Memorial.

Iranian grandmaster Amin Tabatabaei won the last round game against German grandmaster Alexander Donchenko to emerge as the sole Winner of the event with an unbeaten score of 6/9 points.

Tabatabaei pocketed the money prize of 1,500,000 AMD (3,500 euros). The Armenians GM Haik Martirosyan and GM Shant Sargsyan claimed second and third place scoring 5.5 and 5 points respectively.

The 3rd Stepan Avagyan Memorial took place June 20 to 28, 2022 in Jermuk, Armenia.

Mes 7th in Asian Club League Handball Championship

TEHRA – Iran's Mes Kerman finished in 7th place in the 2022 Asian Handball Men's Club League on Thursday.

The Iranian team defeated Indian club T-Sports Club 33-28 to place in the penultimate place.

Mes lost to Bahrain's Al-Najma 31-25, Qatari club Al-Wakrah 25-22, Kuwait's Al-Kuwait Club 30-17 and Saudi Arabia's Al-Noor 34-31 in the competition.

Al-Kuwait Club won the title, followed by Al-Najma and Al-Qadsia.

The 24th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship was held in Hyderabad, India from June 22 to 30.

Esteghlal’s prodigy Hosseinzadeh close to joining Charleroi

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team prodigy Amir Hossein Hosseinzadeh will likely join Belgium side Charleroi SC.

The 21-year-old player was a member of the Blues who won Iran Professional League title.

Hosseinzadeh's release clause stands at \$250,000.

He joined the Iranian giant from Saipa last season and scored eight goals for the Tehran-based team.

His shining led to an invitation to the national team and also persuading some foreign teams to make their bids for his acquisition.

Iran to host 5th Asian Women’s Club League Handball Championship

TEHRAN – The Asian Handball Federation (AHF) has awarded the hosting rights of the 5th Asian Women's Club League Handball Championship to the Islamic Republic of Iran Handball Federation (IRIHF).

The championship is scheduled to be held from 10th to 20th September 2022 in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The defending champion and record title holder is Kaysar Club (Kazakhstan), which won the championship twice in 2016 and 2019.

Iran rejects accusations of Arab officials

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani has rejected as baseless allegations leveled against the Islamic Republic by two Arab leaders in the Bahraini capital Manama.

Kanaani didn't specify the Arab officials but its seems that he meant Egyptian President Adel Fattah El Sisi and Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa.

Kanaani described the claims as spiteful and unconstructive that pursue special goals and purposes, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman invited the two countries to correctly understand regional equations and pay attention to the stabilizing role and place of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the West Asian region.

Kanaani described as futile the insistence of these countries on continuing down the wrong path

of Iranophobia, which is illogical and only serves the interests of the Zionist regime in the region.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman also said Iran has an inalienable and legal right to consolidate and preserve its nuclear achievements and that Iran's defensive and missile capabilities are in line with a strategic policy and its defensive doctrine that pose no threat to neighbors.

In the end, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman underlined Tehran's determination and goodwill to expand and preserve ties with neighbors as well as Islamic and Arab countries.

Kanaani also described the sitting Iranian administration's increased efforts to this end as a further strong and clear proof of Tehran's goodwill.

The Egyptian president has recently concluded a visit to Bahrain as part of his Persian Gulf tour which also included Oman.

After their bilateral talks, the leaders of

Quarterly loading, unloading of goods in Iran's ports up 7% on year



TEHRAN – Loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased seven percent in the first quarter of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the country's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) announced.

As the PMO reported, 51,661,306 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the three-month period.

Quarterly loading and unloading of oil products stood at 25,453,417 tons, with nine percent growth, and that of the non-oil goods stood at 26,207,889 tons, with seven percent rise year on year.

Meanwhile, loading and unloading in the container sector was 622,524 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first quarter of the present year, showing 12 percent as compared to 555,334 TEUs in the first quarter of the previous year.

Based on the data previously released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports

reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the oil sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to Ports and Maritime Organization, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

South Pars refineries well-planned overhaul for maximum gas refining

TEHRAN- The director of production coordination and supervision in National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said: "The South Pars gas complex refineries are now working for maximum gas refining through carrying out detailed and coherent overhaul plans."

Making the remarks during the periodic visits to the production process and the progress of overhaul operations of South Pars gas complex refineries and during his visit to the third and sixth refineries of this complex, Ahmad Zamani said: "The current stable and continuous production in the South Pars Gas complex has been achieved with the efforts and dedication of you, the dear personnel; We hope that in the shadow of empathy and teamwork, we can take bigger steps in the

direction of serving the society and prosperity of the country."

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

From page 1 ► Meanwhile, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced the agreements made with Sberbank of Russia to provide the necessary infrastructure for financial exchanges between the businessmen of the two countries.

Making the remarks on the sideline of a meeting between the bank's managing director and Iranian industry, mining and trade minister in Tehran, Alireza Peyman-Pak informed about the agreements and financial cooperation with Sberbank of Russia, and stating that this bank is the seventh largest bank in Europe and one of the largest banks in Russia with a large amount of financial scope, he stated: "This bank is one of the largest banks among Eurasian countries and it has many connections with many countries including China, Turkey and Persian Gulf countries."

According to the official, increasing trade exchanges between the two countries was one of the topics raised in this meeting.

Iran-Russia annual trade up 80%

The TPO head further announced an 80-percent increase in trade between Iran and Russia during the past year and said: "Trade between Iran and Russia reached \$4 billion, which was unprecedented in the commercial history of the two countries, and with the effective communication of Iranian businessmen in various industries, we will soon see a

Iran, Russia ink road transportation co-op MOU



significant increase in this figure."

He pointed out the financial bases needed to achieve the growth of trade between Iran and Russia and said: "One of the problems in trade with Russia is in the financial field, and if the problems of financial exchanges are resolved, the growth of trade between the two countries will be realized."

According to him, one of the

main topics of the meeting with the directors and managing director of Sberbank of Russia was financial channels and joint cooperation.

Iran and Russia have been taking serious steps for boosting their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia

have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

"We agreed to remove trade barriers and boost the economic exchanges between the two countries. Currently, the level of mutual trade is not acceptable, so the two countries agreed to increase trade to \$10 billion a year," Raisi said on January 21, upon arrival to Tehran after a two-day visit to Moscow.

The president also noted that the two sides had also discussed monetary and banking issues during his talks with Russian officials.

"The two countries can take steps to break the dominance of the dollar over monetary and banking relations and trade with the national currency," Raisi stressed.

The two countries also agreed to identify mutual agricultural capacities as well as suitable areas for the exchange of agricultural products in order to increase the level of trade in the agricultural sector, according to the official.

He went on to say that the Islamic Republic of Iran has very good capacities in the field of transit and transportation, saying: "During this visit, it was agreed to activate the north-south corridor. This transit route will make the time and distance of transiting goods from Russia and different northern countries to the southern regions much shorter."

'Annual non-oil export anticipated to hit \$45b-\$55b'

TEHRAN- Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari said that considering the positive trade balance in the country's non-oil trade in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), the non-oil export is expected to reach \$45-\$55 billion in this year.

Referring to the policies of the 13th government in development of trade with neighboring countries, the official said: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is active in the field of eight or nine components and methods to bring foreign currency for the country".

These factors include export, import, transit, energy diplomacy, electricity and water, export of engineering services, transit services in different branches, and technology transfer, he noted.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$13.69 billion in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), up 21 percent compared to the last year's same period.

Alireza Moghadasi said Iran exported 27.7 million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned three months.

Meanwhile, some 8.154 million tons of goods valued at \$12.464 billion were imported into the country in the said period to register an 18-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year's same quarter.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded about 36 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$25.5 billion with its trade partners in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, up 19.5 percent in terms of value, Moghadasi said.

According to the official, the country's trade balance was \$605 million positive in the mentioned time span.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$4.214 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$1.824 billion, Turkey with \$1.737 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$1.645 billion, and India with \$424 million.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports during these three months were the UAE with \$3.426 billion, China with \$3.131 billion, Turkey with \$1.273 billion, India with \$512 million, and Germany with \$456 million worth of imports.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian calendar year



1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to its previous year.

Moqadasi put the country's non-oil trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122 million tons of non-oil products worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for its preceding year.

The country's non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official has underlined.

Ceramics, tile exports rise 9% in 2 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's export of ceramics and tiles rose nine percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the spokesman of Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry announced.

Omid Qalibaf put the value of two-month export of the mentioned products at \$595,000.

He also said that Iran's export of glassware containers increased 50 percent, in terms of weight, in the first two months of this year, from that of the previous year.

The chairman of Iran Ceramic Society (ICS) has said the country exported over \$1.6 billion worth of ceramics and glassware products in the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

According to Hossein Zojaji, Iran exports about 800,000 tons of glass annually while the demand for the product in destination markets is over 1.2 million tons.

"We are not able to export because our priority is meeting the domestic demand," Zojaji said.

"We produce 62 million tons of cement, 450 million square meters of tiles, 2.7 million tons of glass, 600,000 tons of refractories, 55,000 tons of porcelain, and 150,000 tons of sanitary porcelain every year," the official added.

Housing price increases 8.4% in Tehran city

TEHRAN- Average housing price rose 8.4 percent in the capital Tehran during the third Iranian calendar month Khordad (ended on June 21), compared to its previous month, according to a report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 394.14 million rials (about \$1,313) during the mentioned month.

The average housing price in the said month also increased 32.8 percent in comparison to the same month in the previous year.

As reported, the number of real estate deals stood at 13,900 in the capital city in the third month of this year, rising 32.3 percent from the previous month, and 171.9 percent from the same month of the past year.

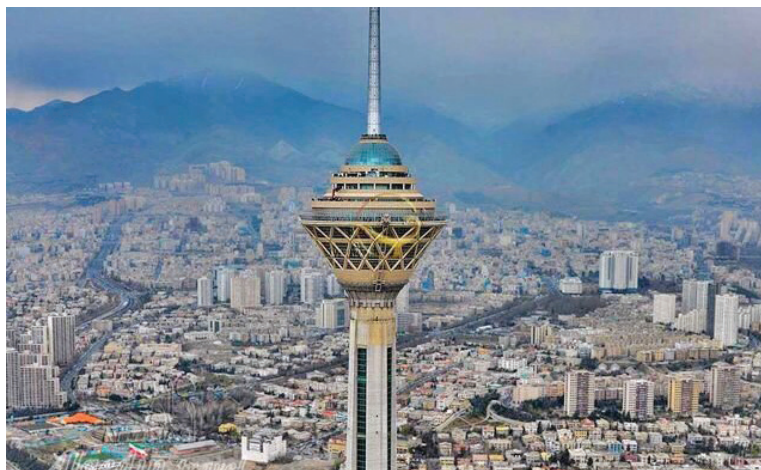
As previously reported by the CBI, the average housing price rose 16 percent in the capital Tehran during the last month of the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), compared to the same month in the preceding year.

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 351.2 million rials (about \$1,170) during the last month of the past year, up 6.2 from its previous month, and 16 percent from the same month of the preceding year.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past three years due to various internal and external factors.

Although, in early May, the chairman of Real Estate Agencies Union said, "This year is the year of lower housing prices; this condition will continue in the country for the next two years, and we will see a continuous decrease in housing prices".

Mostafa Qoli Khosravi referred to a report released by Central Bank of Iran in terms of housing price in the first Iranian calendar month Farvardin (ended on April 20), and said: "The government is trying to compensate the housing shortage in the country with the National Housing Movement plan, and this plan is being prepared and implemented in several urban and rural areas".



He said that there is currently shortage of about 720,000 housing units in the country, adding: "Every year, dilapidated apartments are added to this number, therefore, the current government intends to compensate for the housing deficit by recognizing this shortage and implementation of National Housing Movement."

The market will react positively to the increase in supply, and the completion of the government plans including Mehr Housing and National

Housing will control the uncontrolled growth of housing prices, he further predicted.

In early June, transport and urban development minister said that 1.35 million units of National Housing Movement are currently under construction throughout the country and the number is increasing every day.

Making the remarks in a ceremony to break the ground for starting the construction operation of 15,000 units of National Housing

Movement in Chitgar region, northwest of Tehran city, Rostam Qasemi said, "With the support of the parliament and the credit provided for the facilities of National Housing Movement, we will proceed according to the schedule".

After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of National Housing Movement began in early February.

National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions.

Iran indispensable to Russia as gateway to India: analyst

From page 1 ▶ That in turn requires it to focus on the southern direction towards the other four Caspian countries, especially since they're all along the North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC) connecting Russia with India. That South Asian state is Russia's special and privileged strategic partner, and transit through the other Caspian countries like Iran and Azerbaijan makes their continued real-sector trade possible.

Without India decisively intervening to preemptively avert Russia's potentially disproportionate dependence on China in response to the U.S.-led West's sanctions, Moscow might have become Beijing's junior partner with time, which could have eroded its strategic autonomy. Instead, India was able to prevent this scenario due to the other four Caspian countries keeping the NSTC alive.

Russia now has other alternatives to China in order to diversify its newfound pivot towards the Global South and thus maximize its strategic autonomy, which is only made possible by the Caspian countries functioning as its logistical lifeline to the wider global economy. The Kremlin immensely appreciates this solidarity with its multipolar cause and is thus prioritizing each of them as a top-level strategic partner.

Do you think Russia and Iran are able to use regional cooperation and alliances to confront Western sanctions?

Iran has much more experience surviving under harsh sanctions than Russia does, so the latter can learn a bit from the former, but their situations are also different since Russia is sanctioned much more than Iran right now. Nevertheless, these strategic partners still share the goal of jointly facilitating the emerging Multipolar World Order, to which end they're comprehensively expanding their cooperation.

The previously globalized world has bifurcated along with three levels since the start of Russia's special military operation: the systemic one between the U.S.-



led West's Golden Billion and the BRICS-led Global South; the ideological level between unipolar liberal-globalists and multipolar conservative-sovereignists; and the tactical one between the establishment and populists.

Russia and Iran share very similar views about this, which explains why they're working so closely together nowadays on all fronts. The Islamic Republic is indispensable to Russia since transit across its territory links that Eurasian Great Power with their shared Indian strategic partner, which safeguards Russia's strategic autonomy in these new international conditions as was earlier explained.

By functioning as Russia's gateway to India and vice versa, Iran is positioned to assist both Great Powers in jointly creating a third pole of influence to help balance Eurasian affairs between the American and Chinese superpowers according to the bi-multipolarity model posited by Indian thinker Sanjaya Baru. This is the grand strategic goal that unites those three multipolar leaders in the new era.

How do you see the economy of Central Asia and the Caucasus in the future?

Both regions have pivotal connectivity potential in facilitating Eurasia's inevitable integration along North-South and East-West. Along the first vector, the NSTC passes through both linking together Russia and India, while the second concerns China's shortcut for trading with the EU via those two regions.

If their leaders play their cards properly, then their regions can become Eurasian geo-economic centers of gravity in the emerging Multipolar World Order. For that to happen, they must maximally cooperate with the RIC (Russia-India-China) core of BRICS, which is the economic-financial engine of that aforesaid world order. There are high hopes that the Caucasus and Central Asia will fulfill this destiny.

How do you evaluate the level of Iran-Russia trade? Do you see meaningful development?

Real-sector trade continues to lag far behind its potential, but that will inevitably change as a result of Iran serving as the irreplaceable transit state for facilitating Russian-Indian trade, which was earlier explained as having preemptively averted Russia's potentially disproportionate dependence on China in response to the U.S.-led West's unprecedented sanctions against it.

That said, Iran mustn't settle for just being a "Russian-Indian highway", but must add value to their trade in order to truly benefit from its geostrategic location along this new Eurasian geo-economic corridor. To do that, it might have to rely on Chinese investments considering the 25-year strategic partnership pact they agreed to in spring 2021, which also serves Beijing's geo-economic goals in Eurasia.

In brief, China is in favor of anything that more closely connects Eurasia, even if it's a geo-economic axis within which it doesn't directly

participate such as the NSTC or only indirectly participates by having its companies add some value through their Iranian investments along the way. It'll take time, but Russian-Iranian trade will eventually blossom and enrich the entire Caspian region as a result.

Do you think Iran needs to revive the JCPOA in light of its strategic partnership with Russia and China?

It's always best to reach some sort of agreement with all stakeholders whenever there's a dispute, but having said that, Iran mustn't unilaterally concede on issues that its leadership regards as being in their objective national interests. This isn't just because of patriotism and principle, but also pragmatism since Russia, India, and especially China represent realistic alternatives to Western investment in the future.

That's not to say that Western investment wouldn't be beneficial for Iran's economy in the event that the JCPOA is successfully renegotiated – it most definitely would be welcome and have a positive effect – but just that this mustn't be an end in and of itself that justifies unilateral concessions on issues of objective national interests but a reward for holding firm on those same interests.

In order of investment importance for Iran, China is certainly at the top followed far off by India with Russia trailing much further. That's because the People's Republic has the excess capital as well as construction and management experience while India has comparatively less in those respects and Russia doesn't really have much, to be honest when it comes to investing in non-former-Soviet states.

Nevertheless, each can play complementary roles in Iran's geo-economic future, and the Islamic Republic is the only country in the world where each of the RIC countries' grand strategic interests most directly intersects. For that reason, its leadership must do its utmost to maximize benefits from each of them on bilateral, trilateral, and even quadrilateral bases if possible.

China hits back at NATO

From page 1 ▶ A very good question. "China has never initiated a war or invaded an inch of other countries' land. We do not interfere in others' internal affairs and export ideology, still less engage in long-arm jurisdiction, unilateral sanctions or economic coercion."

It's a bit like how the Islamic Republic of Iran has never "initiated a war or invaded an inch of other countries' land", yet like China, Iran and other sovereign nations are regularly harassed by the United States and its allies despite upholding the rule of law and promoting peace and stability in the region.

That appears to be the problem with the U.S. and some of its allies. They don't like the idea of peace and stability, which is what many people have learnt from the latest NATO summit in Spain.

U.S. President Joe Biden said Washington will provide another \$800 million in weapons and military aid to Ukraine, taking the total to over \$6.1 billion.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said London would provide another one billion pounds (\$1.22 billion) in military assistance to Ukraine, taking British military support to more than 2.3 billion pounds, second only to U.S. arms deliveries.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says his country will provide more than three dozen new armored personnel and some new drone cameras to Ukraine.

What happened to peace and security? Not a single word was mentioned in the summit about a possible peace initiative to end the crisis in Europe.

And are the arms enough to help Ukraine? The adviser to the Ukrainian president, Mikhail Podolyak, says Kyiv needs 1,000 155mm-caliber howitzers, 300 multiple-launch rocket systems, 500 tanks, 2,000 armored vehicles, and 1,000 drones.

Ukrainian officials are saying they are losing a lot of soldiers in the Eastern Donbas region and military experts are saying the weapons systems Ukraine is receiving needs months of training to operate.

Essentially, Kyiv needs Soviet-era weapons and a lot of ammunition to fire which it's military forces are trained to use. The advanced weapons systems that Washington is sending could take months to be used on the frontline.

It's another political tactic by the Biden administration: win the support of the U.S. military-industrial complex, which is making a massive profit, for all the weapons it sends, they are paid taxpayers money to manufacture new ones. On American mainstream media almost every pundit that discusses the Ukraine war is linked to the military-industrial complex, giving Biden a political boost with voters ahead of the midterm elections, should they buy into what the pundits are saying on air.

At the same time, it ensures Ukraine can continue fighting with the absolutely massive amount of money being spent, enough to keep fighting but just about right to try and ensure a stalemate for now.

The U.S. and the UK in particular are trying to persuade reluctant European nations that the best way to end the conflict in Ukraine is by prolonging the conflict in Europe.

Speaking to reporters President Biden appears to have told his allies who tried to push for a peace deal to be ready for a long conflict saying "we are going to support Ukraine for as long as it takes." He declined to give more details.

Asked by a reporter to explain if that means indefinite support from the U.S., or whether the time will come when Washington decides to try



and end the conflict Biden said "I don't know what -- how it's going to end."

No strategy on ending the worst crisis in Europe since the Second World War despite the White House spearheading NATO's eastward expansion that triggered the conflict.

Asked about the rising cost of gas and food prices affecting motorists and households back home? Biden said "ultimately the reason why gas prices are up is because of Russia," and then said "Russia, Russia, Russia. The reason why the food crisis exists is because of Russia."

That may have been the umpteenth time Biden has blamed Russia and the U.S. President will continue blaming Russia all the way to the November midterm elections, where the Republicans appear set to retake control of congress. If the conflict ends now, Biden will have nothing to blame but himself. The same can be said for UK PM Boris Johnson. It's vital for the White House and Downing Street that the war continues.

The alliance also agreed to take in Finland and Sweden but how exactly does this help Ukraine?

The U.S. and the UK added to the tension by committing new troops to Eastern Europe.

And NATO chief Stoltenberg even declared the alliance is to increase its forces on high alert by more than sevenfold to "300,000", compared to 40,000 troops that currently make up the existing quick reaction force, the NATO Response Force.

But that baffled European Leaders who didn't have an idea what Stoltenberg was referring to when they were asked for comment. This forced NATO military officials to backtrack on the Secretary-General's statement, saying the number is a "concept" that the U.S.-led military alliance hopes to have in place by the summer of next year.

In essence, NATO is about creating tension and with the U.S. heading the old British colonial policy of trying to rule and divide different regions of the world.

Which is why the Chinese official at the country's mission to the EU called on NATO "to stop provoking confrontation by drawing ideological lines, abandon the Cold War mentality and zero-sum game approach, and stop spreading disinformation and provocative statements against China."

But as with all independent countries on the planet; at the same time, they are closely monitoring their adversaries activities.

"Since NATO positions China as a "systemic challenge," we have to pay close attention and respond in a coordinated way. When it comes to acts that undermine China's interests, we will make firm and strong responses." the Chinese official said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian summed up NATO by saying it should "stop trying to mess up Asia and the world after messing up Europe."

Indonesian gives Putin message from Zelensky

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said in Moscow he delivered a message from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to Russian leader Vladimir Putin, South China Morning Post reported.

Putin hosted Widodo more than four months into Moscow's offensive in Ukraine, as Russia seeks to pivot toward Asia and Africa following the onset of unprecedented Western sanctions.

Indonesia holds the rotating presidency of the G20 this year and is preparing to host a summit in Bali in November.

"I conveyed President Zelensky's message to President Putin," Widodo said on Thursday after talks with the Kremlin chief in comments translated into Russian.

Widodo said he expressed his "readiness" to help start "communication" between the two leaders. He did not provide further details, and neither side said what was in the note.

Widodo was in Kyiv on Wednesday before heading to Moscow to meet Putin, who on February 24 sent troops into pro-



Western Ukraine.

He also visited the town of Irpin where Ukraine suspects Russian soldiers committed atrocities. Moscow denies the allegations.

"Although the external situation is still difficult, it is still important to move towards a settlement and open dialogue," Widodo said in Moscow. He said that his country would like "the war to end soon".

"I call on all world leaders to revive the spirit of cooperation," Widodo added.

Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine on

February 24, Ukraine was one of Indonesia's biggest wheat suppliers, but a Russian sea blockade has halted Kyiv's Black Sea grain exports, threatening a global food crisis.

Jokowi has said he is committed to tackling the rise in food and energy prices and shortages since Russia's invasion.

"All efforts must be made to ensure Ukraine can resume exporting food," he said in Kyiv, underlining the need for safety guarantees for Ukrainian food deliveries, especially by sea.

Jakarta has come under Western pressure to exclude Putin from the G20 gathering after announcing in April he had been invited.

Ukraine's Zelensky told Widodo on Wednesday that he will attend the upcoming G20 summit in Bali depending on who else is attending.

Putin on Thursday praised his talks with Widodo as "productive".

"I am convinced that the agreements reached today will further strengthen the Russian-Indonesian partnership," Putin added.

Court decision leaves Biden with few tools to combat climate change

One by one, the tools available to President Biden to fight climate change are being stripped away, The New York Times reported.

After a Supreme Court decision on Thursday, the Environmental Protection Agency will have less authority to limit carbon dioxide from power plants, a major source in this country of the pollution that is dangerously heating the planet.

It's one in a series of setbacks for Mr. Biden, who came into office with the most ambitious climate agenda of any president, pledging to the rest of the world that the United States, the world's largest historic emitter of greenhouse

gases, would cut that pollution in half by the end of the decade.

In a statement, Mr. Biden called the ruling "another devastating decision that aims to take our country backwards" and said the conservative majority on the court was siding "with special interests that have waged a long-term campaign to strip away our right to breathe clean air."

"The science confirms what we all see with our own eyes — the wildfires, droughts, extreme heat, and intense storms are endangering our lives and livelihoods," Mr. Biden said. "I will take action. My administration will continue using lawful executive authority, including

the EPA's legally-upheld authorities, to keep our air clean, protect public health, and tackle the climate crisis."

Some experts say that after the Supreme Court's decision in the case, West Virginia v. E.P.A., it will soon be mathematically impossible for Mr. Biden to meet his goals.

"At this point I don't see any way to hit the kind of targets they laid out," said David G. Victor, an expert in climate policy at the University of California, San Diego.

The consequences could be severe. Scientists say the United States must hit Mr. Biden's target if it is to do its part to limit average global warming

to 1.5 degrees Celsius, or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, compared with temperatures before the Industrial Revolution. That is the threshold beyond which the likelihood significantly increases of catastrophic impacts such as deadly heat waves, drought, wildfire and storms. The planet has already warmed an average of about 1.1 degrees Celsius.

But Mr. Biden has faced obstacle after obstacle in his push for climate action, ranging from conflicts within his own party to a worldwide energy crunch triggered by the war in Ukraine to well-funded legal challenges from Republicans and the fossil fuel industry.

Patrick Morrisey, the Republican attorney general of West Virginia and the lead plaintiff in the case, called the decision a "great win for West Virginia and her residents," adding, "We are pleased this case returned the power to decide one of the major environmental issues of the day to the right place to decide it: the U.S. Congress, comprised of those elected by the people to serve the people."

The problem for Mr. Biden is that Congress has so far failed to act on climate change. The centerpiece of the president's climate plan, legislation to replace coal and gas-fired power plants with wind, solar and nuclear energy, was deleted from a major domestic policy

bill last fall after objections from Senator Joe Manchin III, Democrat of West Virginia. Mr. Manchin, who has personal financial ties to the coal industry, has been able to single-handedly set the limits of Mr. Biden's legislative ambitions as the key swing vote in an evenly divided Senate.

The domestic policy bill in limbo on Capitol Hill still includes what would be a historic increase in tax credits to spur the wind and solar industries. But it is unclear if Mr. Manchin will support the plan and the legislation could die if Republicans, who have shown little interest in climate action, retake one or both chambers in the midterm elections.

715,000 foreign travelers visit Iran in spring



From page 1 ► “A turning point in the country’s tourism trend in the post-coronavirus period is the welcoming of tourists from neighboring countries.”

Iran’s tourism has experienced a boom in domestic tourism and a large number of Iranian citizens traveling during the Persian new year holiday (Noruz), the increase in incoming tourists following the re-issuance of visas, and the facilitation of the required conditions for tourists in post-coronavirus time, the official explained.

Last year, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage,

Tourism and Handicrafts announced that tourism in the country was growing before the corona outbreak, its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent.

Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

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

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

Vacheron Constantin pays tribute to great civilizations of ancient world

TEHRAN – The luxury Swiss watch brand Vacheron Constantin has launched new watches in its métiers d’art collection, celebrating four great civilizations of Persia, Egypt, Greece and Rome, CHTN reported on Friday.

Designed in close collaboration with the Louvre Museum in Paris, the collection called “Tribute to Great Civilizations” references the Persian Empire of Darius the Great, the golden age of Ancient Egypt, the Hellenistic period of Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire with the advent of Augustus.

These timepieces are handcrafted by expert craftsmen and adorned with detailed ornamentation and embellishments.

These timepieces pay homage to the museum’s collection of antiquities, featuring images from the four historic eras and are named Lion de Darius, the Grand Sphinx de Tanis, Victoire de Samothrace, and Buste d’Auguste.

Hand engraved and delicately embellished, the four watches are limited to a series of just five with pricing available upon request.

The frieze of lions is one of the few decorative elements of the Palace of Darius in Susa that was found on-site and is now being kept in the Louvre Museum. This animal decoration was an important part of the iconography of Persian palaces, but also, before them, of Assyrian and Babylonian palaces. The lion symbol – representing both a royal animal and a divine attribute – was frequently found in these pleasure gardens and hunting reserves intended for the Persian monarchs and the Assyrian sovereigns before them.

The prominent frieze of lions was thus a declaration of royal power, embodied by the king of animals. Made of siliceous glazed bricks that are bound with lime mortar, this decoration mingling realism and powerful



stylisation are exemplary of masterpieces of Achaemenid Persian art.

Vacheron Constantin is the 15th most recognized and valuable Swiss watch brand in the world.

Ancient Iran, also known as Persia, historic region of southwestern Asia that is only roughly coterminous with modern Iran. The term Persia was used for centuries, chiefly in the West, to designate those regions where the Persian language and culture predominated, but it more correctly refers to a region of southern Iran formerly known as Persis, alternatively as Pars or Parsa, modern Fars.

Parsa was the name of an Indo-European nomadic people who migrated into the region about 1000 BC. The first mention of Parsa occurs in the annals of Shalmanesar II, an Assyrian king, in 844 BC.

During the rule of the Persian Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC), the ancient Greeks first encountered the inhabitants of Persis on the Iranian plateau, when the Achaemenids—natives of Persis—were expanding their political sphere. The Achaemenids were the dominant dynasty during Greek history until the time of Alexander the Great, and the use of the name Persia was gradually extended by the Greeks and other peoples to apply to the whole Iranian plateau.

Iran to take part in Paris’s IFTM TOP RESA

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran will be taking part in the IFTM TOP RESA, which will be held in Paris from September 20 to 22.

A selection of Iranian travel experts, tour operators, exhibitors, and craftspeople will run the country’s pavilion at the three-day international fair, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

Founded in 1978, IFTM Top Resa is the multi-purpose trade show for tourism and travel, covering all travel reasons: Business, Leisure, Groups, and MICE.

Filled from corner to corner with ancient bazaars, museums, mosques, monuments, gardens, historical sites, and rich natural, rural landscapes, Iran hosts some of the world’s oldest cultural monuments, including 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Masouleh joins League of Historical Cities

TEHRAN – Ancient Masouleh, one of the top tourist destinations in northern Iran, has joined the League of Historical Cities, Masouleh’s mayor has said.

“After a series of follow-ups, the League of Historical Cities finally registered Masouleh on its prestigious list,” IRNA quoted Yousef Niruei as saying on Thursday.

“Masouleh is the eighth Iranian city inscribed by the League of Historical Cities,” the mayor added.

Iran is hoping to win UNESCO recognition for Masouleh. According to the UN cultural body, the existence of numerous graveyards inner and outside of the city proves its old texture. The picturesque village is famed for its Lego-shaped earthen houses built on another’s rooftop.

Archaeological evidence



indicates the history of human presence in mountains near Masouleh dates back to the late Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC), which is extremely older than previously believed.

Home to some of the most stunning landscapes in the country, Masouleh is one of the many stepped villages that are quite common to find around the country, especially in Iranian Kurdistan and around Mashhad.

They have been built on a hill so steep that the roof of one house is the pathway for the next.

Surrounded by green valleys, misty forests, and 3,000m peaks, Masouleh is the ultimate trekking destination in Iran, offering several trails that include both day treks and multi-day treks. Along the way, you are likely to find quite a few Iranian shepherds who live there, perhaps not in winter, but

they have fully equipped shacks and you are likely to be invited to have some chai (tea).

Close to the peak, the landscape turns from misty forests to vast green, gorgeous meadows covered in blankets of flowers, a stream, and a few more shepherd shacks, like in a fairy tale. Visitors can find both expensive hotels and budget guesthouses. To find a homestay, you just need to walk around town and someone will approach you.

The League seeks to help deepen mutual understanding of the nations by transcending national boundaries and building on the common foundation of historical cities to strengthen affiliations between cities. “Our aim is to make use of this coming together of cities for the World Conference of Historical Cities to also establish a forum enabling further exchange between the participating cities.”

Archaeologists race against time to safeguard antiquities against sinking

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have discovered a wide range of relics from the basin of a newly-constructed dam in southwest Iran.

Pieces of pottery, glass, stone beads, stone mortar, and cut seashells have been discovered at a historical site surrounding Chamshir Dam in southwest Iran, by Iranian archaeologist Amir Hajilu, who presides over the project, said on Friday, ILNA reported.

Whenever the nearby dam’s water flows, the entire historical area is at risk of sinking, so all findings were carefully documented, he explained.

It appears that human societies in this area began at least during the Sassanid era (224–651), considering the presence of

two ossuaries on the rocks overlooking this historical site, the types of pottery, and the architectural style of some of the walls, he added.

Furthermore, the natural characteristics of the region and its proximity to the Zohreh River led to the establishment and settlement of this area for over a thousand years, until the Islamic era, he mentioned.

The Sassanid age is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian architecture in addition to 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.



Sassanid archaeological designs typically represent 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.

Restoration work begins on Shah Abbasi caravanserai

TEHRAN – The Safavid era (1501-1736) Shah Abbasi caravanserai in the ancient town of Meybod, the central province of Yazd, has undergone some rehabilitation works, Meybod’s tourism chief has said.

The project involves repairing the damaged parts of the historic inn, including the rooftop, porches, and flooring, Mehrdad Zolfagari explained on Friday.

The caravanserai, which is on the shortlist of traditional inns that Iran pursues its possible inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage, serves as a handicrafts market, the official added.

The historical inn has four porches (iwans), a central courtyard, traditional ice storage (yakhchal), a cistern, and some 100 rooms for travelers.

It has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Shah Abbasi caravanserai of Meybod is one of nine caravanserais from Yazd province being considered for possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list of Iranian historical caravanserais.

Saryazd, Zeineddin, Qaleh



Khargushi, and Kermanshahan are among the selected caravanserais, scattered across the province, each characterizing a distinctive feature.

According to UNESCO, Meybod is a remarkable example of the viability and transmission of human beings’ collective thoughts from different generations to the present one. “What is significant in the city of Meybod is the regularity in city planning. The anatomy and spatial structure of the city show original plans which conform with the old Iranian city planning.”

Caravanserais are a compound word combining “caravan” with “serai”; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them

with doors in the corners of the yard.

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

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

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

the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday.

It’s not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their actual usage.

However, a couple of years ago, the Iran tourism ministry introduced a scheme to keep them alive and profitable; tens of caravanserais are ceded to private investors for better maintenance. Now, some are exclusively renovated and repurposed into boutique hotels and tourist lodgings.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Crafts workshops provided with financial support in Bushehr

TEHRAN –Handicrafts workshops across the southwestern Bushehr province have received financial support, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

“Some 13.5 billion rials (\$45,000) in loans were paid to 13 craftspeople [of various workshops] in Bushehr during the month of Khordad (May 22-June 21),” Leila Rahimi explained on Friday.

With this support, it is expected that handicraft workshops will be developed and equipped in the near future across the province, the official added.

It will also contribute to the region’s sustainable employment in the long run, she noted.

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



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

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

When it comes to cultural attractions, there

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

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.

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts suggests the value of Iran’s handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr

reported. The country’s handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

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

Despite sanctions, Iran has the strongest health system: minister

TEHRAN – Despite the sanctions that have existed since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution until today to prevent the country from progressing, Iran has the strongest health system in the region, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has stated.

This success is the result of the resistance of people, as well as the round-the-clock efforts of scientists and innovative youth, he noted.

However, before the Islamic Revolution, some of the physicians were dispatched from India and Pakistan, and there was no significant progress in the field of medicine in the country, he stated.

Also, people used to go to other countries for treatment, but today we have achieved so much in the field of health that many patients in the region travel to Iran for treatment, he highlighted.

Despite the cowardly sanctions, especially in the field of medical equipment and medicine, our country was one of the successful nations in controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, and now that other countries are experiencing high rates of daily coronavirus mortality, including the United States, Iran's daily covid deaths declined to single-digit numbers or zero.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said one of the most important priorities of the Ministry of Health is “deprivation eradication” to ensure the health of people in all parts of the country.



Rise in pharmaceuticals, medical productions

The import of pharmaceuticals has declined in Iran by 91 percent, which shows the capability of the country's pharmaceutical industry, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said last October.

Today, all medicine used in the treatment of coronavirus are produced by domestic manufacturers, and if we wanted to import all the items, there would be a high exchange rate, he further stated, emphasizing that COVID-19 vaccine development indicates the pharmaceutical industry's capability.

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

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

Knowledge-based companies can produce any medicine effective in countering coronavirus or approved by the scientific committee within a week to 10 days, Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, said.

In January 2021, the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam unveiled three raw pharmaceuticals and a new anti-coronavirus drug called Ivermectin, which had been previously imported.

Also, Iran is capable of production of biopharmaceuticals, which has so far reached 28 items, making Iran the third leading country in Asia.

Iran's health sector and development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cooperatives build a better world

From page 1 ► through the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) have jointly set the theme for the celebration.

Operating all around the world, in many different sectors of the economy, cooperatives have proven themselves more resilient to crises than the average. They foster economic participation, fight against environmental degradation and climate change, generate good jobs, contribute to food security, keep financial capital within local communities, build ethical value chains, and, by improving people's material conditions and security, contribute to positive peace.

Some 97,000 cooperatives are active across the country, creating more than 1.8 million direct jobs, former minister of cooperatives, labor, and social welfare, Mohammad Shariatmadari, said in June 2021.

“Development of creativity and innovation system in cooperative businesses through the establishment of innovation centers and development of cooperatives, forming cooperative think tanks as facilitators between members of the country's cooperative sector, and also paving the way for the transformation of ideas into

products are among the new functions of cooperatives.

Supporting the activities of emerging knowledge-based cooperatives and developing new types of cooperatives are the other measures taken,” he further explained.

Cooperatives have been acknowledged as associations and enterprises through which citizens can effectively improve their lives while contributing to the economic, social, cultural, and political advancement of their community and nation.

Cooperatives also foster external equality. As they are community-based, they are committed to the sustainable development of their communities - environmentally, socially, and economically. This commitment can be seen in their support for community activities, local sourcing of supplies to benefit the local economy, and

decision-making that considers the impact on their communities.

Despite their local community focus, cooperatives also aspire to bring the benefits of their economic and social model to all people in the world.

Some 97,000 cooperatives are active across the country, creating more than 1.8 million direct jobs.

Astrology and astronomy in Iran

Part 4

The most prominent Persian astronomers of this period:

1. Abd-al-Rahman Sufi (291-376/903-86) of Ray wrote the standard Arabic work on the constellations, the *Ketab sowa al-kawakeb*. There exist three Persian translations of this; the first was made by Khaja Nasir-al-din Tusi in 1250, while the other two date from the seventeenth century.

2. Abu'l-Wafa Buzjani (328-388/940-98) wrote, among other things, *al-Zij al-wazeh*, which was wrongly believed in the last century to have an advanced lunar theory.

3. Kushyar b. Labban Jilli (of Gilan), who was an important astrologer and mathematician, composed *al-Zij al-jame* in about 1010, based primarily on *al-Zij al-abe* of Battani. It was translated into Persian in 483/1090 by Mohammad b. Omar Tabrizi.

4. Abu'l-Rayhan Mohammad Biruni was a prolific author of astronomical treatises in the first half of the eleventh century. Among the more important ones that are still extant are: *On the Solar Equation*, *On Transits*, the *Tahdid al-amaken*, *On Shadows*, *On the Astrolabe*, and the *Astrology* (in both Arabic and Persian).

In each of these he provides immensely useful information concerning his predecessors and concerning Indian astronomy; the latter he deals with at greater length in his *India* and in his translation of Vijayananda's *Karanasara*, which he entitled *Ghorrat al-zijat*.

However, he was not a very competent San-

skritist, and these works are filled with errors. But his principle contribution to astronomy is his great *al-Qanun al-mas'udi*, which he wrote in 422/1030-31.

5. Omar Khayyam (q.v.) wrote a *al-Zij al-malekshahi* for the Saljuq Sultan Malekshah (r. 465-85/1072-92). The sultan's calendar that was described in it had considerable currency among later astronomers. Unfortunately, only a small portion of this *zij* is known to survive.

6. Abd-al-Rahman Khazeni of Marv composed a magnificent *al-Zij al-sanjari* for the Saljuq Sultan Sanjar b. Malekshah (r. 511-52/1118-57). There is a Persian version of this as well as an Arabic epitome; the latter was translated into Greek by Gregory Chionides in about 1300.

7. Abd-al-Karim Shirvani, known as *al-Fahhad*, wrote six *zijs* in the middle of the twelfth century. The most important seems to have been the *al-Zij al-ala'i*, which allegedly took over the parameters of *Abu'l-Wafa*.

This *zij* is lost, but its parameters are preserved in the *al-Zij al-momtahan* written by Mohammad Faresi for Yusof Mozaffar, the ruler of the Yemen from about 1249 till 1295; it was also translated into Greek by Gregory Chionides in about 1300.

In this period were also written many treatises on the astrolabe and on other astronomical instruments. Our earliest examples of these often splendid products of Persian craftsmanship date from the late tenth century.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

COVID-19 UPDATES ON JULY 1

New cases	463
New deaths	1
Total cases	7,238,589
Total deaths	141,390
New hospitalized patients	83
Patients in critical condition	184
Total recovered patients	7,062,851
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,619,277
Doses of vaccine injected	150,394,223

Tehran, Harare pledge to boost media cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran and Zimbabwe have pledged to enhance collaboration aiming to help the media industry move with contemporary standards and technology.

Iranian Ambassador to Zimbabwe Abbas Navazani met with Zimbabwean Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Monica Mutsvangwa on Wednesday where they discussed media reforms that have taken place since 2018, *The Herald* reported.

Expressing happiness with the developing process of Iran-Zimbabwe relations after the meeting, Minister Mutsvangwa said Zimbabwe was willing to cooperate with Iran for mutual benefit as part of its engagement and re-engagement drive.

“We’re quite excited to be meeting His Excellency the Ambassador from Iran which is a very friendly country. As you know Iran is one of the countries we have suffered with as they are also suffering from illegal sanctions imposed on them by the Americans as the same situation with us and we have a lot to learn,” she said.

“As a ministry, our mandate is to educate, entertain and inform, so what we have been talking about is to deepen our relationship and find strategic cooperation so that we can actually benefit from what Iran has done like exchange of information, television programs, and even equipment.”

Ambassador Navazani said it was time both nations stop moaning about sanctions and make close collaborations for the good of their citizens.

“First of all, I thank the minister for giving me this time to review our relations.”

At this very important and critical time in which Americas poses sanctions on both nations, this is the time both friendly and brotherly countries should have very close cooperation on many fronts, especially on information where we have a huge potential, we can cooperate about the technology, training, you know Iran has a very progressive technology base about the broadcasting system,” he said.

“So already our broadcasting organizations and companies are ready to cooperate with Zimbabwe, so we reviewed our cooperation and we agreed that we should revive

“We can actually benefit from what Iran has done like exchange of information, television programs, and even equipment.”



CAP: Zimbabwean Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Monica Mutsvangwa (L) speaks with Iranian Ambassador to Zimbabwe Abbas Navazani in Harare on Wednesday.

this cooperation's and we will have a good cooperation in future.”

“We used to stand alongside Zimbabwe when it was under sanctions, and today with regard to the US' pressures on both countries, relations, and cooperation should further deepen.”

He stressed that friendship between the two governments and nations is imperative, adding, “With regard to the current state of relations between the two countries, these relations should further deepen to the interest of both nations.”

He said in the near future there are plans to institute a joint commission that Iran will host where ministries, companies, and organizations will participate and make agreements in several fields.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Significant increase in refugee literacy

The literacy rate among refugees has increased significantly in recent decades. So that the literacy rate of Afghan immigrants in Iran is higher than the number of literate people in Afghanistan, according to a report published in June by the research center of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis).

According to the Population and Housing Census of the National Statistics Center in 2016, the population of refugees officially residing in Iran was 1.654, of which Afghan, Iraqi and Pakistani immigrants constitute the majority of international immigrants. In fact, 95 percent of the immigrants in Iran are “Afghan”, 2 percent are “Iraqi” and about 1 percent are “Pakistani”.

The research center of the Iranian Parliament, in a report published in June, addressed the issue of the education of immigrant children.

Only about 10 percent of the first generation of refugees who entered Iran in the early 1980s were literate before arriving, which has now reached 64 percent. In the early 2010s, the literacy rate among refugees was about 52 percent, but by the end of the 2010s, it had risen to 64 percent.

افزایش معنادار باسوادی مهاجران

به طور کلی سطح باسوادی در میان مهاجران طی چند دهه اخیر به طرز معناداری افزایش پیدا کرده است. به طوری که میزان باسوادی مهاجران افغانستانی ساکن در ایران از تعداد افراد باسواد در افغانستان بیشتر است. براساس سرشماری نفوس و مسکن سال ۱۳۹۵ مرکز ملی آمار ایران، جمعیت مهاجران بین‌المللی که به صورت رسمی در ایران سکونت دارند، بالغ بر یک میلیون و ۶۵۴ هزار نفر بود که از این تعداد مهاجران افغانستانی، عراقی و پاکستانی اکثریت مهاجران بین‌المللی را تشکیل می‌دهند. در حقیقت ۹۵ درصد مهاجران حاضر در ایران «افغانستانی» و دو درصد «عراقی» و حدود یک درصد «پاکستانی» هستند.

مرکز پژوهش‌های مجلس شورای اسلامی در گزارشی که در خرداد ماه ۱۴۰۱ منتشر شده به موضوع تحصیل کودکان مهاجر پرداخته است. فقط حدود ۱۰ درصد از نسل اول مهاجران که در سال‌های ابتدایی دهه ۶۰ وارد ایران شدند، پیش از ورود، باسواد بودند. این شاخص در حال حاضر به ۶۴ درصد در میان کل مهاجران رسیده است. در ابتدای دهه ۹۰ میزان باسوادی در میان مهاجران حدود ۵۲ درصد بود اما در سال پایانی دهه ۹۰ این میزان به ۶۴ درصد رسیده است.

